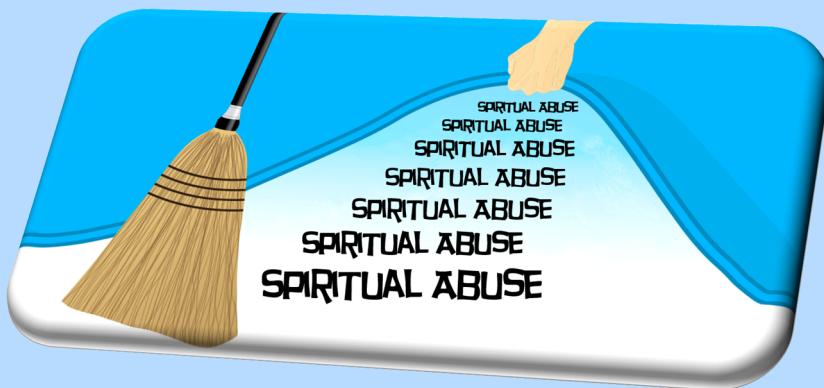


Swept Under the Carpet

The Scandal of Spiritual Abuse

in Churches Today



Alan Morrison

❖ Under the Radar Publications ❖

Swept Under the Carpet

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ପଦ୍ମନାଭ

Dedicated to my Divine Master
The Christ
who walked this earth in the flesh
fulfilled His mission
defeated the forces of darkness
and who will come again
with power and great glory

ପଦ୍ମନାଭ



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Bible references in this eBook can be from a variety of translations, but often the Berean Standard Bible is used verbatim. The author also always consults the Hebrew or Greek texts and uses his own personal translations of them in order to get as close to what he believes to be the best meaning possible.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

In 1998, when I was six years into my first pastorate, I wrote an article entitled "A Dialogue with Naïveté". It featured a 'fictitious' exchange (although it could easily have been real) between a 'wizened old pastor' and a 'naïve young man' who was about to embark on his first pastorate. The wizened old pastor was doing his best to disillusion the naïve young man so that he would not be immersed in the illusions which can often inhabit the malleable minds of naïve young men.

The words of the wizened old pastor represent a terrible indictment of congregations and fellow elders for the way that so often a pastor becomes the 'whipping boy' for all those people's wilfully-unresolved psychological issues and, above all, their secret resentment of biblical authority and Divine sovereignty.

That dialogue was thus an exposé of one form of spiritual abuse which is seldom revealed. One of the reasons for that is because the pastors who bear the brunt of this kind of abuse are eventually so worn down and traumatized by it that they have no energy left to confront it, knowing that this would be a fruitless task anyway. Thus, they often become subservient to the powermongers in the church instead of being the authoritative, unswerving servants of God that they should be. Another reason that this kind of abuse is seldom revealed is because they know that affliction is usually for their good and therefore they simply soak it up stoically, thinking that it is necessary for their spiritual growth.

To accept affliction as inevitable is understandable. However, that should not be allowed to give bullies and impostors *carte blanche* to flourish. By all means learn from affliction but not at the expense of the integrity of one's unique office in the *Ekklesia*.

The "Dialogue with Naïveté" caused a storm of reaction after it was sent out to hundreds on my email list in 1998. But aside from the typical outrage coming from the usual 'hitmen' (i.e. 'professional'

pharisees), my mailbox was quickly flooded with agreement from many folks, including pastors, vicars, elders and deacons.

As a result of that, in early 1999, I published a number of those responses, together with my own thoughts, as a follow-up piece. The Dialogue and those responses to it became Parts 1 and 2 of a four-part series on Spiritual Abuse in churches. Part 3 of that series (from 2002), built around the graphic testimony of an articulate victim, examined the kind of spiritual abuse that can happen to people in Pentecostal/Charismatic circles, especially via so-called "deliverance ministries". I then created a fourth part of that series in which I examined more closely the subject matter of Part 3. That entire four-part series is what you will read in this little book.

With the exception of 1) this Preface, 2) the Introduction which follows it, 3) a brief postscript to the 'Dialogue', 4) the Concluding Thoughts to this book, all the text in Chapters 1 to 4 is as it was in the original series. Where I have inserted any additional brief thoughts or references, they have been put into [...] square brackets and formatted in **red text** so that readers can differentiate between those and the original 1998-2022 text which is in black.

I have recently been going through my old back-catalogue of incomplete articles and partially-finished books so that I can resurrect them for the reading public while I still have breath in my body. The format in which they were stored is mostly unformatted. But all the essential material is still intact. So they can all be restored with some additional input. This book is part of that process. Although originating over twenty years ago, the subject matter is still highly relevant — even more so as it is far more prolifically developed than it was back then.

I now present to you this little book in the hope that it will inform and enlighten readers about some harrowing, neglected topics.

Alan Morrison,
Mexico,
August 23rd, 2023.

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS:

The Abuse Which is Less Spoken of and More Hidden from View

"Put your trust in your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who must give an account. To this end, allow them to lead with joy and not with grief, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17).

It is common to think of spiritual abuse in churches as referring to the excesses of a tyrannical minister or a manipulative group of elders terrorizing the unfortunate congregation. In terms of that kind of abuse, this is a subject which has been written about many times in books and essays. I have also covered it myself in a number of pieces referencing what is known as "heavy shepherding". That is when a church slips over the line of exercising legitimate biblical authority into having the basic trappings of a nasty little cult; and it happens a lot when immature or spiritually-untransformed men, or outright sociopaths wangle their way into office. This is what most people would readily identify as "spiritual abuse".

However, in this book I wanted to cover a couple of more suppressed but no less vicious or prolific aspects of spiritual abuse in churches. Namely, 1) The abuse of a pastor by the elders and/or members of the congregation and, 2) The abuse of members of a congregation through the prevailing religious practices of a church or organisation which they have chosen for themselves.

Tyrannical pastors are an easy target for those who want to highlight spiritual abuse in churches. One might even say that they are a "soft" target, as it is generally obvious when such a situation occurs and can usually be exposed with ease as one or more church members become disillusioned and publicly "spill the beans", as in any cult. However, when the reverse is the case, so

that the pastor is the one who is being abused, it is usually a secret process which one very rarely hears anything about, if at all. **In fact, it is one of the great unsung abuses in the church.** As I said in the preface, this is because faithful pastors accept that suffering to some extent is the norm in the Christian life, plus they often become so traumatized by their treatment and feel so isolated that they do not know where to turn.

The perpetrators of such abuse towards a pastor are extremely good at appearing to be the very opposite of that. They publicly come across as if butter wouldn't melt in their mouths. In front of the congregation they display a bonhomie towards the pastor which is deceptively fulsome (e.g. in my second pastorate, one of the elders would stuff some banknotes in my jacket breast-pocket every Sunday after the service in front of everyone, saying, "Here's a bit of extra"). No one would suspect a thing. **But behind closed doors, the attitude is very different, with tactics ranging from passive-aggression to outright viciousness to a degree beyond what many could imagine would be possible.**

In case you are thinking, "What would *you* know about spiritual abuse?", allow me to give some personal anecdotes. As you no doubt know, I very rarely speak of my own experiences in my writings but in this case I think that it would be useful to do so.

A Campaign of Professional Jealousy

In my first pastorate, my entire time there was dogged by troublemakers spreading lies and gossip — not from within the church as they were very supportive of me. It was from outside that this happened. Part of this came from the previous pastor who lived locally and still attended the church to begin with. On my very first day, in the lobby after the service, he was standing in front of me and someone from the congregation came up to me, took my hand in hers, and said, *"Thank you! We haven't had preaching like that here before"*. I cringed inside because I saw the old pastor's face and I knew I was done for in that community. He then set out to make my life hell from that point onwards, firstly

by spreading lies about me in the village and thus making evangelism virtually impossible, and then over the years writing ridiculous press releases to Christian and secular papers which were either anonymous or falsely signed with my name.

On one occasion he sent a press release (as I later uncovered) to numerous sources purporting to be from me which said that the church of which I was pastor had been hit by a lightning bolt and extensively damaged, which was nonsense. He was trying to make it look as if I was being judged by God, which is how the media would see it! He also sent letters to many people in the UK purporting to be from me and lied about me constantly. It was like being stalked all the time I was there. When I discovered that he had sent a bogus letter to the major county newspaper, the news editor suggested that I contact the police when I told him who was responsible. But I reckoned he wasn't even worth the trouble. It would grant him too much importance, and his ego was already inflated enough. Plus, he would have turned it into an occasion for more lies and condemnations, because these people are so good at twisting things. How he ever had any credibility in the Christian scene I will never know. (Well, I didn't know then; but now that I've seen how easily so many "Christians" are duped by falsehood, I do know now). Yet he was a well-known author and attended many conferences in the U.K., and was received as a brother in Christ and even asked to pray at such gatherings. His many decades as a "brother in good standing" who never rocked the boat and who knew how to pull the wool over so many eyes was far more impressive than my few years in the Christian scene, my unusual background, the unpopularity of my one-man fight against the heinous "Toronto Blessing", and so on.

All I wanted to do was proclaim the truth week by week (which was all that most folks in the church wanted me to do too), working my way through books of the Bible, but troublers constantly interfered. You can therefore imagine the furore when the "Dialogue with Naïveté" came out! (Well, you will see that when you read it in the next Chapter of this book).

Control by Spiritual Terrorism

During my second pastorate, within a number of months I realised that there was the usual little group of powermongers in the church who want to control everything, including micromanaging the pastor. If you resist their control, all hell will break loose. On one occasion, after I had plainly exercised that resistance, one of the elders visited my house with his wife and — after telling my family to leave the room — he became extremely aggressive toward me, trying to put me down with nasty denunciations, telling me that my sermons were rubbish, and so on. I gave him thirty seconds to rant, then I stood up, said the meeting was over and I told them to leave.

I had a feeling they had done this before, so I obtained the coordinates of the previous pastor, contacted him, and asked him what his experience in the church had been. He replied saying, *"The fact is that I have never been treated with such accusations, cruelty, and evil dissension as at this church"*. He also revealed to me that he had discovered four things about the people who persecute the pastors there:

"1) The more you say, the more they will use and twist your words against you. 2) The more you defend yourself, the more vigorous their attack will be. 3) Just like the Sadducees, they will use the methods of a lawyer to ensnare you and to discredit you as completely as possible. 4) Their motive is self-vindication of sin and an unrivalled control of God's church".

Another previous pastor also responded saying, *"The rebels sought every possible way to discredit me among my peer group. Should this happen to you, you can rely on me to come to your side for support"*. Frankly, generally speaking, no one will come to your side to support you. Well, the occasional one maybe. If you are extremely fortunate, you will find yourself married to someone who completely gets it, but don't count on that.

You would think that these people had attended a special course for learning psychological techniques on how to destroy someone. However, this was completely unnecessary as Satan and his demons have studied human behaviour for countless millennia. So when an elder in a church has given the demonic realm a place in his life — either knowingly or not — he then becomes a pawn in Satan's war on the church and is subsequently able to utilize all the techniques which Satan has accrued over those millennia. This is why these elders seem so expert at diffusing evil. **They are spiritual pygmies when it comes to handling the truth; but they are giants when it comes to applying manipulative psychology to terrorize a Pastor.**

It was then that I fully realised that the majority of churches are toxic environments and are as far removed from the suburbs of heaven as can be. Most congregants in such a church will be completely oblivious to this happening in their church. But even if they knew of it, they would be too impotent to do anything about it. That is the thing. The evil elders and powermongers who carry out these campaigns rely on that passivity and studied ignorance on the part of the congregation. This is why they can get away with it and why they will never be found out.



I had to be very stealthy in how I got away from that church unscathed. I simply announced my immediate resignation to the congregation as a *fait accompli* right after a Sunday service and said that I had decided to go to France and write. While a number in the congregation had tears, the elders, having been completely blindsided, were running around like blue-assed flies in a tizzy. I was declaring myself as outside of their control and there was nothing they could do about it and it made them mad as hatters.

Sweeping it All Under the Carpet

Once I had got away from there lock, stock and barrel, I compiled a blistering four-page report for the U.S. originated governing organization behind the church laying it all on the line. Their reply was a typical "sweep it under the carpet" attitude, in which they thanked me for my service, saying:

"We are certain the church profited greatly from your ministry. I know you faced great difficulties there, but I pray that your lives were enriched by fellowship... You and your family served well, and for that we are grateful. We do regret that you could not stay with us for a longer term of service... Please accept the certificate enclosed with this letter as a small token of our appreciation".

They then conferred on me an actual "Certificate of Distinguished Service" in "grateful appreciation for your leadership". Was I supposed to frame it and put it on my wall? It was all such a joke.¹ Nothing happened to the evil people running that church. It never does. They always get away with it and then carry on as usual, just as they had done with successive pastors before me, and still they had never been castigated for their evil. And, sad to say, they are

¹ I have preserved all the documentation and correspondence relating to this dire situation and I still have it all to this day. One never knows when one may need it.

still spreading lies about me on 'Christian' forums to this very day as I have some wise and discerning people out there who alert me about it.²

Fortunately, I had a witness in that church who saw exactly what was going on there. She was my Church Secretary and she transcribed my sermons into text each Sunday. She nearly lost her faith (humanly speaking) as a result of her witness of the kind of abuse of which so many professing Christians are capable. That is how destructive these impostors are. Fortunately, she did recover. Twenty-three years later, she is one of the four proofreaders of this very book!

The Prize for the Best Liars in the World

You know, I have to hand it to them. So many of today's 'Christians' excel at one major skill in particular. Apart from getting top marks for illogical thinking (if Christ is the *Logos*, then Satan is the *illogos*), or for being downright venomous, they also win the big prize for being the very best liars in the whole wide world. I am not referring to merely lying about *themselves* to others, such as where they went for their holidays or how much money they earn or how many hours they spend reading the Bible. No, I mean lying about *other people*. Evil gossiping. Spreading false reports about people through contacting others. Trying to get as many on their side as possible. Blackening the characters of others for no other reasons than spite and malice. Inventing any old nonsense about someone so long as it paints him or her in a bad light. They appear to be completely oblivious of the fact that liars will be among those who go into "*the lake of fire*" (Revelation 21:8). Who is the father of lies (John 8:44)? That tells you all you need to know. Infiltration *par excellence*. The visible church is a hotbed of impostors. Satan's puppets on a string.

² Again, all of this is 'screenshot' and documented. When you're involved with professing "Christians", you need to keep your game sharp.

My personal guesstimate is that those puppets must outnumber the real deal at a ratio of at least 10:1, and that's being extremely generous ("Many are invited but few are selected", Matthew 22:14). You see, my friends, coming to Christ — I mean *really* coming to Christ — should have a transformative effect on the whole being of a person. It should not make them merely "talk about Jesus all the time", or go on and on endlessly about the Bible, or keep making a noise about something called "the Anointing", wanting to "catch the fire", and all the other buzz-phrases of fashionable "Christianity". Those can so easily be externally exaggerated superficial 'fashionista' elements.

Coming to Christ Should Involve an Emotional/Psychological Transformation as well as a Spiritual One

Instead, coming to Christ should not only utterly galvanize the spirit of a person down to their very soul but it should make them self-aware of their problematic issues and want to deal with them as soon as possible — to flee from them and put them "as far as the East is from the West". It should actually make them want to be more like Christ (Ephesians 4:15) and to be horrified if they aren't. This is all about sanctification — the work of the Holy Spirit in a person. "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*" (Romans 12:2). **It is this 'renewing of the mind' which gives evidence of the regeneration of the soul.** Very many people who profess to be "born again" behave appallingly and will betray others or attack them with no conscience involved. Understanding all this is a hard lesson to receive and it can take some time to be learned.

Coming to Christ for real not only involves a professed *spiritual* transformation but a *psychological and emotional* transformation coming inevitably in its wake. This is one of the ways that genuine faith is proven. **As I often say, true faith is evidenced not so much by what we believe but how what we believe makes us behave.** If a supposedly pious person is behind the scenes a nasty, crazy, conniving, lying lunatic, then the piety is just a show — some form of spiritual bypassing. I have experienced professing

“Christians” spitting with unrighteous anger, or lying through their teeth, or gaslighting others, manipulating others, twisting people’s words, scheming and plotting against others, and generally behaving like utter scoundrels. The first time I witnessed any of that, it shocked me to the core. Now I have come to expect it as “normal”. Jesus’s wise observation about a horde of “believers” in the last two verses of chapter 2 of John’s Gospel is worth taking entirely to heart:

“Many people saw the signs He was doing and believed in His name. But Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, for He knew all people. He did not need any testimony about humanity, for He knew what was in a person”.

Thus, our peace of mind cannot depend on how other professing “Christians” behave. And especially not on how they behave towards us. Our peace of mind and well-being can only depend on our relationship with God. Nothing else.

To be spitting with anger, lying, gaslighting, manipulating, twisting, scheming, plotting, and generally behaving like utter scoundrels are all sinful modes of behaviour corresponding to issues inside us which we have not dealt with. Once one has truly come to Christ, one no longer has the luxury of choosing sinful responses to events which may have shaped us in the past.

A person who really does “deny himself/herself” has no further need to “act out” by exercising OCD control over everything and everyone as that is inevitably abusive of others and is a sinful response. A person who has received countless assurances from God in His word has no need to wallow in deep depression, as that too is a sinful response of faithlessness. Yelling angrily at people is also something which is in need of being utterly dissolved as that too is a sinful response. Such people have made themselves the centre of the universe around which everything must revolve. That is narcissistic vanity. A true disciple of Christ, seeing themselves to be like that, would not be able to stand that about themselves and

would fight tooth and nail to be rid of it as soon as possible so that the issues would indeed simply fall way, as they inevitably do when they are 'rumbled' like that by a truly regenerated soul.

But although many sinful issues will fall into oblivion, having been burned to a cinder by the new light of life, some issues can be more stubborn than others to 'quit the joint'. They require more work and take time to lessen and then fade. **But the passion to see the back of that trash burns strong. For it is what is in the heart which counts: A zeal to be free from things which have previously become part of us, an encumbrance, but which no longer have the right to be there. I can wholeheartedly assure you that sooner or later they will be conquered.** This is what is meant by "putting to death" fleshly deeds (known as mortification) — those things which spring from the former self (Romans 8:13). "*We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us*" (Romans 8:37). But it takes work — the godly labour of a penitent soul.

If one is truly 'born from above', a genuine disciple of Christ, one would be horrified to learn that "verbal abusers" (i.e. screamers, revilers, and angry railers) will not inherit the kingdom of God, right along with homosexuals, idolaters, thieves, scam artists and adulterers (1 Corinthians 6:10; 5:11). Such knowledge would bring about a profound change in behaviour. **This is why I say that it is not enough to be a mere believer. It is all about how what one believes makes one behave.** We *have* to do the work. The genuine disciple needs no outside incentive to do it. S/he loves to do it, takes joy in doing it. It is like cleaning house or doing the gardening. And if we don't do it ourselves then Christ will do it for us, and that necessary pruning will be more painful (John 15:2).

So often, people cling onto their emotional issues because it takes a work of faith and assurance to be without them and it is the lazy way to continue in sinful comfort. As an ardent disciple, there is work to be done on oneself. One should be self-aware and able to see when one is behaving badly and make the profoundest prayerful effort to do away with such impediments. Of course, if unpleasant personal issues have a physical cause (e.g., hormones,

thyroid, postpartum, etc.), then medical help should be sought. If the unpleasant personal issues have an emotional cause (e.g. PTSD) then spiritual counselling should be sought from a reputable elder.³

Easy-Believism – The Scourge of ‘Christian’ Evangelism

Another major problem related to this is that so many people have had such a superficial “conversion” experience that they never really gave themselves fully to Christ in the first place. They simply blubbed a bit and ‘prayed the prayer’ but they were not setting about denying themselves and giving up completely the warped characters that they were. **In other words, their “faith” is a fashion rather than a fixture in their being.** This is why so many so-called “Christians” excel at lying, manipulating, gaslighting, conniving, ranting, bullying, haranguing, being aggressive, etc., behind their sickly masks of piety. I would honestly question whether a real work of grace has actually ever been done in such a person’s heart. Such behaviour makes a mockery of discipleship.

Broken but Never Beaten

I was so relieved to get out of that second ‘church’ I pastored. The general congregation were in the main lovely and a number of them wrote to me tearfully after I left. Since that time (the year 2000) I have only stepped inside a church three times. Once was when I was in Cornwall but decided not to go again as I do not need to attend what amounted to a Sunday School with people who think that the Book of Revelation is “scary” (and I was writing a commentary on the Book of Revelation at the time!). Another time was here in Mexico, but I am not interested in singing soppy, effeminate ditties for half an hour along with cool ‘Christian’ Rock

³ By which I do NOT mean any kind of so-called “deliverance ministry”. Such “ministries” merely use psychological techniques which fool many by masquerading as spiritual activities involving the alleged expulsion of demons, as I will demonstrate in later chapters in this little book.

stars on a massive video screen. The only other time was a profitable occasion when I visited the very traditional church of a pastor friend while on a visit to the UK recently, where the preaching is robustly Bible-based and the music masculine and forthright, but such assemblies are becoming increasingly harder to find in the ecclesiastical landscape of today.

In my spiritual heart I was quietly broken by all that had happened over the previous ten years (1990-2000), though I was never beaten. Subsequently, in many ways I became a wanderer for a time, especially between the years 2010 and 2016, when I sought solace primarily in music — composing it, playing it, recording it, mostly in Sweden. I still had inner conviction about Christ but I had to take my faith right back to the drawing board and try to work out (without the overlay of churchianity and other religious or evangelical dross) what is spiritually real and what is merely manmade trash.

I did achieve that goal. In December 2016, a Facebook 'friend' wrote, "Did Christ even exist?", on a post of mine which was about Jesus being unlikely to have been born on December 25th. I resolved to respond to that question for him in full, for I knew the answer. It started as an email, then became an article, and then, over some months, that response turned into the 650-page free-to-download book, "[Narrow Gate ~ Pathway Strait](#)", and as a result of writing it I was restored. That book was my 'rehab' project and restoration point.

Committed Truth-Talking Leads to Satanic You-Stalking

I then had a release from my disillusionment, for **it was shown to me clearly that what lay behind all the irrational aggression which had come my way was a classic sustained satanic attack from the forces of darkness via their human pawns and poodles**. I am not trying to make out as if I am some kind of special case. Not at all. But that was the only way that all that madness and irrationality in my face can be explained — the kind of madness which is spoken of in the Book of Revelation, chapter 12,

verse 17: *"The dragon [symbol of Satan] was enraged at the woman [symbol of the Ekklesia], and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus".*

It is easy to see why that should have been the case. Between 1994 and 1998 I had done the following: I published the 700-page book, "[The Serpent and the Cross](#)" (1994), exposing Satan's manner of working occultly while he is under the restraint of the Gospel Age. I had done a speaking tour in the USA on the subject matter of that book (1997). I had made three videos for worldwide distribution proving the demonic nature of the so-called "Toronto Blessing" (1994, 1995, 1996). I had preached faithfully from God's word three times a week in a church for six years. So the volley that was blasted at me 1998-2001 was only to be expected, though I had not understood the full reality of this at the time.

In fact, it was not until late 2016 that I had assimilated this process and internalized the lessons which were born from it. In short, I had been liberated — delivered from my doldrums by God. No humanistic 'deliverance' was necessary. This is why I wrote in my self-description on the rear cover of "Narrow Gate ~ Pathway Strait" that I was *"now unleashed and on the loose"*, and that a new *"freedom of spirit has coalesced into the words on the pages in this book"*. In many ways, I was reborn again.

Anyway, enough about me. This was just to answer that question above, "What would you know about spiritual abuse?" and to show that I speak from experience, having given a great deal of thought and made much prayer over the years about this thorny and challenging subject.

The Need to Be Hedged Around from Satan's Payback

Regarding the kind of treatment that I have written about above, I can tell you this: **It is only in those churches where the truth is proclaimed with power by the pastor that such pastors will be undermined in that savage manner. It is Satan's payback for 'plundering his goods'** (cf. Matthew 12:29). He absolutely hates

you for it with a passion, and that will be translated twistedly into the hearts and minds of those people who have you in their sights because you are a threat to them and their ministries.

Under normal circumstances, a Pastor will be hedged around by supportive elders and other significant people in the congregation. Thus, he will have a measure of protection from such an onslaught. But in a church in which the elders themselves are the architects of that onslaught, there is no human protection whatsoever. Then the Pastor will throw himself entirely on the Lord for his sanity, for where else can he go? But nevertheless he will still struggle and will eventually either totally submit to the oppressors as they grind him into the ground (which is their aim) or he will feel unable to feasibly continue in such a position.

Churches Which Already Belong to Satan will Be Exempt

In the average lukewarm assembly where mediocrity reigns, or in those which are pushing phony "revival" with all the ersatz charismatic razzmatazz, or those which are teaching some version of prosperity theology and phony healing, there will be no such vicious attacks on the elders and pastors at the head of those shows. For it is plainly satanic forces which instigate those attacks.

If a church already belongs to Satan, he has no need to try to wreck its ministry, for it is already doing his business. It will be exempt from his interference with the preaching ministry of the Pastor or elders. For in such churches the preaching ministry is centred primarily on twisting the Scriptures to justify the wayward ministry of the church rather than expounding faithfully the word of God. Such a church is already Satan's — lock, stock, and barrel.

The Second Type of Abuse About Which I Am Here Writing

That type of church is the one in which another kind of spiritual abuse flourishes — the second kind that I am writing about in this little book (as I mentioned that I would in ¶2 on page 10). It goes like this:

- If you are being told that you are not fully born again unless you can speak gibberish so-called "tongues", **that is spiritual abuse.**

- If people are putting their grubby mitts on you (falsely calling it the “laying on of hands”) so that you collapse in a heap on the floor or start twitching or laughing uncontrollably, **that is spiritual abuse**.
- If that church is running ‘healing services’ in which a few nebulous symptoms are relieved (which can easily be achieved through emotional manipulation anyway, commonly called “faith healing”) while ‘difficult cases’ (i.e., real issues such as total paralysis, congenital blindness, serious disability and disease, etc.) are ignored, **that is spiritual abuse**.
- If disciples of Christ are being told to queue up and have their supposed demons cast out of them, **that is spiritual abuse**.
- If people are being told that they have so-called “generational spirits” in them, **that is spiritual abuse** (as I will prove later in the book).
- If people are being told that on condition they give big sums to the church then God will give big things to them, because He allegedly wants them all to be materially prosperous, **that is spiritual abuse**.
- If they are being told that singing effeminate, soppy ditties is “worship”, **that is spiritual abuse** as such “worship” is merely a ‘warm-up’ to get the audience into a ‘blissed-out’ altered state of consciousness so that the hapless folks are ‘prepped’ for the ensuing ‘ministry’ (what I call the “gullibility gateway”).
- If a pastor tells you to “leave your mind at the door” of the church, **that is spiritual abuse** because your mind is as much a part of worship as your spirit.
- If one is regarded as spiritually inferior because one believes that all the above is spiritual abuse, **that too is spiritual abuse**.

Many of the elements in the above bullet points will be dealt with in Chapter 3 of this book, using the extraordinary testimony of a victim of spiritual abuse which will of necessity horrify you, while Chapter 4 will elaborate on that with my own take on it all.

Next, in Chapter 1, will be the “Dialogue with Naïveté” which started this whole thing rolling. Prepare to be astonished...

CHAPTER 1:

A Dialogue with Naïveté:

Wisdom is Shocking to Innocence

"Elders who lead effectively are worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, *"Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain..."* (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

The Dialogue

NAÏVE YOUNG MAN [gleefully]: I have just been called to be a pastor. Is there any advice that you can give me?

WIZENED OLD PASTOR [sighs and visibly pales]: Have you indeed? I wonder if you understand what this will mean for your life and that of your family.

NAÏVE YOUNG MAN: Oh yes! It means that I can go and preach the Gospel — preach the whole counsel of God — encourage innumerable believers to grow in grace and a knowledge of the truth — lead sinners to Christ — become the instrument of revival — restore a church to a New Testament faithfulness — galvanise a whole community into leading the spiritual life...

WIZENED OLD PASTOR [sighs with even greater emphasis and shakes his head slowly from side to side, tears welling up in his eyes]: My young friend, I love your enthusiasm. You remind me of myself many, many years ago. There is so much I could tell you. (He pauses for a long time, as if lost in thought. It is a pregnant silence). I'm wondering whether I ought to say anything. I have a choice here: I could say nothing and let you discover it all for yourself — or I could tell all so that you might be spared the heartache, if you can take what I am going to say, which I doubt.

NAÏVE YOUNG MAN: Heartache? What on earth are you talking about? Surely if I just go and bring the truth of the Word to people, the Lord will bring great blessing.

WIZENED OLD PASTOR [tears now running down his cheeks]: You have no idea what you are walking into. Shall I show you my scars?

NAÏVE YOUNG MAN: Oh I know that I'll get opposition from Satan. Whenever the truth is preached in its fulness, he'll be there, stirring things up. But I take comfort from the fact that the Lord is in control. His Word will not return to Him void. The gates of hell will not prevail.

WIZENED OLD PASTOR [again pausing before delivering his answer in considered tones]: There is much that you cannot possibly understand in your present position. And if I was to tell you, you more than likely will not believe me. For a pastor has a secret life experience of which those outside cannot ever have even the faintest inkling. You see, the pastor is the "whipping boy" of the churches — the fairground Aunt Sally par excellence — the grand focus of malignant intent — a magnet for the iron dross of professing Christendom. This animosity has always been around to a greater or lesser degree; but I do believe that it has intensified in recent years — and will no doubt continue to do so during the countdown to the end of this evil age. (He pauses). My scars are deep and cover 100 per cent of my body area. Shall I show you? (He pauses again). My soul is the most deeply scarred. That I cannot show to you. But if you look closely enough you may just catch a glimpse. And if you do, you will have the answer to your first question. (Pause). Do you want me to continue?

NAÏVE YOUNG MAN [looking confused and a little shaken]: I don't know. You sound so negative — you seem to be full of pessimism.

WIZENED OLD PASTOR [his eyes lighting up]: I don't deal in pessimism. Pessimism and optimism are but two sides of the same illusory coin. You think I sound like a pessimist because you are an optimist. But each is as much of a delusion as the other. I am not a pessimist. I am a realist. I speak things the way they are, not the way I think you want them to be. You can choose to hear me out,

or you can go and share a nosebag with the romantics. Which is it to be?

NAÏVE YOUNG MAN: I don't like the direction in which this conversation is heading; but I am intrigued by what you say.

WIZENED OLD PASTOR (his eyes lighting up even more, speaking animatedly): Good! Then listen to me carefully. It won't be long before you will experience for yourself everything I am about to tell you. Consider your position before you take another step — while there is still time for you to walk away from it all. There are eight monolithic structures with which you will surely collide; and each will progressively destroy you and your ministry, leaving you spent and empty, like the shell of a discharged shotgun cartridge.

The First Monolith

The **FIRST MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is **THE MAFIA OF CONTROL FREAKS**. Behind every congregation, unless you have built it from scratch yourself, you will discover an inner core of people who really hold the power of the church. This little group will be a disparate group of people who may hold office or not, and you will often find some kind of family relationship among them. They have often been in the church from the beginning — and will frequently be the founders. They always hold the purse-strings and have no desire to give up what has been theirs for generations. They expect an incoming pastor to do things just as they have always been done. They treat him as an employee of theirs, and they quickly let it subtly be known (by powerful inference rather than open proclamation) that he will be tolerated so long as he does not attempt to encroach on any of their territory or behave differently to how they want him to behave. He will not find this out until he attempts to do so. Then he will taste their wrath. However, they will still not say anything overtly, or work in the open; but they will begin to undermine his pastoral work with others. In every home they visit they will ensure they drop a little nugget of negativity about the pastor. It will be subtle enough not to look like a deliberate policy,

but it will be, and it will gather in intensity after an especially convicting sermon. They will pick holes in his teaching in a most uncivil manner (both to others and in the pastor's face), they will damn him with faint praise, they will place cleverly-crafted items of gossip in the church which somehow influence how others think of him, and make his life difficult in countless other secret ways. They will destroy his enthusiasm for the ministry with their wicked actions and then — to turn the congregation against him — they will go round criticising him for having no enthusiasm for the ministry. This is a war which will not abate until they have eventually utterly destroyed his ministry and driven the hapless pastor from their church.

The Second Monolith

The **SECOND MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is the **RAMPANT EGALITARIANISM** which has come to so pervade the churches throughout this century. People will not like you being *the pastor*. They will not at all believe that those who "*labour in the word and teaching are worthy of double honour*" (1 Timothy 5:17). They will do all that they can to undermine your position in this respect. They will try and get you to be a mere fractional part of a "team ministry", or they will tell you that everyone has a right to "body ministry", or they will make great play about the "parity" of elders (not so much because they believe in the parity of elders but because they secretly want to diminish that last ounce of authority you may have as a pastor/teacher). Oh they will outwardly make a show of it so that they do not appear to be this way. They will even address you as "pastor" — especially when they are in company, so as to cover their tracks. (Always beware of those who address you as "pastor"!). As the psalmist says: "*The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords*" (Psalms 55:21). "*They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly*" (Psalms 62:4). Don't you be taken in for a moment. They will uphold your authority in public; but in secret they will do everything they can to undermine

your authority. This is because they are hyper-democrats — egalitarians who have no understanding of genuine biblical rule and authority. Like the Bolsheviks of Russia in days gone by, they seek to establish their communism not because they really believe in equality but because they despise authority. These egalitarians will be watching you at every turn for signs of you exercising the authority which they so hate. Such people will even be drawn from among your fellow elders, who also secretly seek your downfall. Ultimately, they will collectively make your life as a pastor not merely difficult but well-nigh impossible.

The Third Monolith

The **THIRD MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is a psychological ploy which psychotherapists refer to as **TRANSFERENCE**. In the world of secular psychotherapy it is well-known that during the course of treatment, a patient will begin to treat the therapist as if he was the patient's father, mother, or whichever significant figure in the patient's life is the crux of the problem. In other words, the patient transfers his struggles with the significant life-figure onto the therapist, resulting in excessive feelings of animosity and displays of deviousness being directed towards the therapist. In the church, this seems to happen constantly, as many unstable and screwed-up professing 'Christians' with chips the size of boulders on their shoulders make the pastor the focus of their ill-will. In days gone by, rulers would often hire the services of a boy who would be educated alongside the prince solely so that he could be punished for the crimes of the prince. This hapless character was known as the ruler's "whipping boy". My son, you will become the whipping boy of the church, as successive people work out their Transference by loading onto you all the secret struggles which they carry around in their "shoulder-chip".

The Fourth Monolith

The **FOURTH MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is another psychological condition known as

PROJECTION. In secular psychotherapy, the ploy known as “projection” occurs when a patient projects onto the therapist conditions which are really his own. Thus, the patient accuses the therapist of being “unloving” because that, in reality, is his own condition. The patient accuses the therapist of being an egotist because that, in reality, is his own condition. The patient “projects” all his own faults and failings onto the therapist. Now one expects such ploys of unbelievers, but surely Christians should be aware of their sin enough to avoid the evasive ploy of Projection. Yet, the fact is that the church pastor will become the focus for a meteoric shower of projections from all sides in his church. He will be falsely accused of being unloving, uncaring, egocentric, ambitious, aloof, and a whole range of other gross conditions which are projected onto him by people who are not man enough to face up to their own inadequacies.

The Fifth Monolith

The **FIFTH MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is **BETRAYAL**. Boy, you had better be ready for this one! The worst betrayers of all can be found in churches. You will discover that many whom you trusted over a period of time will be found to have been plotting and scheming against you behind your back. You will sometimes find this difficult to prove, and the perpetrators will deny it to your face and accuse you of being paranoid; but you will know very well what has been happening. Betrayal. You will also find that over the years you and your wife will open your doors and your hearts to many people on whom you will lavish your affection and care, for whom you have often gone that tenth mile, who you carefully nurture and who you grow to love as a brother or sister — but who, inexplicably, will suddenly turn on you with great vehemence, despising and denying everything you have done for them, and who will ensure that they tell the world what a useless and destructive pastor you are. It will not be just an occasional person who does this; you will experience it many times — and each time it occurs, you will have nothing by which you can make sense of what is happening.

Beware especially of the former pastor of the church to which you are going, if he has retired but is still a member of your church. He may have been instrumental in bringing you to your new church, but that will be a trap. If you excel him in any aspect of the work, you had better watch out, for he will come to despise you more than you imagined was humanly possible. Betrayal. There is no more soul-destroying monolith of opposition to a pastor than this inevitable betrayal.

The Sixth Monolith

The **SIXTH MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is what I call **THE JEZEBEL FACTOR**. You will find that one of the greatest impediments to your ministry will be a certain kind of woman who will at first pass herself off to you as being super-spiritual and a real servant of the Lord. She will place herself at your service and you will think you have finally found your Phoebe. However, the point will inevitably come when you will see her unmasked and you will realise that she really knows nothing whatsoever of that "gentle and quiet spirit" of submission. It was all a show. Then you will discover that her heart is more vicious than a shoal of Barracudas. She will pierce your soul with the most barbed comments imaginable. She will tear your teaching apart, criticise many aspects of your ministry, undermine your confidence and even make you doubt that you are a decent human being. She can poison the minds of an entire congregation against you quicker than a dose of Strychnine takes effect. She is always beyond correction from her husband, who usually quietly supports her in all her wicked work.

My young friend, the really galling thing about these Jezebels is that they never come in ones. And when they get together, and work together (as they powerfully will), you have a witches coven right in the centre of your church. The only saving point about this Jezebel factor is that these Amazonian harridans — because of their inherent instability and unfaithfulness — are also very often at each other's throats, so their alliances with one another shift

from one lunar cycle to the next. And lunar cycles are where it's at. However, don't think it stops when the lunar cycles begin to stop. A pre-menopausal Jezebel is a thousand times closer to the explosions on Bikini Atoll than the lunar model. You need to develop a very thick skin to withstand the blast of such women. They make poison seem benign.

The Seventh Monolith

The **SEVENTH MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is **SCAPEGOATING**. You will be blamed by many for everything which goes wrong in the church or in their lives. Couples who you counsel will blame you when their marriage doesn't improve. People who turn to you for counsel will blame you for their problems if you don't give them the answers they want to hear. The board of elders will blame you if attendance does not increase or, worse, decreases. You will be in much the same position as a football club manager whose team has to be near the top of the league table or score more goals than the game before or else he will be fired. The blame which is weekly heaped upon you for things which are outside your control and which are not your fault will gradually grind you down until you begin to wonder if you are indeed the failure which much of your congregation makes you out to be. You will wonder why you ever dreamed of going into a pastorate in the first place.

The Eighth Monolith

The **EIGHTH MONOLITH** with which you will come in collision as pastor of a church is **JEALOUSY**. You'd better wise up to the fact that almost everyone in your church will think they can do your job far better than you. And this applies to the women too! In your congregation, without a doubt, you will have a number of folk (women too) who secretly harbour a strong desire to be pastors. Often they will cover their tracks by a show of pretended humility, or by disingenuously claiming that they could never in a month of Sundays do your job, they're just not cut out for it — so they say.

"I don't know how you do it", they say, *"I couldn't"*. So they say. But inwardly they'd love to get rid of you and stand in your shoes. Way deep down, in their heart of hearts (although barely admitting it to be the truth) they know that they do not have what it takes to "do your job". So when they see you doing it — and even doing it well — they are filled with a destructive jealousy which, because it cannot be openly expressed, takes on all kinds of devious forms.

Those who jealously think they can do your job better than you, or who think they should be in your pulpit more than you allow them, will be a great scourge in your ministry. They never say to themselves *"I'll quietly help him to do his job better"*, or *"I'll find out what he needs to help him do his job better"*. No. Their knowledge of your supposed failures (of which some will be correct) is based on jealousy rather than sympathy. You will find also that this jealousy will not only come from those in your own congregation but will also be directed at you from other pastors who are carrying some kind of chip around. There is nothing more soul destroying than to turn to other pastors for fellowship because of the monolithic oppositions in your own church, and then discover that they harbour against you precisely the same projections, betrayals, jealousies and animosities as those you have to contend with in your own church.

Pause...

My son, you look quite devastated. And I can understand why. I am telling you all this because I care for you. You have no idea what you are getting into by becoming a pastor today — such is the rebellious and putrid nature of church life in these times. In fact, you will spend whole nights wondering why on earth your church called you to be a pastor there in the first place. You may even begin to wonder if you have been lured into a deliberate trap to stifle any effectiveness of your ministry in the world. You will certainly ask yourself if Satan has set the whole thing up. And well you might. My young friend, we are now living in a time when the majority of institutions calling themselves churches — even in the evangelical scene — have become synagogues of Satan rather

than *ekklesia* of Jesus Christ. You need to know this before you experience his anger and malice in all its hideous wickedness.

However, there is one consolation: When seen against this backdrop of the evil that will be directed at you by those who profess to be your fellow believers, you will find that the animosity of unbelievers will seem quite tame! You may even find that you prefer the company of the "good" pagan to that of your fellow so-called 'Christians'. Does this shock you? I wish I could put some roses round the door for you. But you will do this for yourself. Once you have left this room you will shake off the little shock I have given you and throw yourself into your new-found role. I only hope you have a wife. If not, you must find one first. A good wife and companion. You will discover that she will be your only point of comfort in this world (unless she betrays you too). At least I have warned you. And one thing I can guarantee: One day you will stand in my shoes and sit in my seat, warning someone from the next generation of would-be pastors of all that I have told you — if the world should continue...

The two men sit there in silence. The light gradually fades and, as the darkness ensues, all that can be heard in the distance is the mindless prattle of post-service congregations — oblivious to anything but their own trivia and manipulative world of madness.

My 2023 postscript on the Above 1998 Dialogue

Well, my friends... this is now me in 2023 adding a little postscript to the above Dialogue which I wrote in 1998 after six years serving as a pastor in the UK and counselling many other pastors who confided in me — a whole quarter of a century ago! Maybe you are sitting there gobsmacked, thinking "*How could anyone dare to write such a diatribe; surely it cannot be true*". If the truth be told, I myself was utterly shocked after I had written it. I did not plan to write it. One day, it just wrote itself after a couple of years of suppression, having counselled numerous pastors over the

previous few years who would wholeheartedly agree with the wizened old pastor.

Once it had come out, I could not change it, and neither could I retract it (as some tried to force me to do with *great vehemence and threats*), for it was truer than anything else I had to that point written. I duly sent it out to the Diakrisis list via email. Within hours, the dam burst and all hell let loose. I already expected some flak, but the vitriol which came my way was quite shocking. Such was the resistance to truth that some who I thought were friends removed the “r” from that word by their actions and made themselves into avowed enemies overnight.

I had already spent the previous few years battling against a hideous satanic phenomenon known as the “Toronto Blessing”, which a great many lily-livered evangelicals preferred to turn a blind eye to, or to sit on the fence about (as a result of which I called them “Evanjellycals”, which did not amuse them!). The abuse which I received I believe was a direct result of opposing Apollyon (an appropriate name for Satan). It made him mad. So I was already used to much nastiness. However, the nastiness I received from ministering on the subject of the “Toronto Blessing” was not nearly so vindictive as that which broke forth after the “Dialogue with Naïveté”. I already knew that truth is explosive, but I had not realised that it was nuclear. Suddenly, I was on Bikini Atoll smothered in fallout!

As a sidenote, if you wish, you can view the videos I made in my church during those years as they are still remarkably on YouTube (though not now in such great image quality), covering different aspects of this satanic phenomenon with extensive video footage from the madness of it, so you can judge for yourselves if it was “from God”, as was widely claimed. Here are the links to the videos:

“The Toronto Blessing”: A Different Gospel (1994)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYmSoAWgQ44>

“The Toronto Blessing: A Plague in the Land” (1995)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgUCwr88ZG0>

***"The Toronto Blessing: No Other Foundation"* (1996)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yb4MsRsODoc>

For good measure, here is a link to a video of a related lecture I gave in Northern Ireland just under 20 years ago:

"God TV — Is it Helpful or Harmful?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPJjAiAgef4> .

The madness which I was revealing in all those videos in the mid-1990s and in the "God TV" video was only really just getting going in the churches. It has now had nearly thirty years more to evolve into the gross wart on the face of the church that it is.

Although there was some animosity from the usual suspects about the publishing of the "Dialogue with Naïveté", there was a far greater reaction from people who realized that the wizened old pastor in the Dialogue was speaking for them — saying the words which they had been unable to voice for so long. In the next Chapter of this little book, we will sample some of those heartrending responses together with the commentary on them which I wrote at the time.

CHAPTER 2:

Assemblies of Heaven or Hell? *Responses to The Dialogue with Naïveté*

"We ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who work diligently among you, who preside over you in the Lord and give you instruction. In love, hold them in highest regard because of their work" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Due to the apparently controversial nature of the "Dialogue with Naïveté, I have received some most interesting and revealing responses. In fact, I have been absolutely inundated with responses by e-mail, telephone and snail-mail. [Remember, this was in early 1999 and all the text in this chapter, apart from red lettering, was written then]. I now realise the full reality of what I hitherto mostly suspected. For this "Dialogue" seems to have tapped into a rich vein of experience in the Christian scene. Over the years, I had counselled many disillusioned and downcast pastors, but now it became a torrent. As a sample of these responses, I am reprinting some of them here, before I proceed with further personal input:

FROM AN ANGLICAN VICAR IN ENGLAND

I liked the "Dialogue with Naïveté" article much. As it has been said: "Not many of God's Servants in the Bible died happy, but they sure were happy to die!!" Blessings...

FROM A BAPTIST PASTOR IN WALES

I sincerely identified with your 'Dialogue with Naïveté'!

FROM A BROTHER IN ENGLAND

I felt constrained to write re. your "Dialogue" piece. I'm not that good with words but let's say, even though I am not a pastor, "Yes we've been there, seen it all and bought the tee-shirt".

Two things specifically: Firstly, I'm not sure that it answers all the problems but is it right that elders should be elected by a method of democracy to fill pre-determined vacancies for set periods to fulfil man-made constitutional requirements?- ultimately to boost ego's, give social standing and make the ultimate career move in Church. Scripture quite clearly lays out the requirements (1 Timothy & Titus) for elders and if there is no one who meets those requirements then there are no elders available! They should certainly not be picked on the "Best of a bad bunch principle". I met my wife when we were attending (and building in the early 1980's!) '-----' Church in the U.K. I think they had it more right than most places there as elders were appointed when the right level of spiritual maturity was reached.

Secondly my wife has worked for 2 Christian organisations providing health care in this country. She testifies to unbelievable viciousness on the part of some in authority (they make the excuse that what they are doing is really in love) and tyrannical regimes which would be unknown in secular employment. Because we are all "About the Lord's Business" this is seen as an excuse for all manner of shabby treatment and riding roughshod over normal employment law.

We have had the experience of Christians being very friendly when they want something or they want us to do something or being very friendly or patronising until someone of higher social standing comes into the Church.

Yes it's sad but true but we've found that there have been times when the company of "good" pagans has been preferred to that of Christians.

FROM A PASTOR OF AN INDEPENDENT EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN ENGLAND

This “Dialogue with Naïveté” is superb. However, I think perhaps you’ve forgotten the scenario of the serious request for strong pastoral leadership which actually means you should side with the parties making the request. I wish I’d read something like your Dialogue more than 10 years ago — the only trouble is I’m not sure I would have believed it!

Best regards — and thanks for all your labour.

FROM THE PASTOR OF ANOTHER BAPTIST CHAPEL IN WALES

You obviously know my church! Thank you for reminding me that we are in a common battle, and that it is not simply my paranoia. Thank you also for your ongoing ministry through email.

FROM A RESEARCHER IN THE U.S.A.

I enjoy ALL of your messages to the uttermost. They hit home. If only just the CHRISTIANS would understand. I imagine even the unsaved can understand what you are saying better than many Christians.

FROM A MUSICIAN IN THE U.S.A

I really appreciated your ‘Dialogue with Naïveté’ story. It taps into another similar problem within the church — attempted control and visible scorn of each other by congregation members. I would like to include your article on my new website, which exists to help hurting Christians.

FROM AN ANGLICAN VICAR IN THE U.K.

I echo every word. Another article you wrote in your Diakrisis Journal, Issue 5, on the "Maverick" in the church said it all. I never really understood why so many true and great servants of God suffered like they did, until I became a clergyman. This realisation only intensified when I started to question and actively oppose all the modern rubbish we are being continuously force-fed. Even in the little flock at home, I look at them every Sunday and ask myself just how many really understand what I am trying to say and teach. One thing I discovered very quickly, you don't stay naïve for long if you are going to survive. Yes, assurance in God is our bedrock. Yes, the promises of God are precious. Yes, we know all things work for good to those who are called according to His purposes. Yes, we will persevere to the end. And, yes, we get kicked in the teeth every week by someone who has missed the point of the sermon, or demonstrates by a word or action the exact opposite of what we have been trying to say. And, yes, if someone had told me all this 25 years ago, I would have concluded they had lost their purpose in ministry. The real world of ministry is a hard teacher, but now I understand people like Elijah and Jeremiah a lot better than when I first began. I find Jeremiah 20:7-18 more meaningful as the years go by.

FROM A WRITER, RESEARCHER AND JOURNAL EDITOR OF A MAGAZINE ON SPIRITUAL COUNTERFEITS IN THE U.S.A.

Absolutely true. One of my top interns, who is almost invaluable here, is so anxious to get to 'Semetary' to get his M. Div. that he is willing to vault out of here mid-year, putting us into something of a crisis. He then plans to go to Oxford, etc. etc., leading the rush into the glorious light. You can imagine that in the age of the Mongoloid (consider American elections) that **the only pastors that get ahead are the ones who import waves of holy laughter, and promise financial returns for tithes.**

FROM A WOULD-BE PASTOR

Thank you... I mean it. From one who senses the Lord's constraint to be a pastor.

FROM THE PASTOR OF AN EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN THE U.K.

Thank you again for your helpful e-mail. I always find them helpful, if not enjoyable. By that I mean you tell things as they are and it is not enjoyable to see our land turning its back on our God. I have been in the ministry for 4½ years and your Dialogue article was absolutely true. I believe I could recognise 3-4 of the problems which I have encountered. It seems that churches do not like Biblical authority. They see it as a threat to them, rather than God's means of blessing.

HERE CONTINUES THE CHAPTER [which, apart from any text in red, I remind readers was all written in early 1999]:

It is plain from the above responses that we tapped into a major church problem in the first part of this two-hander on spiritual abuse. Therefore, in this second part, I want to go considerably deeper into the whole subject of abuse in churches.

I had been intending to broach this issue in an article in the next issue of the "Diakrisis" journal, under the title "The Deformed Faith". But circumstances have now dictated that I take it up in the present context of a living debate. [The Diakrisis Journal was a hard-copy paper magazine that I wrote and produced and sent out via snail mail to many addresses across the world. It ran for more than ten years until websites and social media took over].

For a number of years I have become increasingly aware that the majority [i.e. well over 50%] of churches today— even in the Evangelical scene — are abusive and oppressive institutions to a greater or lesser degree. As we know, the picture is often painted

of an abusive Pastor as the only manifestation of this; and it is true that such types do abound. I have both watched these “heavy shepherds” in action and suffered under their “ministry”. Nothing could be more repugnant to the Lord than the abuse of a flock by its shepherd (Ezekiel 34:2-4; 1 Peter 5:2-4). However, I believe that spiritual abuse in churches is multifaceted in its application and often so subtle that many may not even realise that it is taking place — until they become the victim of it themselves. Furthermore, it is not only those who hold office who are abusive to their congregations but ordinary members can be abusive to one another, and church members and elders can be highly abusive to those entrusted with the role of pastor/teacher in the churches.

My reason for writing the “Dialogue”, therefore, was to show another face of church abuse which is very rarely written about. In order to get this across, I used the Literary Device of a dialogue between two fictitious characters. Although it has been suggested that the “Wizened Old Pastor” is a thinly disguised Alan Morrison, in fact I have a great deal in common with the Naïve Young Man! Wizened Old Pastors began to warn me about a number of the elements in the dialogue as far back as ten years ago [i.e. 1989]. But, at first, like the Naïve Young Man, I thought that such men were just self-pitying wimps who should know better than to say derogatory things about “the glorious office of Pastor”! (Incidentally, the word “wizened” does not mean “wise”. It comes from the Old English word “wisnian”, which means “withered” — a very apt description of how one feels after a long struggle against debilitating abuse). However, it was not long before I began to understand what these wizened ones were going on about.

The “Dialogue” Was not Meant as a Picture of One Church

“The Dialogue with Naïveté” was never intended to be a comprehensive picture of any one particular church in all its aspects, in spite of the unnecessary offence taken by one church

in particular. In fact, it was written out of knowledge which has been accumulated from many sources over the past 14 years [1985-1999].

I shall never forget the time that I met a former member of a particular church in Scotland who recounted his abusive experiences there. He was so fearful of being seen by the elders who had oppressed him that he insisted on meeting me away from public view in the corner of a park. He was actually TERRIFIED of these pathetic little men (for that is always what they are). As he told me of what had happened FOUR YEARS EARLIER!, he was visibly shaking over his entire body and wept profusely. I was so naïve in those days; and when I followed up what he had said by trying to find out more from those elders, I too fell foul of these men who then saw me as an upstart and troublemaker rather than a peacemaker!

I quickly discovered that evil people in the church (of which there are many), in order to prevent their deeds being made known, will go to any lengths to blacken a person's character who they find threatening. These are usually people who are highly regarded in the wider church. Like all sociopaths and narcissists, they always build up a buttress of gullible "wingmen" who they can rely on to back them up if the truth about them is in danger of being exposed.

The above incident in the park had taken place nearly a decade ago in 1990. The man who was the victim eventually went on to serve as a pastor elsewhere and then as a lecturer in a theological seminary; but I have no doubt that the scars will still be prominent. **From that point on I discovered that this was the tip of a huge iceberg of abuse which is endemic in churches today.** I do believe that things have considerably worsened since then, and that it is the great unsung scandal of the evangelical scene. [Bear in mind that I was writing this piece in early 1999. Imagine how much more embedded it all is at the present day, in 2023].

So I say that this abuse operates on many levels in churches — from the pastors towards the sheep, from elders towards pastors, from sheep towards other sheep and from the sheep towards their pastors. So many churches actually perpetuate spiritual and emotional abuse as an endemic element in their system as an institution. Even on the most basic of abusive levels, in a number of churches today, if one does not conform to the thinking of the eldership on numerous matters which should normally be among the "adiaphora" (the things which are 'indifferent'), one is judged to be in breach of church authority and guilty of "over-individualism". I am speaking here about such things as the kind of clothes one wears, where one spends one's holidays, the kind of car one drives,⁴ how one has one's children educated, which Bible version one reads, how one dots every "i" and crosses every "t". In fact, the crushing of one's individuality and the pressure of conformity is often THE DRIVING FORCE in many churches today. And this is before one has even mentioned the kinds of abuse which were covered under the headings of the "Monoliths" in the "Dialogue with Naïveté" in Part 1.

So the "Dialogue with Naïveté" was a conglomerate picture — a snapshot of life, a generic observation, a dynamic parable representing some subversive aspects of pastoral life which operate in a large number of churches, to a greater or lesser degree. It is illustrative of the typical obstacles which any prospective Pastor will surely encounter in many churches today. The only exceptions to this may be those churches which have originally been planted by a pastor who has never appointed any elders and who has only admitted into the church and its "inner circle" those whom he has absolute certainty will be one with him.

⁴ I have known of a number of churches in which it was frowned upon to own a car which is anything other than a clapped-out old banger and in which a holiday outside the UK was seen to be extravagant and decadent, unfitting for a disciple of Christ.

The Suppression of Truth

When I wrote the "Dialogue", because of what had been in the contents of my mailbag up to that point, I suspected that there would be many pastors who would be able to easily identify with it; and I have since been proved right beyond my wildest expectations. The overwhelming response which I have had from Pastors has been one of relief and gratitude. One Pastor I met recently said how grateful he was that I had finally said all the things he had wanted to say for years but dared not for fear of retaliation from his elders and church members. *"Our fellow elders and congregations just want to suppress the truth"*, said one Pastor. *"They simply don't want it to be acknowledged"*, he added. Another Pastor said: *"Anyone who doesn't believe that this is a true and faithful account of life as a Pastor today is wearing an enormous pair of blinkers!"*

Another Pastor, as a way of confirming the truth of the "Dialogue", told me about a Pastor who had attended his church prayer meeting one evening and was surprised to discover that the entire congregation was present. One of the "Elders" then explained that they had just held a special church meeting at which it was decided that his services were no longer required as Pastor. He had spoken no heresy; neither had he committed any act of immorality. They felt he just didn't fit the bill. He was then told that he had a week to vacate the manse with his wife and children! I have also been informed of another church in which the Pastor, just as he was climbing the steps into the pulpit to take the Sunday morning service, was handed an envelope by one of the Deacons containing his notice to quit.

In another incident, the deacons of a church came over to a Pastor's house after he had just attended his father's funeral and coldly said to him, "We have fired you". But he refused to go, and insisted that they take it to the church to be decided. Subsequently, they did not get the votes which they needed in order to fire him, so he had some time to look for another ministry while staying on board. One deacon did say to him menacingly

that they would "get him in the end". At a later date, they had a business meeting and he entered it with no expectations of any surprises. They went through the agenda with little difficulty. As was their regular practice, it came to the time to discuss the pastor's salary. As usual, the pastor dismissed himself and his family from the room so that they could deal with it. He didn't know until later that they met for two and a half more hours with the following results: First, they cut his salary by one third. Second, they made the cut retroactive so that it went back to the beginning of the year. Third, as a result, because he owes them and would have to pay them back, they had really cut his salary by a total of 76%, until the retroactive period is paid back. Fourth, they fired him and ordered him to be out of his church home within the following two months.

The Real Reason for the Undermining of Pastors

These are by no means isolated incidents, and are merely symptomatic of a much deeper disease in churches today. **That disease is this: The secret hatred of genuine biblical authority.**

I believe that the global Great Apostasy presently under way across the world has penetrated so deeply even into the evangelical and reformed churches that many of them are now abusive places operating under the aegis of "*We're being super-Scriptural and super-spiritual*". Hiding behind a clutch of pietistic platitudes and historical Confessions and Catechisms, the subtly rebellious churches of today are despising the blessing of genuinely authoritative leadership.

So these are my reasons for writing the "Dialogue" and a great many Pastors are glad that it has been written, telling me that I have expressed something on their behalf which they have felt unable to express themselves and which may otherwise never have seen the light of day. I say this not out of any sort of boastfulness. I would far rather that it never had to be said in the first place. **But I too am glad that this issue is being broached rather than continually swept under the carpet.**

At this point, I would like to share with you a letter which has moved me to tears which dropped into my email box after the "Dialogue" had been sent out. It comes from a very highly respected Pastor in the U.K. who has had more than four decades of experience in the ministry. I have always held this brother in great esteem as a man of honour, a mentor, and a real gentleman of the pastorate. Here he writes as follows:

Dear Sir,

I read your piece, "A Dialogue with Naïveté" with amazement and great sorrow. After more than four decades in the Pastorate, I can confirm that all you say is true, but only a fraction of reality, even then. As a retired WOP — Wizened Old Pastor — you can refer your critics to me. All you say is sadly the truth of evangelicalism in the West today, and more so.

When I first began to pastor a church, what the "Naïve Young Man" said in your "Dialogue" was the case. Then it was possible to preach the Word of God, and, to a larger extent, there was a response, and God's Spirit did take hold. But no longer. I know many men who are being faithful to the truth and the whole counsel of God, but who, by and large, receive only abuse, scorn, envy and every other means of discouragement possible.

I dare say that some will say your article is so negative, and it may be. But, in a sense, if we are to be realistic, the situation is so bad that it cannot be otherwise. Maybe you could or should have pointed to the Sovereign God in all this. But then I sometimes wonder, such is my present grief and despair, where the Sovereign God has got to? Has He gone? Is He impotent? Has He taken His hands off us altogether? I don't think I am in a fit spiritual state to answer; because I have been so despondent since retiring. I see my own hard work, down many years, blown apart by a U.K. church which is self-centred, ignorant, unwilling to learn from God's Word, and proud at the same time.

Alan, I have no answers. I thank God for all the true, faithful souls who have stood by me and encouraged me, and in many ways have shown their true love, both for me and the Word I have preached — above all, of course, my dear wife. But thanks for the thoughts in your article. Maybe it will help some, but I fear it will offend far many more.

I send my greetings to you. I am about to set off for morning worship, but with a heavy heart.

Yours most truly, etc.



[Here is my commentary on that faithful pastor's letter, which I wrote upon receiving it very shortly after the "Dialogue" had been written in 1998].

Now what is your response to that *crie de coeur*? Do you want to call this man a "reprobate" (as one man called me after he read the "Dialogue")? Do you want to accuse him of wallowing in self-pity (as one hard man did to me after he read the "Dialogue")? Do you want to denounce that man as "a false teacher, a wolf in sheep's

clothing and an impostor" (as one man did to me after he read the "Dialogue")? Or is your sole desire to get alongside him and slip your arm across his shoulders and give him the greatest encouragement possible? That was my first reaction; and I phoned him immediately to tell him so. With the pieces from two broken hearts we can make a whole one.

It is hardly surprising that there are so many disciples of Christ who dare not cross the threshold of a church because of the feelings of alienation which overcome them once inside. Sensitive souls can sense the real undercurrents of a place, no matter how much phony bonhomie is being displayed in the after-church coffee-time.

Watch Out for the 'Shiny People'

It has been most interesting to note people's varying responses to anyone who dares to broach this issue. Especially interesting have been those responses which I can only describe as self-centred and hysterical, in which the "Dialogue" is perceived as some kind of threat by those who have most to lose by its exposure. In contrast to these carping, self-serving critics, I was very touched by the only personal face-to-face response I have yet received from anyone about the "Dialogue with Naïveté" in which a teenager in my church came to me as soon as he had read it and said, *"I know I'm only a scruffy student, but I hope I'm not in one of those monoliths?"* In that moment I loved that guy and reassured him he was *not* among the monoliths. I put my hand on his shoulder and said: *"My friend, I wish this whole congregation was made up of 'scruffy students'!"* It is never the 'scruffy students' who are the problem. **It is usually the shiny people that you have to watch!** Do you know what I mean by "shiny" people? They are the well-polished. Whitewashed even. Everything to the letter. Always 'right'. Always scrutinizing others for their faults (but never themselves). And not an ounce of true compassion where it is needed. Devoid of any real care and consideration for others, but hiding their hardness behind pietistic clichés, beatific facial

expressions and false concern. The shiny people always see problems in their churches as matters to be dealt with "procedurally" rather than pastorally. They are quick to condemn and slow to discern. They love unfurling a banner and waving their swords in the air. Red Hot Prots. Don Quixotes tilting at windmills. Of course, that is not how they see themselves. They think they are hurling their grenades for Christ! Just as the Pharisees thought they were doing God a favour by stringing up their Messiah! **Zeal without knowledge is a dangerous attribute. Christian fascism is its name.**

It would be worth taking up some of the issues which are raised in the letter above from that wounded pastor, because I believe that he has made some very revealing observations. The 'negative' responses of some to "The Dialogue with Naïveté" are in fact a vindication of its content and also demonstrate that what we are dealing with here are some much deeper issues. **It is naturally far easier for people to make a scapegoat of those who expose the reality of spiritual abuse rather than to root out the REAL problems which are besetting church congregations at this time.** Let us probe this further:

Divine Judgement Begins with the Church

First, this wounded pastor cries out: *"Where has the Sovereign God got to? Has He gone? Is He impotent? Has He taken His hands off us altogether?"* I know for a fact that this Pastor doesn't actually believe that God is impotent; he is simply posing these questions because that may be how it seems due to the flourishing of subtle and overt spiritual abuse in churches. In other words, these questions are rooted in the problem that if God is sovereign over his churches, then why does He permit abuse to be so endemic in them? I believe that there is a straight answer to this; and it involves a damning judgement on the churches, for judgement always begins with the household of God (1 Peter 4:17).

Over the past few decades, most churches have become so man-centred in so many different ways — as the apostasy subtly takes

hold — that the Lord has given them over to their egocentric games. There will be no real blessing — either in internal relationships or in external evangelism — in churches which reject true authority, whether it is an explicit rejection or an implicit one. Indeed, He will eventually — after numerous gracious warnings — remove the candlestick altogether. People plotting how they can get into office (or get their husbands into it); people secretly working out how to obstruct someone of whom they are jealous from obtaining office or exercising it effectively; men strutting about filled with the pride of their office; people making God's churches into places of self-promotion — social clubs which prop up their usurped roles; petty-minded people vying with others to organise activities (e.g. even such mundanities as the ubiquitous 'flower-rota') or about where to position a new WC; job-huggers refusing to give the rising generation an opportunity to serve the Lord; people ganging together in exclusive and subversive sub-groupings within the church — murmuring at every opportunity about those they have targeted as enemies. All these things and much more are being enacted in today's people-centred churches under a masquerade of pietism. The Lord does not suffer such unchurchly nonsense for long. Satan specialises in exploiting manifestations of such ego-tripping activities. Unless the brakes are applied, the Lord will give him a long rope. **And if there is still no change, one could hardly be surprised if He gives a church over to its underhanded wickedness, while Satan runs riot.** This surely answers the question from any observer of the rampant abuse of today: "Where has the Sovereign Lord got to?"

Why Are People So Offended by Truth?

Second, this wounded pastor writes: "*Maybe your 'Dialogue' will help some, but I fear it will offend far many more*". Like me, he is dismayed but not surprised that anyone should be offended by the "Dialogue". But you must ask yourself why anyone should be "offended" at all by such truths. I believe that those who are offended have either planted a church from the beginning (and have therefore hedged themselves against the abuse about which

I am speaking) and are thus deeply ignorant of it, or else they are in some way a part of the problem. I can well imagine that if the wounded Pastor above had written that letter while he was still serving as a Pastor, his church elders would have begun some ludicrous disciplinary proceedings against him for daring to expose their sad little games. You can even imagine the contents of their pompous and self-saving procedural letter, filled with pietistic clichés and of course finishing with the usual empty platitude about "having a heavy heart at the need to write this, but it is with Christian love, etc., etc." bla-bla-bla. **In truth, if his church was right behind him and was not part of the problem, the elders and members (feeling no guilt) would not react badly to his letter but would be all the more determined to give him every support and do everything they could to ensure that he was not subjected to the kind of abuse to which we are referring.** But that is not how it works. The big lie must be preserved at all costs. And so that church then becomes an exact replica of what the Wizened Old Pastor revealed in his Dialogue with the naïve young man. It was thus a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The Important Presence of Faithful Souls

Third, I would like to echo the wounded pastor's words: *"I thank God for all the true, faithful souls who have stood by me and encouraged me, and in many ways have shown their true love, both for me and the Word I have preached"*. It is such souls who enable pastors to continue even in the face of the *"abuse, scorn, envy and every other means of discouragement possible"* referred to in his sad letter above. Unfortunately, such souls are a dying breed. They are often drawn from an earlier, less egocentric generation or they are among those who have themselves suffered abuse in churches (or witnessed the abuse of friends or relatives) and thereby they know what it is all about. Even so, although they may make life somewhat more bearable for a pastor, often they can never compensate for the physical, emotional and spiritual damage which has already been done.

One is in a "Catch 22" situation in a church in which these abuses are going on. Trying to speak to such people with an open heart generally does not work. At best they just ignore you; at worst they embark on an even greater programme of oppression, mercilessly exploiting your vulnerability in exposing the truth! Then what do you do? Initiate church discipline? It's all too subtle for that — and, besides, if you're as worn down as the wounded pastor above, you simply won't have the strength to get into any of that awful activity. Believe me. I speak from much severe experience. This is why I deliberately used the term "Monolith" to describe the forms of abuse which exist against pastors in Churches. The dictionary definition of a monolith is: "*A pillar or column of a single stone: anything resembling a monolith in uniformity, massiveness or intractability*". That last word, intractability, is most appropriate. Monoliths almost never change. The sort of people described in my "Dialogue" under the monoliths are by definition those who are impervious to any kind of approaches about their behaviour. They are stubbornly determined to carry on with their selfish attitudes and actions, regardless of what anyone says to them. And the more you try and do something about it, the more they will close ranks against you, determined to destroy you. That is why so many ministries have been shipwrecked on these rocks.

The "Dialogue With Naïveté" is a Mirror

The "Dialogue with Naïveté" is therefore like a mirror held up to the face of the church in the world. I had hoped that rather than making folk highly defensive about the implications for themselves, that the "Dialogue" might acquaint them with the kind of situations which Pastors face today, and that they would then quietly get on with doing everything they could to ensure that they would never be counted among the monoliths. Sadly, that appears to have been too much to expect from some people, as with some bemusement I see a number of knives out for me already. If you DO NOT see yourself or your church in those Monoliths, then count yourself fortunate and do all you can to ensure that they never occur. If, however, you DO see yourself or your church in

those eight Monoliths, you should recoil in horror and turn over a new leaf, rather than imagining that by attempting to smash the mirror and denouncing the one who held it up you can pretend these things do not exist! You can never ultimately suppress truth. Even if you smash it to smithereens, all will one day be revealed.

Finally, although I would like to take the above wounded pastor at his word where he says that I can refer my critics to him, I would also like to spare him the insensitive dragon-fires which spew out of the evangelical mouth so readily. Having spoken personally to him I know that he means every word. When I checked with him if he minded me quoting it in this piece, he said: *"It comes from my heart, and having just re-read it to check, I stand by it. If it is of use, then by all means, use it"*. I hope that it is indeed of use, and that it will encourage readers to search their hearts and their actions.

I know that the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre is repugnant to Christians, but when I consider the kind of things I have written about above, I sometimes have a little sympathy with his adage: *"Hell is other people"*! But surely "Church" should be nothing like that. The great English puritan, William Perkins, said: *"The Church is the suburbs of heaven"*. Should that not be the great watchword for our assemblies? But he was speaking of the true *Ekklesia*, the body of Christ, which has now been so infiltrated and overrun by unregenerate impostors and mountebanks that "church" is only a pale shadow of what it should be. The quality of our relationships is the yardstick by which our faith will be measured at the Final Judgement (cf. Matthew 25:31-46). As the Apostle John echoes:

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:14-16).

CHAPTER 3:

Deliverance or Bondage?

A Woman's Journey Through the Madness of Modern 'Christianity'

"For the time will come when people will not tolerate healthy teaching, but with itching ears **they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires**" (2 Timothy 4:3).

In Part 1, you read the "Dialogue with Naïveté", which exposed the kind of abuse which Pastors and Teachers in the churches regularly (and secretly) have to face. In Part 2, we saw how so many Pastors could identify with that Dialogue as abuse which they too have suffered. Now, in Part 3, we shift the emphasis to another kind of spiritual abuse in churches, involving the many ways in which ordinary members of congregations are shockingly being abused within Pentecostal/Charismatic assemblies, and especially by so-called "deliverance ministries". The text in black below was written in 2002.

* * * * *

I am here sharing with you a most harrowing but true story of one woman's experience in a well-known church in the U.K. which was hit by the "Toronto Blessing" in 1994. (As a musician and trained opera singer by background, she was a 'worship leader' there). Also, we will discover her treatment by a high-profile so-called "deliverance ministry". In case you think that this is all 'old hat' and rather out-of-date, I hasten to add that what commenced at that time is still going on unabated to this day and is still deluding and damaging a great many people. [I wrote these words in 2002 but it is massively worse now in 2023 as all this madness has subsequently become universally mainstream].

It is by no means an isolated set of circumstances that we will read about in this story but it is all too common in my ten years of experience of counselling a multitude of folks who have escaped — or are in the process of escaping — from the most appalling church situations imaginable.

The dark spiritual activity which began at that time, and which hugely accelerated the degradation of churches and of the witness of the true gospel, has not in the least bit abated but instead has consolidated itself into a position of respectability and strength in the wider evangelical scene. In short, it has become mainstream.

However, I do not want this to be just another "horror witness" concerning the madness which takes place today in the name of Christ. **I also want it to be an opportunity for us to grapple with the issues so that we are clear where we stand and can stand on that solid ground when confronted with those who would oppose and try to influence us otherwise.** Therefore, at the conclusion of the lady's story below, I shall return to expand some teaching and encourage further thoughts on the issues involved.

It has been a long hard road for this lady to extract herself from the clutches of these fiendish pseudo-Christian deceptions. In fact, she has paid a high price with her health and is now permanently disabled. She was on my mailing list for some time and when she saw that I championed exposing spiritual abuse, she wrote asking if I would be interested in her experiences. She has personally given her express permission and encouragement for me to send this out, and to make some pertinent comments. So read on, and I shall return at the conclusion of her story. Here it is...

My Journey from Darkness to Light

1) Descent into Darkness

Originally, I was in the New Age but it was mixed up with the church we were in, my family and inherited "gifts". No one told me they were wrong.

My Dad was brought up in a spiritualist church and was introduced to many dark things by his mother, who was a spiritualist medium. He got "saved" just before I was born at a Billy Graham crusade in London. However, he still continued with his spiritualist activities, like being on the prayer list of a famous Medium, whose name was Harry Edwards, if I remember correctly.

My Father loved dark scary stories and was always getting the vibes from buildings. I learnt how to seek out cold buildings and try to find out the history of the place by laying my hands on them. My sister and I followed in our Dad's footsteps.

When we got into ESP (extra-sensory perception), I was able to make things happen like getting people to trip over. I could even predict events — always bad ones! My sister and I perfected it. We practiced for hours. We would send messages to each other from the other side of the world and write them down and compare them when we got back. I could astrally project. I could practise levitation. My sister and I practised these to a fine art. I became a very frightened person, always looking over my shoulder feeling I was being watched. As I closed my eyes at night, I always saw death, rotting corpses and other horrible things.

I gave my life to the Lord in our local Baptist church but still continued with all that. It was the time period of Uri Geller, when many things like this were popular on the TV. At the Youth Club after church we would talk about these things and do the Ouija Board in church.

At school we would do levitation and put the desks together. We used to lay someone down on the desks. We all fought for this position. Then we would chant sickness over them. Each one more horrific than the last until we pronounced they were dead. Then we would levitate. One day it was my turn as usual and as they said I was dead, I had the most horrible experience. I was suddenly at the gates of hell and fire was all around. It was the most terrible thing I had ever experienced. I jumped off the table and vowed never to do it again.

A few years later, I was working at a Christian publishers in *****. In the lunch hour I would go to the packing room and look through the discarded books which had their covers on upside down or pages missing. Many were from America. They were all about the Baptism in the Holy spirit, healing and deliverance. I read them avidly. I loved to read. Also there were tapes on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

One night I was in my bedroom and was desperate to have what these books said I could have. I wanted to know how to pray better because I found it so hard and my Christian life was dead. Suddenly, I was taken over. I was scared as I couldn't remember my name or even speak English. I felt my mouth bubbly and my tongue tingly. I was in another world. This went on for hours.

The next day I went to work and went to see the Director of the firm who was a Pentecostal. He called me in and I told him what had happened the night before. He was so thrilled and said I'd been Baptized in the Holy Ghost.

This "language" wouldn't go away. It just kept on bubbling out. I had to keep going into the ladies toilets and put my hand in front of my mouth. This went on for months. I tried to use this conjunction with the other gifts in the Holy Spirit but when I tried to pray my head spun round fast inside and I felt like I was on a merry go round. I was confused. Meanwhile, my sister had started at University and the same thing happened to her too. Later, it happened to my Mother and Father. I repented of my Occult past and did not do any of these things again. I eventually realized that these things were Evil and not natural gifts which man had forgotten how to use.

"Power" became very important in our Christian churches — a must-have for charismatics. Everyone was reading John Wimber's book on "Power Evangelism". We then heard about the church starting in ***** and were amazed to see these things start happening there.

One strange thing happened to me on a leaders training day in *****. We were all on the floor getting out our fishing rods to haul in the lost. The music was getting louder and people were exhibiting bizarre manifestations. Suddenly I was pinned to the floor. I couldn't get up and I was being transported through the clouds at breakneck speed. I knew this was Astral projection, as I used to do in my occult days. So I cried out to the Lord to save me and I came back from the Astral projection and I could get off the floor. I told some others about this and they said it was great that the Lord was taking me through the Universe and I should just go with it.

As the years went on we were told from the front of the church that these things were normal. People were thrown off chairs. We were told to take our heads off and not think any longer but to "drink in the Spirit" and to "jump into the river". So we did. Chaos had come into our church. Our real introduction to "it" came when we got drunk — not on alcohol but on the manifestations which we experienced.

Because we had small children we took turns to go to the leaders' training meetings. That night it was very hot and all the windows were open in this ground floor room. I walked in and wondered what on earth had happened. I had not experienced it until this evening.

I saw the Guest speaker sitting on a metal stool, blind drunk — a "drunkenness in the spirit". His face was puffed out, really large. He was waving his arms at a man outside on the street shouting at him with unintelligible words. When he pointed his hand at people in the room, they did somersaults backwards and ended up on the floor unable to move, drunk with this "spirit". Others slithered across the floor. I thought to myself "The answer is to not look at this man", because as soon as his eyes met yours you were gone. It wasn't just pointing - it was eye contact. So I decided not to look at him.

Others were convulsing all around me. Some were shooting each other with bows and arrows. There were no chairs so I had to sit on the floor. People were rolling fast across the floor. I ended on my back when our future Pastor rolled over my neck with his body. I cried out to the Lord as I thought I was going to break my neck. I didn't, but it hurt. One lady was beating her chest like King Kong. At the time I thought, "what is she doing?". She was beautifully dressed and behaving like an animal. I could see some women were very shy of all of this because they had dresses on and ended up indecent.

It was then that I made a mistake. I accidentally looked at him and he looked at me. He then said, "Let her have it, Lord!". Within seconds, I was a gibbering wreck, unable to walk or talk. My body felt like it was swelling up. I started to laugh uncontrollably and everyone was rolling over me — arms, faces, legs. I knew enough to be cross inside that it had happened to me, but I could do nothing about it. Eventually, I crawled to the door to try to get out. Outside it was dark and I saw the headlights of a car coming towards me. I thought "I'm going to be killed and there is nothing I can do". I was "rescued" by my future pastors, who took me home. They were thrilled that I could get under the "anointing" so quickly.

It lasted for days. Then, on Sunday my husband got 'zapped' by this man. At this stage, it was popular for them to zap the soles of your feet with the microphone. People went under quicker through the feet. That night, my husband drove us home with his head on his steering wheel totally drunk. From now on, it was easy to get into this experience. If anyone pointed their finger or laid hands on us, we were 'gone'.

It was at this time that we installed the Christian Channel Europe in our home. There was programme after programme where you could get zapped if you were already under this power. From then on we were completely initiated into the "Toronto blessing". It was August 1994.

In May 1995, we lost our drummer in the church band. He was killed by a bridge when he stuck his head out of a window of the train. He was 16. The week before this, we had experienced a visitation of Angels, which of course then took us up to another spiritual notch.

Week after week we would have hands laid on us for power. The more noise you made, the more the speakers were pleased and the more they gave you. If you sat in the corner and did not get "blessed" you were thought of as awful. Often you would get chased and oil would be thrown over you.

At one leaders' conference we attended they kept on throwing oil at us. I remember going to the ladies with others and washing our hair in the sink to get it off, plus our clothes were stained with oil. At this conference one lad was singled out as being very anointed because he made lots of noises and jerked and was thrown off his chair a lot. We were told to collect round him and get it off him. So many ended up in a heap on him. Most ladies didn't.

Every Sunday we were told to obey our Pastors and not question them. Also we were not allowed to go home and ask the Lord if it was okay for us to do a particular task which our Pastors might have asked us to do. Several times during the services we had altar calls to come out and come under their "anointing" and for other things too.

My husband had been very unhappy for a long time and felt it was wrong so he left, which caused me much unhappiness. He joined an Anglican church with our son. So my daughter and I were left going there. I was finding the hours tiring with my daughter and with the constant pressure from my husband at this time against it. I thought as he led me into it in 1994, it has to be right. He had got it wrong, I thought. But there were many nagging doubts in me.

One Sunday we had Benny Hinn's brother, Henry, come to speak, so everyone was very excited. He told us off because our pastor was away and someone had dared to park his car in his place. He

was furious and told us so. It got late. It was about 11.00pm Sunday night. I was exhausted and so was my 5-year-old daughter. He said that no one must leave or it would "break the anointing". He was watching everyone. So I crept to the back with my daughter on my back. It took a while and was hard work with my 5-year-old on my back with me. We got to the back of the warehouse and managed to phone my husband to say we were on our way because of the lateness. I was very scared that Henry Hinn would stop me from leaving but I think he missed seeing me.

Meantime, as the keyboard player in the church band, I had a microphone to sing into. One song we were singing was composed by one of our people. It was entitled "Put the Roar Back". "Put the roar back, roar back, put the Lion of Judah in your hearts, then we'll take back, take back" ... basically taking everything back which we were supposed to be entitled to. Money, prosperity, gold of the nations, health and wealth.

So we roared like lions with open mouths, screaming and shouting. It was then after a morning service that I had severe pain in my jaw and it wouldn't close. I went to accident and emergency at hospital and they diagnosed it as dislocated. So the Doctor, in front of students, showed how to dislocate and undislocate a jaw. I was screaming. He said it was fear and that I should stop worrying.

Over the next week I had a dental appointment which I went to. My dentist said she could not treat me because I couldn't open my jaw. She rang the hospital and I saw a specialist that day and had an MRI. It showed it was severely degenerated. I slept for 9 months with a band round my jaw and head because of the terrible pain. Meanwhile I started getting excruciating pain in my right hip. I had X-rays and they said it was osteo-arthritis.

Because of the pain I decided to step down from being music leader and sat in the congregation instead. It was there that the Lord opened my eyes. One day a lady came and prayed for my hip and jaw and really went at it. I lay on the floor and she shouted at

it for ages. She made a man with Cerebral Palsy get up and push his own wheelchair. He was in agony. I was very upset by this.

I saw the Pastor's anger get worse. We had many famous speakers come from America who you can see on the Christian Channel. One Sunday we were told we had a man coming who was special. The man told our Pastor that we weren't to come in the evening unless we were prepared to do what he said. We were scared but still went. He was the man that prophesied over the leaders of the Christian Channel to put it into being. Jonathan David - a Malaysian who had changed his name.

The evening came and all the chairs had gone. The music was deafening. We were put through a series of movements to the music. Move to the left and then to the right. Call on the Spirit to give us more. A process lasting an hour. Then we were ready. He was going to take us into the "throne room". My mother was with us and she started to cry. Her dead mother and father appeared to her to take her in. They were both Christians and had died a while ago. I was not happy with this because we were not allowed to see our dead relatives and I always thought that demons could do this.

Eventually, this stopped and people were in a state of great delusion. I was in the middle of these people. About 500 of us. I decided to push my way to the front of the crowd to get a better look at this man. I was about 10 feet away from him and I wanted to see what his eyes were like. I looked at him and he was very scary - very evil looking. I thought how come there is nothing in him that looks like Jesus. Jesus wouldn't look like this. He then got all the leaders of the church and prophesied over them. By now I was a nothing in the church, having my husband step down I was ignored and I was no longer in the music. Some of the words for the people were quite bizarre, like "you'll be known for your healing ministry and you will dress in long velvet flowing robes". My sister and I were there and that evening we reflected over the past week's events. We said that if he had asked people to jump from the balcony they would have. Our eyes were even more

opened. People may think "Just get out of there, what's wrong with you?" But we had been under this "anointing" for so long that we were trapped in it. It wasn't that simple. My use of the word "anointing" is not flippant. For it was definitely an "anointing" of something. But what?

2) Finding the Light

I'm not quite sure of the year. It was Easter Sunday morning, 1997 or 1998. I had come to the realization that it was all truly wrong and that I had to leave. I had come to realize how manipulative the sermons were.

The Lady Pastor shouted at the start of the service. "There is a bad atmosphere in here and someone is causing it. Someone is stopping the anointing". Gulp! I knew it was me because I had known for a long time and had stopped going forward to catch the "anointing". She ran towards me and screamed "IT'S YOU!" She pushed me and I fell back on a lady who jumped forward to catch me. We were thrown several feet and I landed on this lady. I got up dazed not remembering what had happened but feeling upset. I sat down and the music was deafening. I saw this lady sprawled out on the floor crying in agony, who at the time I did not know had tried to catch me. I was told this later by other witnesses. Many were furious and left over this thing.

I went over to this lady, who was now lying on the floor. She was crying in agony. She explained to me what had happened. I couldn't believe it. I prayed for her but her pain was great. She said she needed an ambulance. So I went up to the Pastor and told him. He said "never". No one goes out of here in an ambulance, so he carried on. Meanwhile I went around asking for help and found someone and we got together with others and decided to go against the Pastor and ordered an Ambulance. When it came the men were Christians which helped a lot. She was X-rayed and found to have broken her back and was in a hairs breadth off being paralysed. It had gone into her spine and just missed the spinal cord by as much as a hair.

I visited her in hospital and felt devastated. I was told that I'd done it but had no memory of it which was worse. I felt very responsible for her agony. Of course the Pastor blamed me because I was blocking the "anointing". In fact, I now saw the truth and realised the deception. However, I still carried on in the church as an observer. But the Lord had started to show me bit-by-bit how dangerous it all was.

One Sunday I decided to see if they'd let me back in the music group. I thought perhaps I can change things for the better! I was allowed back, but as second fiddle. It was during a music practice when I realized that I had to escape. I was the main keyboard player that evening. We had a famous guest who was joining our church. A musician who now is in a famous church in London and has appeared on the Christian Channel. Drums played an important part in worship. We were practicing songs and each time we had to get to the stage where we had "arrived". We were either screaming, barking, groaning like giving birth or laughing hysterically. The ultimate quest was to be stoned, blind drunk in "the spirit".

This day it was the Lady Pastor. We had two. It was a husband-and-wife team, both Pastors. She said that we were getting nowhere, so she started to bash the drums to a beat. This went on for ages while I had to jam in the background with guitars while the others roared in tongues. As the beat got more furious she started to sound like an American Indian going round a totem pole. Woo-woo-woo-woo-woo... She was making the sounds with her hands on her mouth. By now I was feeling horrible in my spirit and I asked the Lord to forgive me. She said we can take any sound and sanctify it.

I knew now that we were summoning up spirits. I decided to make an excuse and leave. I went home and told my husband who had left nine months before that I must soon leave that church altogether. But the pull was enormous. While chatting to others I realized many felt the same way but were far too scared to leave because we were cursed with death if we left the anointing. The

pastor said that he would bury us within three years. So you can imagine how scared everyone was. This statement was not a one-off — it was week after week after week of indoctrination about leaving the anointing.

The next Sunday morning I was not playing the keyboard and sat in the service when the drums were thumped to a beat for ages. It was horrible — like someone was being prepared for sacrifice. I got up with my daughter and walked out shaking all over. We went to a shop and bought some chocolate to calm my nerves and caught a taxi to my husband's church. He was so surprised to see us.

However, they would not leave us alone. There were phone calls and visits. It was horrible. I walked the streets with my daughter in fear — scared to answer the phone or door.

Every Sunday at the Anglican church I found it so different. It was like a culture shock. I couldn't trust anyone or anything. They sang modern songs and as soon as they sang anything like the other church's songs I felt myself go under the "anointing". So did my husband. We had to try very hard to stop it. It took about a year. We were prayed for in the Anglican church and this helped. They never got into the "Toronto" thing.

About six months later, a friend from the old church said that we had been publicly cursed for leaving the church and that no one was allowed to speak to us. They said that we were evil and very dangerous. I just burst into tears.

We had contacted an organization that supposedly helped people who had come out of these churches. So we sent a letter telling her how scared we were. She then put our story on the internet but she didn't change the name of the town or our own names. A member of the church saw it and told the Pastors and that was why we were publicly cursed. I was so scared. Within months, my husband was in hospital with an embolism but by the grace of God he survived. One other man died in the church and others had

mental breakdowns plus brain illness. I later went down with Meningitis and still greatly suffer now as a result of it.

Spiritually we did not know what to do. We didn't even know if we were praying to the real Jesus anymore, or if it was a false Jesus. We had forgotten how to be a normal Christians. We had learnt to roar in tongues every morning for years and rely on this anointing, hardly ever reading our Bibles. So we went back to the AV and little by little came back going up and down on the way and almost giving up. But my grandma's Baptist hymn book saved me really. The old tunes and words were in my memory deeply. This is how I came to know the real Jesus - this is how I will get back to being normal again.

Now I was very ill, unable to care for myself at all. Meningitis had hit me badly. I started to read Joni Erickson's books. Only a bit at a time because I couldn't read properly at first. I realised the real Jesus wasn't far away. I asked for forgiveness and to be washed clean.

It's been a great trial to come back. In our town is a Bible book shop which only opens if you press the button because it's more a place to store stuff and a place where they teach. They are old reformer types and they had some material exposing the Toronto Blessing. I studied them. I was amazed and it helped open my eyes. It also mentioned Ellel Ministries with which we had been involved (about which more is below), but had also eventually left. I chatted to the people in the shop who were very helpful.

However, the truth is that I will never be the same again. My husband has never got over it and can't even talk about it. He is not the same man. It had damaged us in so many ways and our son too, but my daughter was too young to be really affected by it. Life is hard now being so ill and not being able to care for my family. The Lord is merciful and is showing me the truth. The 1990s were a nightmare for us and the year 2000 started with Meningitis, leaving me with permanent brain damage.

I would hate others to suffer like us. Alas, many do and are still suffering. Others are now being hooked on the Christian Channel. It is so easy for people to be manipulated en masse through that medium.

3) My Ellel Grange Experience

Because it was also one of the major influences in that dark period of my life, I want to share with you my nightmare experience with the "deliverance" ministry called Ellel Grange. I am telling you this because I think it is important that others realise the truth about this place.

In 1991, I was pregnant with my daughter. My husband and I had heard that an organization that had a healing and deliverance ministry was setting up a branch in the South of England in a huge manor house. We were very excited as both of us had bad backs.

There was a meeting about it, which we attended. I went forward to be prayed for and they said I had a Kundalini spirit on my spine [Kundalini is a kind of snake of coiled energy in Hindu spirituality]. They said it was not right to pray much now but they "bound" it and told me to see them when I had had my baby when they were properly installed at Glyndley Manor.

1992 came and I gave birth to my daughter. I decided to go for an interview with them. There were two ladies who asked much about my childhood. They arranged an appointment with a couple. This was to be one of many lasting about six months, going to all the conferences they had there and experiencing the ministry.

Most of the sessions I attended with this couple lasted from 10 o'clock in the morning till 9 at night. I was exhausted by the end of each session. Basically they were taking me back on one side to the Valkyries in the Northern hemisphere. They had apparently thrown their babies over a cliff and aborted many and their souls were trapped in my body. They got me to visualise these things and I started to see them. It got very scary.

On another side there were flying carpets! Yes! Going back to the Far East. Before long, I had hundreds of demons which they were expelling every time. It got to the stage that if they'd have said "Marks and Spencer" I would have had it.

By now they said there were covens in the spirit world around me and power points through which they were getting into me. They had talks with people above them and it was decided that I was in such a bad state that I needed to go to their other healing centre at Ellel Grange in the North of England. So a time was set for me to go, July 1993. That was about three weeks away. So when the time came, I said goodbye to my 10-year-old son, toddler daughter and husband, and off I went.

When I got there, I was told that I was the second person to have this type of ministry. The Director had done this to one lady and she had then done it to another woman. Then there was another, who couldn't cope, but they thought I could.

I arrived in this wing off the stables. It was built for this purpose. It had a kitchen, lounge and one bedroom and bathroom. I was to have one lady sleep in the same bedroom as me. The man who had been counselling me at the South of England branch had also come to stay in the Grange and came to all the meals and sessions with me.

It was like a mental hospital. I was locked in and only allowed out with two people with me. All meals were served on my lap from the Grange kitchen. Most ministry did not get going till 10pm at night because the main counsellor who had had this done to her by the Director was a night person, so I was told. I was not.

They said I had many children trapped in me from various stages in my childhood. Each night they bound them down until they were ready to come out. I soon realized that If I didn't co-operate I would never get free of these people and this "mental hospital". The main thrust was I had to get in touch with my anger. Large pillows were provided. I had to get into a mode where I was thumping them and then my anger would be released.

At about 10pm, under the personal instruction of the Director, a pork chop arrived on its own on a plate which I had to eat in front of everyone. By now there were three women and two men "ministering" to me. All accept one of these people collapsed themselves and exhibited strange manifestations and it was mayhem. It was just like a really crazy mental hospital. The only relief was the beautiful walks in the grounds and by the river — but of course there were always three of us. One of them even had to stand outside the toilet waiting for me.

It came to a climax in the third week. I had bruised and bleeding elbows, hands and knees. I had not reached where they wanted me to go. This night the lady in charge started to bully me intensely to make me react and fight back. I just kept on collapsing in hysterics on the floor. Hour after hour this went on, bullying, name calling, pushing and shoving. Still I kept on crying and ended up in a heap.

Then the worst thing happened. She climbed on top of me pretending she was going to abuse me (I had been abused in my past by a woman and she knew this). I simply couldn't take anymore. I was confused and very scared. So, at about 3am in the early hours I snapped and went for her. She was thrilled. I'd finally made it. They took a photo. I was sweaty and horrible.

The next day they finished it off.

They said they would hold a children's tea party for the children in me. They did so, and invited another man who was to be a little boy at my party who had also exhibited manifestations and had the little children in him too. I had to regress and have fun like a child. I actually felt like one. It was weird. Then they called them all out, starting at age three. They then asked each child who was behind until I'd grown up.

The next day they said I'd finished and the doors were unlocked. Meanwhile it seemed that there were problems with my counsellors. Some were in tears when I saw them. There were words. Three days passed and I was ignored and left to myself. I

then asked the man who had brought me up there, who had counselled me with his wife, what was going on. Apparently, they had all been in trouble with the Director because of the way the ministry had gone on and that even the counsellors were exhibiting manifestations.

I drove home the next day feeling vulnerable, and that was that.

A few weeks later, I went to an open day at Glyndley Manor and was told that heads were rolling over the way my ministry was carried out. The Director then apologised to me via someone else. They stopped this ministry and carried on with it in a less intense way. Meanwhile my husband had ministry with them and was very unhappy with the way he was taken back several generations.

We came straight out of all this into the large Toronto Blessing church which I wrote about in the previous section. Out of the frying pan into the fire.

In 1998, we left that church and tried to get help. It was suggested that we try Ellel Grange again, because they said that had improved! So I did and then received similar ministry. Soon after this I contracted Meningitis, resulting in brain damage, and my husband was also rushed into hospital with an Embolism.

We are now in a Baptist church and three months ago I went up for prayer. The same man who took me up to Ellel Grange was there in our church in a ministry position. He talked with me and said that he still ministers and teaches at Ellel. He then told me that my meningitis is caused by part of someone's spirit entering me who I had contact with in the past who had meningitis. Of course this was the Lady Pastor in the previous church. She recovered quickly though.

Here we are now, confused, vulnerable but determined to be free.

Postscript

I am continually reminded of the past and don't seem to be able to escape from it. Here is an example, which happened yesterday while I was out with my daughter in my wheelchair.

I had to get her some new school clothes for the start of the Autumn term. At the shop, I met a lady who was in the large charismatic Toronto-type church we used to belong to. She looked at me in horror and said, "You're not still in that wheelchair are you?" She then grabbed my shoulder hard and said loudly "It's not God's will for you to be in there. You shouldn't be in there". She then very harshly told me that it is never God's will for anyone to be sick, that I must be healed and then started to tell me about "another" man coming to their church who had a healing gift.

Her spirit was so harsh and uncaring. So I grabbed her arm which took hers off mine and said that at the moment it is God's will for me to be in the wheelchair. To which she shouted "Never!" with such disdain.

The shop we were in was very crowded and I was getting very hot. I was aware of people listening. I then tried to explain that the Lord loves people and cares for the hurting and disabled people and that I am now reaching them. I told her that the Lord has softened my heart towards sick people. Now that I'm one myself, I have an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to them. I said I may never be healed. She then just hissed with mockery. I wanted to move away because I was very upset but I was determined not to. The abuse was terrible.

I said that at one time I used to find wheelchairs annoying if they were in my way, but not anymore, and that the Lord had allowed me to be sick to show me things. She was furious and laughed mockingly.

I said He loves sick people and that there are so many hurting Christians who have been to so many meetings and are still sick. They are really hurt and need grace to get through each day. I said that I need the Lord's help to get through each hour and that I have a lot of pain in my body. She was amazed and said, "Have you?!" I said that the sick need love more than anything, and peace and quiet.

She then turned her back on me and walked off angrily. Last night I could not sleep and had terrible palpitations on top of everything else. My husband prayed for me though.

As I reflected on this unpleasant meeting, I wondered if she and I are talking about the same Jesus! I'm praying that some of my conversation may help her to understand those who are ill in church and not mock them when they are not healed. Maybe it was meant to help her.

I don't know if it will, but it did hurt me.

[After that testimony, I now take up the text again to try and decipher what had been happening. Remember, the text that follows in black print was written by me more than 20 years ago. Only the red print is from the present time].

Okay, now it's me, the author, Alan Morrison, taking it up here again, and I'd like to make a few comments after that awful tale, which almost beggars belief, if one isn't already aware of the real extent of these activities. You may think that the events described above are extreme and not very widespread. But that would be a mistake. I have counselled countless people with a similar experience during the last ten years. There are so many who come to churches for help and succour only to find themselves subjected to this kind of pagan onslaught masquerading as Christianity, which often lasts for years. Why should this be?

Pseudo-Respectability Protects the Oppressors

Before I attempt to answer that question, let me first say that the churches and people and institutions mentioned above are widely regarded as respectable in the evangelical scene in the U.K. today. (And even where they are not, hardly anyone dares to speak out against them for fear of being branded as "divisive to the Body"). That they should be regarded as respectable is an insult of the highest order to Christ and a sure sign of the decadent state of the church in the world today. It is taken for granted that such

“deliverance ministry” is on a par with the casting out of demons practised by the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles. But they are very far apart indeed. [For further information on this whole subject area, please download for free and read my book by clicking on this title: [“Signs, Wonders & Divine Revelation: The Gifts of the Spirit & Their Abuses in Today’s Churches”](#)].

What possible biblical basis could there be for people calling themselves “Christians” to put curses on others calling themselves “Christians” simply because they disagree with them or because they leave their church? The whole idea is not only bizarre in the extreme but it is utterly pagan and downright evil. One only finds such terrible activities in the worst kind of dark magic fraternities. How anyone could do such a thing and imagine that they are a Christian is quite extraordinary.

A further question is begged here: Could such curses uttered in these churches be effective from an objective point of view? Only insofar as the people being cursed believe it to be so. **I do not believe that these perverted people uttering such curses have any objective power whatsoever over genuine Christians who are filled with faith and who have not given any place to the devil in their lives** (cf. Ephesians 4:27). Believers have the assurance that *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”* (Colossians 1:13). They have the assurance that *“He who has been born of God keeps himself [i.e. guards himself against sinful behaviour], and the wicked one does not touch him”* (1 John 5:18). Believers have the assurance that *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7). I don’t need to cover this ground again. I have already done so in an article entitled “Delivered from Evil”, which I would urge you to read as an encouragement to sidestep the web of fear and manipulation being cast over the Christian scene today. [This article is at the present time on the Diakrisis Project website here: <https://diakrisis-project.com/2022/02/15/delivered-from-evil-is-exorcism-ever-necessary-for-the-disciple-of-christ/>].

A Mixture of Pagan Superstition & the Brothers Grimm

Why did the lady who wrote the above story fall victim to Meningitis? Was it the result of a curse (which is no doubt what some people and the pastor involved in her former church will believe)? Was it the result of “part of someone’s spirit” entering her who she had contact with in the past who had Meningitis, as the Ellel Grange counsellor told her recently? Not at all. We must not believe any of that hocus-pocus for a moment! **I cannot think of any more irresponsible explanations than those that this lady has been given by these so-called counsellors, which are more suited to pagan superstition or the Brothers Grimm than biblical exposition and godly counsel.**

The most plausible explanation for her contraction of Meningitis is that the horrendous stress and abuse which had been inflicted on her by her ‘spiritual’ guides over the span of a decade — much of it spent imagining that she had many hundreds of demons, spirits of the dead and phantom children lurking inside her — made her body weak and vulnerable to infection. I think the same is true also for her husband’s embolism. I would agree with her own courageous analysis that it is God’s will for her to be in that wheelchair at this time. However, the future may hold all sorts of wonderful surprises in store for her, and we must still pray earnestly for her healing.

Four Definitive Statements About Illness in the Christian Life

On that note, I want to present four definitive statements here about illness, disability and the Christian — and may they ricochet around the cosmos and deafen the ears of those who teach otherwise! Those statements are:

Definitive Statement No.1: “This is a fallen world. Every single one of us is permanently disabled in many different ways in this life”.

Definitive Statement No.2: “Every single one of us is going to die from illness or degenerated body tissue”, no matter how many people pray for us or try to heal us in other ways.

Definitive Statement No.3: "God does not want or expect everyone to be continually healthy, wealthy and happy in the world as it is presently constituted".

Definitive Statement No.4: "God may actually arrange for someone who He loves to suffer (including suffering illness) in order to fulfil His own inscrutable purposes, but always with the proviso that He is working "good" for the believer and making us more like His Son".

I have written about all this from a theological standpoint in several publications which can also be found on my website. [[An example on the current website is here: "Tested by Fire: The Origin & Purposes of Suffering and Evil"](#)]. But here I now want to make an impassioned personal response to the events mentioned in the lady's story above.

To teach that Christians should never be sick and that they have a right to permanent healing in this life is to teach a kind of perfectionism, which is a heresy and represents a serious misunderstanding of biblical anthropology (human nature in the wake of the Fall) and soteriology (the process of redemption). The Bible clearly shows that "*the whole creation groans*" (Romans 8:22), and that even we "*who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves*", and we have to wait for "*the redemption of our body*" (Romans 8:23) until the time that "*the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God*" (Romans 8:21). This is very basic Bible teaching about the process of redemption in the cosmos, about which apparently the majority of those calling themselves "Christians" today are entirely ignorant.

Sickness exists because we live in a fallen world, and — even though he or she is a part of the perfect world to come, i.e. is now in the kingdom of God and is a new creation — the Christian still exists in this fallen world physically, with all its problems and obstacles, and still has to decay and die in the physical realm. Because of that, it is true to say that we are ALL disabled in this

life, to a greater or lesser degree. Some people can't use their legs, some can't use their brains, some can't write properly, some can't make head or tail of a problem staring them in the face, some can't exist without a cigarette, some can't bring up their children properly, some can't read or write, some can't understand William Shakespeare, some can't fly a kite, some can't tell the difference between good and evil, some can't see with their eyes, some can't see with their hearts. We — even we Christians — are ALL disabled to a greater or lesser degree and yet, in spite of that, we complement each other and must help one another. Understanding this truth would save a lot of heartache in the churches today.

If it was true that God doesn't want us ever to be ill and that we have a perfect right to full health, then that proves too much, because then it must surely follow that He doesn't want us to die and that we should just have eternal life right now. But even the Christian must die, and most will die of sickness, and many will suffer a painful lingering death, no matter how faithful or weak they have been. Fallen body tissue degenerates. That is the corrupted nature of humanity and the world in which we live. The difference is — as the expositor Matthew Henry so ably put it — that "*for the unbeliever, death is the end of all joys, and for the believer death is the end of all griefs*". The truth which these people just will not accept is that believers have to wait for the afterlife in order to experience full health and prosperity (Revelation 21:7). As Augustine of Hippo put it in his heading to Chapter 19 of Book XXII of his tome, "The City of God":

"All bodily blemishes which mar human beauty in this life shall be removed in the resurrection, the natural substance of the body remaining, but the quality and quantity of it being altered so as to produce beauty".

Until then, we all (even Christians) have to endure wheelchairs and crutches, fillings and screws, appendectomies and medicinal brews. **So far, we have only experienced the Kingdom in its**

grace, but not yet in the fullness of its glory. And it is of this which the “Deliverance” and “Healing” ministries of today seem to have no comprehension whatsoever. The *fullness* of the Kingdom’s glory awaits us beyond this life, not during it. These phony ministries are trying to force the glorious conditions of the new aeon to come into the present fallen aeon in which we are currently living. That is the heresy of ‘perfectionism’ and it is way out of line.

The “Healing” & “Deliverance Ministries” of Spiritual Pigmies

Certainly the Lord wants us to be happy (in the highest sense of “blessedness”, as the Greek word *makarios* imports, see Matthew 5:3-11 & Revelation 1:3, etc.); but His idea of our happiness may be (and almost always is) vastly different to our own. So often, we see our happiness from an ‘instant gratification’ standpoint, whereas the Lord views our happiness from a long-term perspective. As a devout man once put it: *“The thing that we think is best for ourselves is often worst for our souls”*. God knows (whereas we don’t) that our ultimate happiness (blessedness) may involve sitting in a wheelchair or getting knocked down by a car or being imprisoned, being abused, being ostracised, tortured or even being killed. **Oh how little we understand! Oh how much we want to superimpose our petty minds on the vast plan of God!** All those spiritual pigmies with their “healing” and “deliverance” ministries are actually working *against* the Lord’s will rather than carrying it out, and are (humanly speaking) undermining His true labour.

This is why I can confidently state that *“God may actually arrange for someone who He loves to suffer (including suffering illness) in order to fulfil his own inscrutable purposes”*. For this is how He moulds us, hones us, into being more like Christ. If you deny that, then read Hebrews 12:3-11 and Romans 8:28-29. If you deny that, then read about the experience of so many saints in history who have suffered persecution, extended torture and finally martyrdom (cf. Hebrews 11:32-40). Was their experience a sign of their lack of

faith? **To imagine that the Lord wants everyone to be healthy, wealthy and happy always in this life is to miss entirely the deep things of God and to superimpose froth on the solid food of God's Word.** That airhead froth of charismania and Toronto-Blessing-style experience goes hand-in-hand with the superficial teachings of the blasphemous Word of Faith movement.

How is it that these churches — or cults, as they should properly be called — and these so-called "healing centres" are allowed to remain in existence? If they were running a hospital, a therapy institute, an elderly person's home, a day-care centre for the handicapped, a children's home or some other social agency, and carried on these practices, they would soon be held up on disciplinary proceedings and removed from their office in disgrace. Some of them may even find themselves to be the subject of criminal charges or civil lawsuits. So how on earth do they get away with such blatant charlatanism?

As for Ellel Grange — or "Hellhole Grange", as it is properly called by those who understand its true origins — it should have been razed to the ground years ago and its workers arrested on criminal charges or made the subject of numerous civil lawsuits claiming damages for harassment and emotional distress. In the U.K. newspaper, *The Mail on Sunday* (March 8th, 1992), even the wife of the Director of Ellel Grange said that it is "*a dangerous place*", claiming that "*what he [her husband] is doing is as dangerous as the occult practices he preaches against*".

In a BBC documentary which I have in my possession on video (Everyman, 1995), Steven Pockson, a former trainee counsellor at Ellel Grange, spoke of how he came to be accused of having a "demon of lust" and was subsequently assaulted by the staff there in a bizarre "deliverance" ritual. He spoke of the way that the Director (who is also the co-compiler of a leading modern hymnbook used in many churches in the U.K.) is obsessed with demons and sees them in everyone. Most telling of all, this former counsellor at Ellel Grange said:

"I have nothing but disgust for these methods. I certainly wouldn't recommend them or condone them as Christian practice in any way. They're intrusive; they're violent; they're impolite at the very least. And I don't think they are helpful. I'm aware of a number of people who are still suffering the psychological effects of this type of counselling".

Go Ahead and Sue Me!

Some years ago, I received a letter asking me to withdraw some derogatory comments I had made publicly about Ellel Grange. It contained more than a hint about possible legal action. I refused to withdraw those comments, and I still do so today [[the "today" here is 2002](#)]. Actually I challenge them to sue me right now! It would be a great work for Truth to go eyeball to eyeball in a court of law with these charlatans. I welcome the opportunity. They would have their fancy lawyers provided by their bigwig sponsors and I would conduct my own defence. I would come to court armed with reams of documented evidence from all the abused people I've counselled over the years (and I would go and find many more) proving that Ellel Grange and similar outfits are a blot on the face of the earth and have harmed far more people than they may claim to have helped with their phoney and what is transparently simply a form of catharsis therapy, not to mention their fanciful (and harmful) theories about demon-possession coming down the generations as a result of some sin or occult activity in the lives of one's ancestors (which I shall address in full further below).

The Unacceptable Face of Evangelicalism

A number of years ago a conservative politician in the UK spoke of what he called "*the unacceptable face of capitalism*" — a reference to the corruption and chicanery which goes on at the heart of many financial institutions. Surely we also need to speak out publicly about "*the unacceptable face of evangelicalism*", as so many people calling themselves "evangelical" support, condone,

endorse and even attend the cultish churches and healing centres which have become such a widespread feature of modern-day church life.

Why Have the Perpetrators Not Been Locked Up?

Why is it that these religious perversions are allowed to continue? How come nothing has been done about them, which would be the case in any other walk of life? They are not only an affront to the name of Christ — whom they claim to represent — but they are also incompatible with a civilised society. What they have done to this lady, and others like her, is nothing short of criminal. How come the perpetrators of this malevolence have not been locked up in prison or put in a high security mental hospital along with their own demons, where they can no longer harm people and abuse them spiritually and emotionally? Why, years later, are they still in practice and raking in money from sponsors for the purchase and upkeep of huge mansions and country estates? Two answers come immediately to mind: 1) The victims are so exhausted and intimidated by real or implied threats of being cursed that they feel unable to approach the police or lawyers to file complaints; 2) Many rich and influential people are involved in supporting and sponsoring this mayhem (even Church of England Bishops have been on the board of Ellel Grange), which thus affords it a measure of protection and brings in the cash.

However, while those two answers may explain, from an earthly standpoint, why they have been able to proliferate so successfully, there is, I believe, another, deeper aspect to the presence of these cultish churches and movements, and it is this: **The whole thing is a sinister shadow of wickedness instigated by dark powers in the heavenlies and their emissaries on earth intent on destroying the credible witness of the church — all happening under the permissive will of God to serve His own inscrutable purposes at this watershed time in history as the churches descend into rank apostasy and counterfeit faith.**

Surely, as the power of darkness comes into the ascendancy at this extraordinary point in history, with the associated evil coming to its climax as it will, we will see the unfettered growth of these chaotic "churches" and destructive "healing centres", for they bring the Gospel of Christ into disrepute, creating a phony "gospel" based on a completely false idea of "deliverance", as I will demonstrate in the next section.

Expose the Works of Darkness (Ephesians 5:11)

Our job, therefore — yours and mine — is to expose them for what they are, both journalistically and theologically, and to offer a hand of rescue to those caught in their miserable grip. There are many suffering at the hands of these "ministries" who have serious doubts about them, but they are too fearful to voice those doubts openly. If we publicly provide a gentle path for them to make their exit, their courage will be supported and their journey made easier.

CHAPTER 4:

The Made-Up Modern Ministry of “Deliverance”: *Understanding ‘Altered States’ is the Key*

“He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).

[Again, please remember that the text below was written more than twenty years ago. Yet it could so easily have been written today, as these wayward teachings have gone mainstream now]

There were surprisingly fewer responses to Part 3 of this series than to Parts 1 and 2. Maybe many found it hard to believe that a single human being could suffer so badly in an allegedly Christian setting. Maybe many even disbelieved the content altogether and found it to be an exaggeration. I guess if you have never experienced any of that kind of oppression, it may seem totally alien to you. Maybe many found it too depressing. I can certainly understand that. Maybe it had so many painful associations for many that they simply shut it out in order to maintain a measure of sanity. That I can understand too. I know that a vast number of people have been badly hurt in abusive church/para church situations. For example, one woman wrote to me, saying, *“That article about Ellel Ministries was so horrifying to me that I just about went under. I’m still processing that thing... what an evil day we are in”*. Yes, evil day indeed.

Attempted Damage-Limitation & ‘Snow Job’

However, I have received a handful of responses from people who are not on my e-mail list but who had received a forwarded copy of my article. They all have some connection with Ellel Ministries — e.g., they have undergone the training course and/or they use Ellel’s therapy techniques in their pastoral work. Their responses

have prompted me to send out this follow-up with some further thoughts on the matter. What was especially interesting is that each of these people has had to report back to HQ to get the "official" answer (party line) on how to respond to my article. It would appear from their mails (which were almost identical in parts of their content, and from which I have made this conflation) that the party line goes something like the following:

"Ellel Ministries was infiltrated briefly by some people on the counselling staff a number of years ago, who were obviously working for the enemy and whose aim was to overturn the work being done there. We all make mistakes from time to time. Even the disciples got it wrong sometimes. However, this problem was dealt with professionally by Ellel Ministries and the people were removed. One must expect these things when one is battling in the frontline against Satan. We are now very vigilant. You have a critical spirit and are going against Jesus's warning that we should not be judgemental and you are merely helping to dig deeper into the pit of bitterness. You should read Eph.4:30-31. The things described by the lady have no bearing on what really happens in Ellel's ministry generally".

Here are my responses to this "party line" of a 'snow job' and damage limitation:

1) No Public Apologies Have Been Made to the Victims

Surely, if it is true that there has been some kind of satanic infiltration in an institution which resulted in appalling and harmful therapy being administered for a time, one would expect that this would be publicly acknowledged and cleared up and those who had received the bad therapy would be contacted for restitution of some kind. **However, no one has ever apologised directly to, and therefore compensated in any way, the many people who have been permanently damaged by Ellel Ministries' therapy. Neither has any public apology been made or any public**

admission been given that wrong has been done in the past or at any time. Many individuals — even whole families — are still seriously screwed up to this day as a result of what has happened to them at the hands of Ellel Ministries. Yet they have received nothing by way of apology or compensation from those responsible for this heinous cruelty. In fact, similar practices were continued, as you will see below.

Furthermore, not a single one of the mails which came from those who so avidly defended Ellel Ministries contained any kind of genuine concern or compassion for the lady who had suffered so much at the hands of Ellel. Not a single one! Their sole desire was to play down the true nature and extent of the abusive therapy there, and to accuse me of being "bitter" and "judgemental" and of encouraging this lady to "dig deep into the pit of bitterness". To me, that speaks louder than anything else about the "Christian" credentials of this organisation.

There is no bitterness in this lady at all. I have been extremely impressed with her willingness to forgive, and her acceptance of the sovereignty of God in all this. As for myself, I feel passionate but not bitter — passionately concerned that this kind of treatment should be so prevalent in the Christian scene today. We are entitled to make judgements about this. The last refuge of the scoundrel is to hurl Matthew 7:1, "*Judge not, that you be not judged*", in the face of anyone who exercises necessary discernment in order to expose deception. I have already dealt with this subject in an article which is on my website. [In 2023, that article, which is now slightly expanded, is still on my current website. Please go here to read the article, which is fittingly entitled "Is it Always Wrong to Judge?": <https://diakrisis-project.com/2017/12/22/ethical-quandaries-is-it-always-wrong-to-judge/>].

Suffice it to say for now that we are certainly not meant to judge hypocritically (which is plainly the context of Matthew 7:1-5), but the Lord Jesus encourages us to use our judgement righteously: "*Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous*

judgment" (John 7:24). Discernment, by its very nature, involves judging between right and wrong, and between good and evil. As the apostle John put it: "*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world*" (1 John.4:1). Telling people that Jesus said they should never judge is the last refuge of the scoundrel!

If I may take the opportunity for some further teaching here, I would like to share with you the fact that it is possible to be angry about something, or towards someone, without sinning and without the bitterness of which one is so often accused if one stands up for the truth. This concept of "righteous anger" is something which is obviously completely lost on the wishy-washy compromising 'Christians' of today, who seem to be offended or frightened by any passionately-expressed concern for truth and justice. Believe it or not, there IS such a thing as "righteous anger". It is what Paul was referring to in Ephesians 4:26, when he said: "*Be angry and do not sin*" (cf. Psalms 4:4). It is righteous anger rather than sinful temper. An example of non-sinful anger would be a feeling welling up in your heart when you see God's name blasphemed in the world. It is an indignation on behalf of the Lord which affects all godly people (cf. Psalms 69:9). It is a righteous anger which burns against any attack on the truth and integrity of God and of the Gospel. It is the indignant feeling you get when you see some huckster tele-evangelist in a Gucci suit and shoes, selling God as if he is selling a brand of soapflakes. It is the burning desire for judgement to be wrought by the Lord on all injustice and wickedness. It is an anger which is not motivated by "self" but by an honour for God and His good name.

You can also have a righteous anger against your own sin and be angry with yourself when you do things wrong. Some biblical examples of righteous anger would be Numbers 16:15; Nehemiah 5:5-13; 13:25; Mark 3:5; and John 2:13-17; etc. On the subject of righteous anger, Matthew Henry made the extremely sage comment:

"Though anger in itself is not sinful, yet there is the utmost danger of its becoming so if it be not carefully watched and speedily suppressed. And therefore, though anger may come into the bosom of a wise man, it rests [i.e. permanently takes up residence, AM] only in the bosom of fools".

Thus, we are not speaking here of a bitterness of spirit in which righteous anger has been allowed to fester into an abiding wrath; but there are occasions when righteous anger can be felt and expressed without it becoming a consuming furnace.

To be frank, when I come upon these accounts of abuse (and, believe me, I have read and heard very many), I can only weep for grief in pain and disbelief. I cannot understand why everyone who reads them should not feel the same way. Where are the hearts of so many professing Christians today? Where is the compassion and desire for righteousness and justice?

It is interesting to note that the damage which these people have suffered from Ellel's therapy is usually conveniently explained away by Ellel people as being due to an unfinished course of "deliverance", which allegedly leaves the "patient" open to continued malevolent demonisation. **There is no conception whatsoever that the primary cause of the damage to these people is the superstitious pagan philosophy which empowers the very ministry which is being performed by them.**

2) Maintaining Shamanic Power Over Traumatised People

I believe that these so-called "deliverance" ministries rely on two key elements for the fact that they continue to exist and even thrive despite the ever-increasing trail of destruction (i.e. the abused and damaged people) left in their wake. **The first is that most of those who have been damaged by them would be too frightened or traumatised to confront Ellel or to step into a witness box to relive their nightmare experience. The second is that the counsellors at Ellel have so much power in the lives of those that they abuse that they are perceived by those they**

damage as being on a par with shamans in pagan communities. Remember that the people who go to Ellel for this "deliverance" therapy are Christian believers, whose lives have been put into a state of complete fear and whose liberation in Christ has been completely undermined by the shoddy teaching there concerning the demonisation of believers. All those whom I have counselled who are in the process of getting free of Ellel seem to feel that the staff there have some kind of spiritual power over them and can actually interfere with their internal balance. This has partly been fuelled by the (entirely false) claim by Ellel staff to be able to "bind and loose" demonic powers. Please remind me to write an article soon about the wretched charismatic practice of "binding and loosing" alleged demons. I can think of no more barbaric interpretation of a Scripture than that which they make out of Matthew 16:19 & 18:18. It amazes me that they have got away with it for so long! [In fact, there is indeed now a 2023 article by me on "[Binding and Loosing](#)" on my current website. Click on the title].

3) It Was Never a "Brief Infiltration"

The people damaged by this therapy are not drawn merely from a brief period when some alleged satanic deviants managed to infiltrate the staff. That is just a public relations bit of spin-doctoring. **The testimonies of damaged people span many years.** The BBC "Everyman" documentary to which I referred, which severely criticised Ellel Ministries and other derivative "deliverance" outfits for the damage they have done to so many people, covers the period from 1987-1995 — eight whole years! That is hardly a brief bit of infiltration.

The reality is that Ellel Ministries has systematically abused people since its inception. The only thing which has improved there is their PR department! They have learned how to play down the true nature of the therapy which they offer. Fifteen years later, it is still the same old damaging "demons, demons everywhere" philosophy — the same old false teaching about generational

spirits (which I shall show the folly of further below) and other wacko ideas.

The lady who gave her story in the previous article has since revealed more about her experience of Ellel Ministries. It is very painful for her to speak about these things. But it is a kind of cleansing for her as she comes to realise just what a travesty it all is and how important it has been for her and her husband to get free of it all. I went back to her and asked her if, in her opinion, it was true that Ellel had been infiltrated for a brief time and that it was now a helpful therapeutic organisation. Remember, her personal experience of Ellel Ministries has spanned the period from 1991 to 2002. It is clear from what she says that the party line from all the Ellel people about there being a brief period of infiltration by "the enemy" many years ago simply does not hang together. Here is what she says (and I will return with more to say after she has concluded):

"When I was recommended back again to Ellel Ministries in 1998, they said that the sort of treatment that I had in the early 1990s had stopped. By this they were referring to the three weeks I had in the Stables at Ellel Grange (the N. of England branch) where I was put through the regime of punching cushions until I bled. However, nothing else had changed, as I was to find out even up until June 2002 this year in the church I was attending, which is the last time I had ministry.

I have been to many teaching sessions led by the Director of Ellel Ministries in the past. The last one was in November 1999 at the ***** Conference Centre in *****. At this conference he was teaching about the same stuff as in the early days and there was mass "deliverance" in the Centre. About 3000 people were there. I can't remember what the subject was. I only went for one day as I was very spiritually confused having just left the church I had been in. The music

basically prepares you for the “anointing” and the ministry. I think he was talking about Spiritual Abuse and got the counsellors to come out to the end of the rows and be available for prayer. I went to a counsellor in a space on the floor down below. It was bedlam. Music playing and people “manifesting from demons”. I’d forgotten how noisy it gets. Basically a lot of screeching and crying which can then lead to laughing back to crying and screaming and then flopping on the floor exhausted. All this has never changed.

I will now explain what happened to me personally in 1998. I saw two other ladies this time because they felt that I shouldn’t have the same couple who had been treating me before. Meanwhile that couple saw me coming for sessions and were not at all happy that I was being seen by these two other ladies. In fact, they were very anxious that I shouldn’t be seen by them. They felt that they had not finished the work with me and more was needed.

The first session was arranged for a day — one with lunch included. It was a very similar set up to the one I experienced at Ellel in 1991.

On the morning of that day I was very nervous because of the “curse” I felt was on me from the “Toronto Blessing” church which I had originally attended. I got up to make a cup of tea and sat down and missed the sofa, falling badly on the hard edge of the arm injuring the base of my spine. The pain was excruciating. I arrived in terrible pain unable to sit down properly. (In fact, the pain took 2 years to go).

We had coffee at 10am and talked about the church I had been in. I later had to have lunch with the counsellors on my own which was different from before when you ate separately. I found it intimidating

because there was no break. They wanted me to be free of the "control spirits" and the demons that I had picked up from leading the music there. Also I had to be cut off body, soul and spirit from the leaders and anyone else that came to mind. So they first bound the Pastor's demonic influence and then commanded the control spirits and demons to come out one by one, naming who they were. They would also pray in tongues over you at great length. They also tell you personally not to pray in tongues because a demonic tongue might appear. They want the "Holy Spirit" to pray through them so they can receive words of knowledge and pictures. They receive pictures and expect you to do so as well. Meanwhile they are writing notes down about you. Which of course you never see.

The strange thing is you become part of it and trust them with your soul. The more you have "manifestations" (retching, screaming, shouting, spitting, struggling, etc.) the better, because its coming out then. They said that I had a "spirit of a lion" in me because of the song we sang in church called "Put the Roar Back". So they "took authority" over it and it roared as it came out, giving me a very sore throat for at least 24 hours!

I had 6 sessions with them — each of them lasting a whole day.

They were not happy at all with what had happened with me in the early 1990s with this other couple and told me not to have ministry with them. They also said that they had permission to look through the files that had been kept about me. This is when I realized that those files were still there. They contained a lot of intimate personal details.

The ministry they were carrying out was just as bad as the previous ministry I had received. They were keen to cut the “soul ties” that I had with the couple who had ministered to me before — the ones who first took me up to Ellel Grange. They said that they were still powerful and they had to cut any “controlling powers” between us. They said there were a lot of witchcraft ties to be broken in the old church.

Meanwhile, we had joined this Anglican church which was against Ellel Ministries. The Vicar had been to it in the early days and had seen people who had been there and had been damaged. I then met a man in the church who told me he had been for a session with Ellel Ministries and had been so scared that he escaped by climbing onto the draining board and then jumping out of the kitchen window. He ran for his life in the middle of the night.

I should say that most people who go to Ellel for ministry have to go on a 3-day healing retreat before they start the actual ministry and this is what this man who ran away was on. I too went on this. The sounds that used to come out of this building were horrible. Screams and retching all the time. It is horrible to think about it. Ear piercing sounds. Their bodies behaving in bizarre ways. Always going down in the spirit when being prayed for. Splat! Falling backwards on the floor. Some would start trying to rip off clothes and jewellery. There would be many people ready to hold them down. Very bad cases would be dragged off to the many bedrooms away from public viewing.

Eventually, after my 6 sessions in 1998, they said that I was free from all demons. They had ministered inner healing too. Basically praying for my soul to be cleansed from any spirits and emotional holds. The

problem with this ministry is that you rely on pictures that you see or they see. They can be very wacky or disturbing to your soul.

During 1999 I went to all the healing meetings. I went up for prayer regarding a hip pain I was getting. A different person ministered to me. She said it was freemasonry and it was "Jacobs Hip". She said it was something one of my ancestors had done in freemasonry. Then she got someone else to help (this is when you know it's going to be heavy). They started cutting me off from freemasonry, going through various degrees. It took too long because they went through the ceremonies at each degree, asking me what I could see, and then I had to forgive my ancestors for taking part.

The problem was that, as far as I know, not a soul in my family has been a freemason.

Then they said I was linked to the Illuminati and Palladian (whatever that is). It all got so complicated. I was scared because of all these ancestral demons. It's so horrible because you don't know when they can fit you in for the next session. Meanwhile, you are told to "bind them down each day". How scary this is. Very scary indeed. You imagine what they may look like and whereabouts in your body are they hiding.

I would look at my face in the mirror and wonder if they were behind my eyes. The thing is that when you are being delivered from them you mustn't close your eyes. You have to look at the people who are ministering to you. Also you have to tell them about any important dream that you've had.

I was scared on my own in the house because I felt that they (the demons in me) must have friends that would

linger around them too. So I'd be taking authority over this and that demon all the time. Really crazy damaging stuff.

Another time I was told that there were witchcraft covens involved in my life in the spirit realm so I was given a list on a piece of paper each day to follow so I could bind the controlling covens. The next time I went for the session they majored on the witches.

I woke up the following morning with 5 or 6 prong marks on my neck in the shape of a V. So I went to see them they said it was proof of the witchcraft. I was dead scared and convinced that my family had all been witches and they were trying to mark me. It took a few days for the prong marks to go.

I think the problem with me was that I had had an occult past which, for some reason, made me vulnerable to this ministry which, if we are right, is not very different. So I was probably tapping into the same things in this ministry as I was in my occult past.

I will never, never again go to anything like this. It was hell. I was a normal Mum with a back problem asking for help when I started seeing them. Then they found all of this that I've been writing about.

Now I'm not scared at all. In fact, since I've stopped speaking in "tongues" and going up for "ministry", I've realized that I don't need to close the door behind me each time I go into a room."

* * * * *

Okay, it's me, Alan Morrison, back again, continuing with my comments [all written in 2002]. You can now see that the essential philosophy and practice at the heart of Ellel Ministries has not altered at all over the years. They pretend to have distanced themselves from the antics of some alleged infiltrators in the past,

but this is just a PR stunt. As recently as 1998, this lady was being ludicrously told by the deluded Ellel people that she had a "spirit of a lion" inside her. Nothing has changed. I have a videotape of the Director of Ellel Ministries in the mid-1990s saying that people can have animal spirits within them. In the video he puts it like this: *"Sometimes we've ministered to people and they've started barking because there's a spirit that's taken on the character of a dog. Now you may say 'How does the spirit of a dog get into a person?' Usually it's through bestial sex".* Nothing much has changed at Ellel Ministries. An obsession with demons, an obsession with sexual deviance, an obsession with witchcraft and covens. Obsessions, obsessions, unhealthy obsessions, and all connected with Christians who they allege to be prey to all this. Have they never read in the Bible: *"He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son"* (Colossians 1:13). Which part of that do they not understand? *"God... made us alive with Christ... and raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"* (Ephesians 2:5-6). Which part of that do they not understand? And they want to get those who are alive with Christ and seated with Christ in the heavenly realms to make animal noises and grot around on the floor like imbeciles — like the worst excesses of heathen idolatry and sorcery. **What tools of Satan they are! What unbelievers they are!** The abuse which has taken place there has not been the result of some imagined brief infiltration. That is a total lie; and we already covered how easily false "Christians" lie. Something very obviously satanic is going to have no problem with lying. Abuse is simply endemic in this obsessional, paranoid organisation: It was at the start, and it still is today.

4) They Have Never Really Changed Their Crackpot Beliefs (‘Generational Spirits’ Being One of the Most Pernicious)

Ellel has certainly never changed its crackpot belief that evil spirits come down the generations, maintaining that a person who has become a true believer can still be infested with umpteen demons because of the sinful behaviour or demon-infestation of someone

in his or her family from an earlier generation. In his book, "Healing through Deliverance: The Biblical Basis" (Sovereign World, 1991), Ellel Ministries' Director, Peter Horrobin, says: *"Demonisation can be carried on down the generation lines as a result of the sins of the fathers (Exodus 20:5; Leviticus 26:40 and Lamentations 5:7) which affect the children and the children's children"* (p.107). Again, in the same work, Horrobin states:

"The practice of freemasonry is idolatry. Idolatry is an anathema to the living God. The commandments warn us (Exodus 20:4-5) that the sins of the fathers in this respect will be visited on the children for three or four generations. And if during those four generations there is, for example, further masonic sin a new line of demonic control is established. Spirits of freemasonry will legalistically exercise their right over whatever congregation is gathered in that church for all time. They will hold the fellowship into the bondage of the past, unless the matter is properly dealt with through repentance for the sins of the ancestors (the Nehemiah principle of Nehemiah 1: 6-7, see also Leviticus 26:40) by the present-day leadership of the church and by effective spiritual warfare against the ruling spirits through praise, worship and deliverance ministry. Effective cleansing of both church and individuals requires specific ministry to deal with the legalistic rights that a demon has". (p.99)

The lady whose story has appeared in the previous part (and also a little further above) has said:

"I can personally testify to doing this with the team of leaders at Glyndley Manor [Ellel Ministries' home in the South of England.]. We walked around the grounds standing in a circle. Some thought that they saw fire, praying in tongues, binding and loosing the spirits that had been on the land before and then we did it in the

house going through all the rooms and corridors. One day, after a different session I was in the lounge and told that they were ministering to the child in me. They read to me fairy stories and children's stories and I had to lie down on the sofa like a little girl. As I finished, I walked back up the stairs to another session and some people felt strange. The leaders said 'It's okay, it's spirits that have been taken out of someone. They are on their way out and you felt them'. In regard to generational spirits, there are also "familiar spirits" or family spirits which are passed down. I've had a lot of ministry for this. They are supposed to follow families, e.g. where there is a drink problem, mediumship, wizards, etc. Anything that runs in families. They are supposed to hover around (Leviticus 20:6)".

One of the proof-texts which is commonly used to justify this ludicrous belief in generational spirits being in 'Christians' is where the Lord is described as "*visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation*" (Exodus 20:5). **What an absolute travesty of Bible misinterpretation it is to use this text to justify the idea of evil spirits being passed down the family line today among those in the New Covenant.** In Exodus 20:5, the Lord is actually ascribed with bringing *judgement* on future generations because of serious sin. This was to be expected in the theocratic Mosaic Covenant relationship which was primarily blood-based in families and tribes. Breaking the Mosaic Covenant echoed down the generations, and judgement would be upon children and children's children. **This text is all about judgement, NOT demonisation!** This judgement on future generations was spelled out clearly in the Mosaic Covenant curses in Deuteronomy 28, where we see how those future generations would be affected by the sins of their fathers and the resultant divine judgement (Deuteronomy 28:18, 32, 41, 45-46, 59). Unless one insists on reading it into the text by a wild stretch of the imagination, there

is nothing remotely connected with generational demons here. In fact, there is primarily a deterrent value in Exodus 20:5. As Matthew Henry puts it in his comment on Exodus 20:5:

"Children are dear to their parents; therefore, to deter men from idolatry, and to show how much God is displeased with it, not only a brand of infamy is by it entailed upon families, but the judgments of God may for it be executed upon the poor children when the parents are dead and gone".

What a deterrent this judgement was for God's ancient covenant people, the Children of Israel, who were involved in a covenant of blood-tied families. **However, it is completely unnecessary to ascribe that judgement to some sort of generational demon possession. It cannot remotely be inferred from the text.** In fact, to ascribe that judgement to generational demon possession takes away our personal responsibility for our own sin before God. People could just plead that the reason that they beat up their children is because they were helplessly in the power of a generational "spirit of child abuse" which came down from a deviant ancestor in the family. It is very revealing that when the children of Israel — hiding behind the skirts of Exodus 20:5 — tried to plead that their difficulties were the result of an earlier generation's sins, the Lord told them in no uncertain terms that each person bears responsibility for his own sin and cannot blame an earlier generation (see Ezekiel 18:1-32).

Furthermore, to cite Exodus 20:5 in support of this generational spirit theory must surely hold no weight whatsoever in the life of the Christian believer, even if we ignore for the moment the fact that the believer is not under the Mosaic Covenant, of which Exodus 20:5 is an integral part, cf. Leviticus 26:40-42. For Exodus 20:5 makes it very plain that "the iniquity of the fathers" is only visited *"on their children to the third and fourth generations" of those who hate Him!* (cf. Deuteronomy 5:9). The text actually says that. The Christian believer can hardly be numbered among those

who hate the Lord! However, according to these so-called "deliverance ministries", truck-loads of these alleged spirits are just heaped up in the hearts of Christian believers, no matter how much they love the Lord! **They are living in a cloud-cuckoo land of unbelieving alienation from the cleansing love of Christ and are enemies of the true Gospel of the real deliverance.**

Similarly, to use Nehemiah 1:6-7 and other similar verses as being supportive of generational demons is to play fast and loose with Scripture in a major way. In those verses, we see Nehemiah practising the believer's art of intercession. It has nothing whatsoever to do with demonisation passing down the family lines, and there is nothing at all in any of these so-called proof-texts to support such a theory. Nehemiah was not only confessing the sins of Israel but also his own sins: "*which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned*". The essential element here — the REAL "Nehemiah Principle", if you will — is sin and the confession of it, leading to repentance and divine forgiveness — NOT the demonic infestation of believers and subsequent necessary deliverance ministry. The concept of "generational demons" is something which is being wilfully read into the text (known in Bible interpretation circles as "eisegesis") in order to prop up a self-styled, whacked-out philosophy of demons. **We don't need "deliverance ministries". We only need to confess our sins and stop practising them!** "Deliverance ministries" are run by control freaks who deny the freedom we have in Christ and remove personal responsibility from the believer. You can just blame your 'demons' instead of your failure to confront your own sinful ways of behaviour. How foolishly these cults twist the Scriptures to force them to agree with their own false ideas!

It has to be said that, like all grand deceptions, Ellel's teaching on demons is loosely based on a truth. All satanic deceptions mingle truth with falsehood in order to fool the less discerning. This is what we can call the "Rat Poison Strategy". If one feeds neat poison to rats, they won't touch it. But if you give some grains of rice a

thin dusting in the poison, they will eat the rice and then die. So it is with Satan when he wants to deceive believers into accepting his poisonous teachings. He uses Scriptures which — to the unsuspecting — appear to back up his teachings; but the way that they are used completely undermines the truth which lies behind them.

Thus, it is indeed true, and can be shown from Scripture, that demons can gain a temporary kind of "legal" right in the life of a believer (but in the individual believer only, NOT in his successors for the next four generations). The apostle Paul makes it plain that Satan can be given a "place" (Greek, *topos*), i.e. a real foothold in a believer's life, through the unfettered, impenitent practice of a sin (in this case, Paul cites bitter, sinful anger as being the action responsible, Eph.4:26-27). But the answer to this for the believer is not exorcism or 'deliverance' from demons or therapy of any kind (for 'catharsis therapy' is all that "deliverance ministries" practise). Such an idea is abhorrent to the Word of God and the Gospel of grace and cannot possibly be extrapolated from the texts used by these 'deliverance' cults. For the believer is not in any kind of bondage to Satan, and only has to "resist the devil" (i.e. confess his or her sin and wilfully eschew the devil's temptations and deceptions) and the old serpent will make a hasty getaway (James 4:7). **That is the whole point! Coming to Christ is the only true and necessary deliverance. That is the essence of the Gospel.** So-called 'deliverance' ministries undermine completely the work of the Gospel. When illustrating this point in articles, or to assist escapees from these 'deliverance' cults, I have often made use of the words of Prof. W.H. Green in his lucid commentary on the Book of Job. One quotation from him states this:

"If you steadfastly resist the devil, confiding in the grace of God and the salvation of Jesus, he cannot touch a hair of your head. Temptation and sin, if you bravely resist them, will react to your everlasting welfare: your position is impregnable, the protection is ample, the armament is invincible, the supplies

abundant, and the fortress can never be entered by the enemy, unless betrayed into his power by your own treacherous hands" (W.H. Green, The Argument of Job Unfolded, Klock & Klock, 1978, pp.68-69) Emphasis added.

"...unless betrayed into his power by your own treacherous hands". What wise words those are! In other words, the measure of control as to whether or not the believer gets hassle from demons lies in his or her own hands. **And the solution for harassment by demons does NOT lie in the hands of a "deliverance" ministry, but in our own willingness to practice resistance to satanic temptation and deception.** It is in the failure to practise such resistance that our problems arise, rather than in an alleged demon possession which necessitates exorcism! These "deliverance" ministries actually take away the believer's freedom rather than bring about the liberation from bondage which they claim. The apostle Paul mentioned some people who had sneaked into the church ("false brethren") to spy on the liberty of believers and then to take it away and bring them into bondage (Galatians 2:4). Surely, this is what the 'deliverance ministry' people such as Ellel Grange are doing. **They completely undermine the believer's freedom from bondage in Christ by ensnaring him or her in a web of fear and superstitious intrigue, so that they can then exercise control over people.** I ask you this question: What do these "deliverance ministries" truly offer? Deliverance or bondage? Don't just accept my word for it. Don't ever just accept my word on anything! You be the judge. Think it through with logic and clarity. Investigate it all. Weigh it all carefully against the real and plain meaning of the Scriptures.

Let us here set up an imaginary (but in a sense very real) dialogue between the "deliverance ministries" and the Holy Spirit concerning the life of a believer and his or her relation to demons. Both are battling for the mind of the believer and address him directly:

HOLY SPIRIT: *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"* (Colossians 1:13-14).

'DELIVERANCE' MINISTRIES: Well that's not exactly true. You haven't yet been delivered from the dark spirits which came into you at birth because your granddad was an adulterer and a freemason. The Bible also says that his sins will be attributed to you from as much as four generations ago and that you will be under the power of his controlling demons, from which you need a human agency to deliver you rather than God. Come to our luxury mansion for a few months of therapy and we can do that for you.

HOLY SPIRIT: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

'DELIVERANCE' MINISTRIES: Well not quite all things have been made new or passed away. There are still quite a few things which remain untouched by being in Christ and by becoming a new creation. The Bible teaches that demonic bondage cannot be made new by Christ as generational spirits plainly have not passed away after becoming a believer, as is proven by those who come to us for ministry. Only our deliverance ministries have the power to make those things new. The Holy Spirit only does a partial job and it is up to ministries like us to finish that job properly.

HOLY SPIRIT: *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7)

'DELIVERANCE' MINISTRIES: Precisely! It is not God who has given you a spirit of fear, this is true. But Satan has given you this spirit of fear and God has no control over the work of Satan in the life of a believer so you need deliverance therapy from us to get free of that.

HOLY SPIRIT: *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God... You, little children, are*

from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:1 & 4)

'DELIVERANCE' MINISTRIES: Er... Erm... er... but... er... well... erm... er... but... er... etc., etc...

"Greater is He (the Holy Spirit of God) who is in you than he (Satan) who is in the world). That text should surely render these phony "deliverance ministries" a decisive blow on their philosophy. No doubt they would claim that I have presented a straw man in the above dialogue. But even though they may not actually say these things overtly, this is, in effect, what they are implying; for they deny the plain fact of deliverance from the power of darkness which occurs when one responds positively to the Gospel, and the fact that genuine believers have overcome spirits which are not from God. One cannot possibly have the indwelling Holy Spirit and be riddled with indwelling demons. To suggest that one can must surely be a blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, we can say that absolutely everything which the "deliverance ministries" stand for is undermining of the cleansing gospel of Christ. Their very existence is a slap in the face of the Gospel. Like all false gospels, they are saying that the Gospel itself isn't enough. You need the Gospel PLUS something else if you want to get free of Satan and the power of darkness. According to them, you must first come to Christ, THEN go for a lengthy course of deliverance therapy to get rid of all the nasty things which Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit were apparently, in their view, powerless to deal with.

I remember when I was in my first days of being a Christian, I was seeking baptism and, amongst other churches, I visited the minister at the well-known St. Michael le Belfrey church in York in the UK. The year was 1985. (This had been David Watson's church — although he was no longer the minister there when I went, having already died in 1984 of the illness which Vineyard Ministries founder John Wimber claimed, through an alleged Word of Knowledge, that God was going to heal). When he heard that I had

been involved in the New Age movement, he said that I needed some extra words adding to the normal baptismal service “*just to flush out any residual demons*” (those were his exact words). I confidently quoted Colossians 1:13 to him and swiftly brought our meeting to a close! Even in those early days of faith, when all I had was my dog-eared Bible, I knew enough to know that these people are rubbishing the efficacy of the Gospel to deliver the new believer from satanic bondage.

Incidentally, this same minister became a theologian and a Bishop in the Church of England! At a theological conference in Gloucestershire in February 1998, he gave a lecture claiming that “*the Toronto Blessing experience is a gift of God to his church and that within and without the charismatic churches this move of the Spirit has shown up our need for a theological mind to shape our reception of this gift*”. How on earth could a theologian and Bishop imagine that, after four years of its nonsense bringing churches into disrepute, the “Toronto Blessing” experience was a gift from God? How can someone who claims to be a genuine disciple of Christ make such a claim? If the truth is not merely a lottery, then what other conclusion could one possibly reach than that the unrepentant perpetrators of the “Toronto Blessing” have no place in the kingdom of God. That is not uncharitable but realistic.

5) Significantly, Victims Are Free from their Alleged Demons as Soon as they Escape from “Deliverance Ministries”

Quite apart from the damning biblical implications of these “deliverance” ministries, there is something else which is a convincing guide as to the falsity of their therapy. People who escape from the clutches of Ellel Ministries or similar cathartic therapy groups are generally in the middle of a lengthy process involving weeks or even months of alleged exorcism of numerous demonic entities. At the time that they abandon these ministries and seek counsel elsewhere these people are allegedly still riddled with demons which need further deliverance ministry in order to be expelled. However, after finding compassionate and biblical counsel, they eventually recover their sanity and never again

exhibit any symptoms of demonisation or demon possession. One woman I know who had been badly entangled in the Ellel scene in the mid-1990s was at the time unmarried and still training at college. She had been desperately abused and was in a shocking state, having been told — after having already had months of “deliverance” therapy — that she was still infested with many demons. However, after some sane counsel and friendship, she came out of all that and left it behind. Lo and behold, it wasn’t long before she was working as a schoolteacher and was happily married as a thriving Christian homemaker and ardent church participant. **What happened to all the demons which she had been told allegedly still inhabited her and from which she needed further deliverance? That was a complete lie. The truth is that they were simply manufactured in the therapy sessions of the so-called “deliverance ministry” she received.** It is so easy to do this using psychological techniques. [To learn more about those psychological techniques, especially in terms of their provenance in the therapy sessions of Franz Anton Mesmer in Paris in the late 1700s, please read my free-to-download book, [“Signs, Wonders & Divine Revelation: The Gifts of the Spirit & Their Abuses in Today’s Churches”](#)].

The result of these “deliverance ministries” and the whole Charismatic scene in general has been to create a mass of professing “Christians” who have no awareness of the difference between the subjective experience of their supposed “deliverance” sessions and objective truth. On a number of occasions I have been confronted by people who tried to convince me that they had a demon cast out because they were coughing and retching or having other similar manifestations when they received the ‘ministry’. I have seen exactly the same presentation in people who are undergoing manipulative therapy such as primal scream therapy. In one example of a Christian’s alleged demon possession, I said to the woman concerned, “*Are you a genuine Christian?*” She said, “Yes”. I said, “*Then you cannot be indwelt by a demon. You have the Holy Spirit indwelling you.*

*There is simply no room". She replied, "Well I must have had a demon or I would not have coughed and retched". I said, "You are putting your own subjective experience above the objective truth of the Bible. You have already been delivered from the power of darkness by Christ. So there is no need for any of that manipulated coughing and retching. That is just the power of suggestion". She replied, "I know what I experienced and it was real". **This is the average Christian mind of today: Illogical, petulant, resistant to biblical authority, reliant on subjective experience for her imagined spiritual development, and stuffed full of hubris.***

This now begs a further major question: How are all these people made to believe that they have umpteen imaginary demons, so much so that they will even scream and 'spit them out' in the therapy sessions? This is what we will explore in the next section.

6) Altered States of Consciousness Are the Key

The key to all this is that one can make someone believe anything if one can get them into an "Altered State of Consciousness" (known as an ASC). This is the key to it all. It is the key to the entire development of the crazy Charismatic scene. If you can get someone into an ASC then they can be controlled. If you can open someone up emotionally and get them to cry or laugh profusely, then you can get them under your control. If you can get someone to beat a cushion up for hours, then you can get them under your control. If you can get someone to go crazy and cough out bile and anger, then you can get them under your control. In fact, you can get them to believe absolutely anything.

This "control through aggression release" was not lost on Big Brother in George Orwell's masterpiece novel "1984". The "Two Minutes Hate" sessions each day are really very similar to the cathartic release of aggression therapy used by the "deliverance" ministries. If you can get people to beat some cushions up and scream and cry then you've got them by the short and curlies! This 'key to control' is practised by many other cults apart from Ellel Ministries — whether it is Arthur Janov's Primal Scream therapy,

Wilhelm Reich's Vege-to-Therapy, Alexander Lowen's Bioenergetics, Bhagwan Rajneesh's orange people sessions, Erhard Seminar Training (EST), the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, etc., etc. This is basic psychological manipulation, somewhat akin to the strategies used to brainwash people, or to break people to get them to talk in interrogation sessions carried out by intelligence operatives.

On the 22nd of September of 1924, there was a remarkable accident in the laboratories of Ivan Petrovich Pavlov in Leningrad. The laboratory of the dogs that he used in his conditioning experiments was flooded. His dogs had to float to the top of their low cells to avoid drowning. It was a traumatic occurrence. The dogs were obviously panicking and they had to be submerged in order to save them from the cages. But a remarkable thing happened which fits into what I am writing about here. In all the saved dogs, the reflexes which had been conditioned into them had completely disappeared after their trauma as if they had never been there. The traumatic experience to which they had been subjected created a clean slate. So it is with the victims of these terrible "Deliverance Ministries". They are traumatised and their defences broken down so that there is a clean slate for fresh conditioning to be implanted so that they become an advocate of "deliverance ministries" and believe what they are told about being possessed by a whole raft of demons.

Essentially, the "deliverance" ministries do the same kind of work as intelligence operatives in brainwashing and interrogation. You simply have to break people down, abolish their inhibitions, emotionally disrobe them, undermine their individuality, and you will soon have them doing whatever you want them to do. If you can shock someone severely, their defences will be broken, they will feel adrift and insecure, and then you can easily gain control over them. [Where all that fits into the **zeitgeist of the scenario at the end of this age will be dealt with in the Concluding Thoughts to this book**].

As an example of this breaking down of people by a cult in order to achieve manipulation of them, the Erhard Seminar Training (EST) sessions would drive those who attended into an Altered State of Consciousness by haranguing them and denying them in every way, refusing them exit and depriving them physically, after which there comes a point when

"...trainees slowly lose all sense of resistance and become more pliable and are easily manipulated. They are then informed that they are free to 'create their own space'. That is, the candidates become introspective and give free vent to their inner emotions and feelings. At this point in the training, mass hysteria erupts. Crying, laughing, screaming — all take place at once. The trainees are then ready to accept the fact that they are perfect as they are. If a person realizes this, then descriptively speaking he 'gets it.' [G.A. Mather & L.A. Nicholls, "Dictionary of the Cults, Sects, Religions and the Occult", Zondervan, 1993, p.104]

Although the way this pans out varies according the requirements of whatever cult it occurs in, the essential element is always the same: **Break people down so that they enter an Altered State of Consciousness so they then begin to have emotional/physical manifestations.** Then they have "got it" — whatever that "it" is in whatever group in which it occurs: "The anointing", "samadhi", "the blessing", the "energy", "the Mesmeric Crisis", the "vibe", etc. They are then under the control of the cult. It is a hypnotic control — sometimes blatantly so, sometimes more subtly. Here is an account from Franz Anton Mesmer's hypnotherapy clinic in the late eighteenth century:

"Mesmer marched about majestically... passing his hands over the patients' bodies or touching them with a long iron wand. The results varied. Some patients felt nothing at all, some felt as if insects were crawling over

them, others were seized with hysterical laughter, convulsions or fits of hiccups. Some went into raving delirium, which was called 'The Crisis' and was considered extremely healthful". [Richard Cavendish, *"The Magical Arts"*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984, p.180].

Here is a similar portrayal of Mesmer's late eighteenth century manipulative sessions:

"Some are calm, tranquil and experience no effect. Others cough, spit, feel slight pains, local or general heat, and have sweatings. Others, again, are agitated and tormented with convulsions. These convulsions are remarkable in regard to the number affected with them, to their duration and force. They are preceded and followed by a state of languor or reverie... Patients experienced more or less violent perspiration, palpitations, hysterics, catalepsy, and sometimes a condition resembling epilepsy. When the crisis was at its height, the patient was carried by attendants into one of the adjoining 'Salles de Crises' [Crisis Rooms]; he was there laid on a couch, and usually he subsided gradually into a deep sleep from which he awoke refreshed and benefitted". [R.B. Ince, *"Three Famous Occultists"*, Gilbert Whitehead, 1939, pp.87-88].

If this psychologically manipulated process was widely understood in Christian circles so that Christians actually became wise instead of the ubiquitous stupidity that is displayed, there never would have been a "Toronto Blessing" or an Ellel Ministries or any other phony revival or "deliverance ministry". For all that is happening in Pentecostal/Charismatic churches when people start falling down or acting like they have demons, or laughing/crying hysterically, coughing, retching, spitting, etc. is a rehash of what Mesmer produced in his patients in the late 1700s. When people are in a suggestible state,

then they are primed to do anything the manipulator of the meeting desires.

The use of emotionally charged repetitive music and the oral babbling which masquerades as "tongues" are two mighty tools for getting people into an Altered State of Consciousness and have been used to great effect in many churches in recent times. That is what modern "worship" is all about: Me, me, me, getting zonked out on effeminate, repetitive choruses, eyes closed/arm waving, hypnotic trance music, gibberish "tongues", the leader's mesmerizing voice over the sound system, etc. Once they have entered the required state, they are in a condition of extreme suggestibility.

The thing about a genuinely spiritual person is that he or she does not need to be told to worship, does not need worship 'techniques', and does not need to be in some humanly-prepared environment in order to be manipulated to do so. The modern practice of having a so-called "Worship Leader" or "Worship Ministry" seems very often to be focused on using music and repetitive effeminate ditties (often with arms raised and eyes closed) in order to manipulate the congregation into an Altered State of Consciousness — a kind of hypnotic mindless state in which suggestibility and gullibility seem to prevail.

It has now become the norm to assume that getting "blissed-out" or "zonked" into a kind of mindless oblivion is what Christian worship is all about. But that is the pagan or New Age or Eastern Mystical view of spirituality, which usually needs techniques or special practices in order to get a person into the Altered State (which, in any case, does not involve worshipping God but, rather, trying to attain personal divinity!). So many churches now seem to use similar techniques involving effeminate, repetitive music, the speaking of gibberish "tongues", zapping people on the forehead, etc., in order to induce what they imagine to be a worshipful frame of mind. But nothing could be further from the truth than that. **For what is so often overlooked is that the mind is just as involved in worship as the spirit.**

Furthermore, for the truly spiritually-minded soul, genuine worship comes as naturally as breathing, eating or drinking and can be done anywhere at any time.

When people succumb to an Altered State of Consciousness, they can be made to believe anything — and I mean ANYTHING. This is how all the manipulators operate, whether it is in an alleged "Christian" environment, a hypnotist's entertainment show, or in a black site of the CIA (which is why the CIA loved to experiment with LSD).

If they can get you into the required Altered State of Consciousness, they can convince you that you have received an "Anointing" from the Spirit of God; they can make you believe that you have a pile of demons which need to be removed (and you can even act all that out for them, complete with stunning Hollywood sound-effects of retching, coughing, spitting, etc.); they can brainwash you with the notion that you were satanically abused by your parents as children; they can convince you that you have a spirit within you of your dead twin; they can induce you to imagine that you have inherited your ancestors' sins and demonic attachments; they can influence the entire course of your therapy to go exactly as they have planned it to go; and they can do all that while making you believe to the uttermost that it is all real. **Are you beginning to make sense as to what this is all about?**

Here are a couple of examples (from the same lady as above) of the kind of guided imagery used by these therapy groups masquerading as "deliverance" in order to brainwash people into believing what the counsellors want them to believe:

"One picture which I can remember from the early days of ministry at Ellel was that they said I had been a twin (that was what they felt) and that my mother had aborted it herself. They then got me to name it. For months I was in a state of grief. They said I had been carrying part of my "twin" brother's spirit in me. You can

only imagine the panic and grief that such an idea can cause you. I don't believe for a moment that I ever was a twin.

When I had had my ears pierced in Brighton they said that I had received the spirits of thousands of babies that had been thrown over cliffs in the Norse period as they thought I was related to them. They had seen these people doing it because I was blonde and my ancestors had come from Northern Europe many hundreds of years ago. They asked me to take off my earrings so the screams of the trapped souls could come out. I was devastated with the screams they all made. You really do get into all of this when you are there because you are taken on journeys with pictures you see of your ancestors doing things. This is really horrible. Then you have to forgive them and get set free from the demons.

To think that you had the spirits of people, your ancestors plus your own brothers, was enough to make you go insane. I didn't though, by the grace of God".

This is absolutely typical of these "deliverance" therapy groups. First they get you into an Altered State of Consciousness, which is not difficult to achieve as the people attending these "deliverance" sessions are already halfway there when they arrive (i.e. they know what is expected of them). They soon learn that having screaming, spitting, retching, coughing, convulsive "manifestations" is vital to the process, so they then have them. I have seen all this many times before in the secular therapy sessions in which I was involved when I was into all that stuff when I was a New Ager in the 1970s. In Bill Swartley's "Structural Integration" therapy groups, through the use of guided imagery and powerful suggestion, I saw many people taken back to alleged early life experiences or even experiences supposedly from previous incarnations! They would relive these experiences as if they were actually happening there and then. I saw people reliving throwing their babies down a well

in medieval times, reliving being rejected or abused by their parents or others when they were babies, reliving commanding their troops to massacre cities full of people in ancient Rome, reliving a bad birth experience stuck in the birth canal, or reliving being murdered horribly in an assassination — all of them complete with blood-curdling screams, bodies flailing around on the floor, foaming at the mouth, spitting, retching, struggling, laughing, coughing, crying, etc. It is all very convincing.

Incidentally, as an informative aside, Bill Swartley had previously partnered with Dr. Frank Lake, whose book "Clinical Theology" (published by Darton, Longman, Todd) has been hugely influential on the Inner Healing/Regression Therapy movement in the churches — especially the Anglican Churches. When I was a young Christian visiting St. Michael le Belfrey church in York in 1986, this book was on the church bookstall. Lake had earlier worked using LSD therapy with Stanislav Grof during the 1950s. Grof developed a type of therapy which was like LSD but without the drug, called Holotropic Therapy. This involved the use of hyperventilation (rapid breathing technique), which was "*enhanced by the use of evocative music or sound technology developed by various cultures specifically for the purpose of changing consciousness*" (Gary Doore, ed., "Shaman's Path: Healing, Personal Growth & Empowerment", Shambhala, 1988, p.163). So the LSD consciousness-altering therapy practised by Frank Lake and Stanislaf Grof was channelled into another therapy which also altered consciousness by using techniques such as repetitive music. Lake also developed his experience into the deceptively-named "Clinical Theology" which has now found its way into many churches. The use of repetitive soppy music is also what is being used in Charismatic circles to induce an Altered State of Consciousness. Much of so-called "worship ministry" today is nothing more than the administration of a hypnotic drug to lull the mind into a suggestive state. Just like Muzak in a lift (elevator) or 'Cosmic' music with swooshing waves in a New Age bookshop. As said above but worthy of repetition, so many churches now (just like the folks who are into Eastern

Mysticism and the New Agers) think that getting 'blissed-out' or 'zapped' into a state of oblivion is the way to develop spiritually. Hence the huge proliferation of "Worship Ministry" and "Worship Leaders" in the last few decades. It is all part of the great apostasy.

In the book, "In Search of the Ultimate High: Spiritual Experience through Psychoactives" by Nicholas Saunders, Anja Saunders, Michelle Pauli (published by Rider), it is claimed that *"many of the early therapeutic LSD trips were taken by Anglican clergy, under the supervision of Dr Frank Lake, an Anglican clergyman who founded a school called Clinical Theology"* (see this link: <https://archive.org/details/insearchofultima0000saun/page/90/mode/2up>, page 90, para 5). I share all this to show that the use of cathartic therapy and Altered States of Consciousness in churches is nothing new. Thus, the ground was paved for all this "Deliverance" therapy years ago. **Whereas Frank Lake would encourage reliving early life traumas in his therapy groups (complete with psycho-physical manifestations), the deliverance therapists encourage the bogus release of generational demons in their deliverance sessions (complete with similar psycho-physical manifestations).** Although the "deliverance" people would strongly deny it, both they and Frank Lake have been tapping into the same murky area of human consciousness. **The demons experienced in the 'deliverance' sessions are just a 'Christianised' version of the traumas manipulatively generated in the above cathartic therapy groups.**

What is happening in the 'deliverance' therapies in the Christian scene is no different to all to that I witnessed in all the therapy sessions in the 1970s. The "deliverance" people have simply renamed it all to involve demons, using the name of Christ to 'Christianise' what is effectively catharsis therapy. **The fundamental element is that one can convince anyone of anything and get them to act out anything if one can first get them in an Altered State of Consciousness.** This is why I say that the physical/emotional manifestations induced in people by the

so-called "Toronto Blessing" in churches are no different to the physical/emotional manifestations induced in those who attend the therapy sessions of the "deliverance" ministries. It is all based on catharsis induced in an Altered State of Consciousness.

Therefore all the professing "Christians" in the Charismatic scene, many of whom have likely never been properly born again/born 'from above' who undergo 'deliverance ministry' and think that they have been "delivered" are simply going through what is effectively *catharsis therapy* (just like EST or Primal Scream or the trappings of Mesmer's practices) which brings some measure of emotional release masquerading as a Christian experience. But unless they have truly come to Christ, then they have not really been released from demonic interference because they are still under the power of the evil one, like every other unregenerate soul (1 John 5:19). I am not saying that they have demons like the 'deliverance' people say. I am simply saying that they do not trust in having the Holy Spirit of God indwelling them but they only trust their 'deliverance' minister. Therefore they must still be under the power of the evil one. This is applied logic. **There is only one experience which brings real deliverance from satanic control and that is the power of the Gospel, by which one crosses over from death to life, which they will have "abundantly" (John 5:24; 10:10).** Spending years having demons cast out of you after coming to Christ does not sound like the kind of super-abundant life to which Jesus was surely referring!

'Deliverance ministry' is yet another "Gospel+ plus" scenario. As far as they are concerned, the power of the Gospel, being delivered from the power of darkness, and being made into a new creation has something lacking and is simply not enough. That is the major flaw in their demonology. That is why they call the Pentecostal/Charismatic experience "Full Gospel", as if the real Gospel of Christ which has been proclaimed for two thousand years was inadequate and has had to await all that time for their defective theology in order for its fullness to take place. What a revealing

indictment of their theology that is and a complete demonstration of their hubris!

Today's phony 'deliverance ministry' involves a humanistic rather than a spiritual approach. It is based on secular psychotherapy. The real deliverance ministers are those who proclaim the two-thousand-year-old Gospel of Jesus Christ, for the Gospel is God's only means by which one can be wholly delivered from the forces of darkness.

Incidentally, the "spirit of the aborted/dead twin" routine, as mentioned in the lady's testimony above, is one that I have come across in counselling many victims of this type of ministry. This is all part of a standard pattern which has been carried out over the years. The implanting of these "pictures" in the minds of those who go for this "deliverance" therapy is an essential part of the ministry, and has been in use at Ellel Grange from the beginning. It is actually a powerful brainwashing process known as "guided meditation" and lies at the heart of the Ellel cult and other similar ministries.

7) These Alleged Discerners of Demons Cannot Even Discern Apostasy when it Hits them in the Face!

I believe that the REAL demons inhabit the 'deliverance' ministries. The satanic realm must be having a field-day with these people. **They are so busy bolting the front-door against their imaginary demons that they fail to see the real demons coming through their back-door in droves!** A great many of the people drawn into training in Ellel Ministries' courses come from an Anglican church background. **It is more than ironic that all these people who claim to be able to spot umpteen demons in the lives of Christians which have allegedly come down from earlier generations or from contact with others, are totally unable to discern the fact that their own denomination is a major contributor to the satanically-inspired apostasy of today and is a prime harbinger of the religion of the New World Order!** This is very revealing. Furthermore, in spite of laying

claim to be able to discern thousands of demons and the spirits of animals in Christians, these 'deliverance' merchants are unable to discern major deceptions in the church today. Here is an extract from the publicity for Ellel Ministries' "School of Reclaiming the Ground and Spiritual Warfare":

"The teaching content of this school is of vital importance to the Body of Christ. Ever since the early days of the work we have been learning the importance of cleansing land and buildings. There has been great fruit of this ministry as whole spiritual environments have been transformed through specific prayer, intercession and spiritual warfare. In recent years this aspect of spiritual warfare has received new attention and significance through the Transformations videos and an increasing number of people have been asking for more in-depth teaching on the subject."

These "Transformations" videos have been one of the biggest scams in the Christian scene today and are indicative of the way in which people can be convinced to believe in anything. These videos have been put together NOT by some objective investigative reporter or researcher who is merely reporting verifiable facts, but by people who have developed a philosophy which they want the world to believe at all costs. **When people want to believe something desperately enough, they will believe anything.**

In the case of the Transformations videos, it is the belief that people have to conduct rituals in order to "cleanse the land of demons" before evangelism can be successfully carried out. [This is known as "Spiritual Mapping" or Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare, (SLSW), which was devised by C. Peter Wagner, George Otis and other Charismatic leaders in the late 1980s/early 1990s, and popularised by the so-called "New Apostolic Reformation" (NAR). Readers can find much interesting information about this hustle in my free-to-download book, "[Discerning the Signs of the](#)

Times]. Once again, these people are making the Gospel of Christ dependent on rituals that humans have to perform before it can have any efficacy — yet more evidence that they are essentially saying that the Gospel of Christ is insufficient without human intervention. Without mincing my words, that is an atheistic belief.

I Would Far Rather Be Doing Something Else

What more can we say? I do not take any delight in writing this kind of piece. To be perfectly frank, when dealing with all this madness (and it IS madness), I often wish that I never needed to have anything to do with it again. I would far rather write an edifying article or preach a sermon on the deep things of God. But it profoundly disturbs me that so many have been so damaged by these ministries, and in the name of Christ too. Therefore, I have to say something. I do not take any delight at all in becoming the object of reproach and derision by the people one is forced to expose, who then get busy with their curses and their evil accusations about anyone who criticizes them being demonised.

I confess to feeling like Jeremiah when he spoke of how he felt as if he never wanted to prophesy again because of the enmity which it brought upon him, but also how he couldn't help himself because "*His message becomes a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones, and I become weary of holding it in, and I cannot prevail*" (Jeremiah 20:9). This is how I feel too. There is nothing more I would like than to be able to enjoy peace and beauty continually — immersing myself in the gorgeous aesthetics of life, love, and the wonders of nature. Believe me, where I live, that would be very easy to do. But "we live in interesting times", and I cannot suppress the need to protect and help the oppressed and afflicted at this extraordinary moment of history.

An Insane Smokescreen of Deflection

The grand irony is that as soon as someone makes critical remarks about ministries such as Ellel and similar "deliverance ministries", or the wacky Charismatic churches promoting the "Toronto Blessing", they can only conceive of the critic as working for Satan

and being embittered and judgemental. Short of a miracle, they will not acknowledge that their very foundations are dangerous and wrong and they play down the reality of victim abuse. They say that mistakes were made in the past but all is okay now. But really they have simply got much better at Public Relations and slick web design.

In those circles, how one deals with one's critics is to assume that those critics are demonised themselves and then begin to "pray them down", or "bind their controlling spirits", or even put them under a curse, and all the other pagan nonsense in which they indulge. In my own case, they say that my former fringe involvement with the occult and the New Age has left me controlled by a number of demons which have not yet been dealt with. As if the Holy Spirit indwelling me is not powerful enough to stop them sharing house with Him! **These people are so clueless from a biblical standpoint, relying only on the 'evidence' of the subjective experience which they generate in their sessions, as we must surely have discovered while going through the text of these articles.** People have even written to me to tell me that they have been praying for my demons to be bound! What profound ignorance — and even arrogance! It is all an insane smokescreen of deflection away from their own evil. They just will not face up to it.

[Even after my announcement that I was putting this book together, I began to receive emails containing passive-aggressive threats if I continued to write it and coercively trying to make me have second thoughts about writing it at all. They just do not know who they are dealing with! Also, immediately after that announcement, someone even repeatedly tried to hack into my [Diakrisis Project website](#). Coincidence?]

There is no doubt in my mind that we are dealing with the equivalent of a cult here, with all the participants — counsellors and victims — thoroughly brainwashed and primed to attack all those who expose the cult. **It is very dark indeed, and it is all part of a pattern of manipulation in these times which can be**

observed on many fronts — whether ecclesiastical, educational, governmental or religious. One simply knows that one is dealing with the forces of darkness, something unclean, contaminated, corrupted and defiled.

Fortunately, the abuse which the victims of the 'deliverance' cults receive is abhorrent enough to drive some of them — dazed and confused — out of those cults and into the sympathetic arms of healthy ministries which can really help them. Sadly, I have yet to personally encounter a 'deliverance' counsellor who has found his or her way out of the demonic maze into which they have strayed. It seems impossible for them to admit that they are living a lie. As Isaiah said concerning the mindset of the idolater: "*He feeds on ashes. His deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, 'Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?'*" (Isaiah 44:20). They are completely deluded, living in a fantasy world of delusions about demons, looking in all the wrong places for demonic activity, relying on flimsy images which their own minds have conjured up, while blaming psychological issues and sinful behaviour on legions of imaginary demons. They are deeply sick in heart and cannot see it.

Having rejected the Scriptures which expose their deception and having twisted others in order to support it, they bathe in their positions of power and rely solely on the illusory manifestations of their victims for the validation of their ersatz demonology.

Let Us Not Give in to Them for a Moment!

As my late friend, Tal Brooke, said to me a few years ago (1997), "*To get by in the world today, the Christian needs the hide of a rhinoceros and the skillset of a world class spy*". The hide of the rhinoceros refers metaphorically to the necessary self-protection that one needs from the many lunatics who inhabit the visible church today — either those who oppress faithful pastors and teachers to destroy their ministry, or those who propagate so much wacky teaching about demons and demonisation. Coupled

with that, the skillset of a world class spy (spiritually understood) is needed to keep one step ahead of the deviousness and cunning manipulations of these impostors in the churches.

Now you may well now ask, *"How should we respond to all this?"* My answer is to say that we should respond in just the same way as the apostle Paul responded to the "false brethren" who came into the Galatian church in order to remove their liberty in Christ and bring them into bondage. Paul said: *"We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you"* (Galatians 2:5). **Let us also not give in to them for a moment, so that the dramatic truth of the release from bondage which comes through obedience to the Gospel will continue with us, unfettered and free to perform its miraculous work of the healing of the soul and the restoration of hearts and minds.**

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

How the Two Types of Spiritual Abuse in Churches Fit Into the Strategy of the New World Order

[This is now me, Alan Morrison, writing in the year 2023].

After all the ground we have covered together in the above four Chapters of this little book, the pertinent question which has to be asked is this: **Why should all of this be happening — the systematic destruction of faithful ministries and the increasing proliferation of cultic practices in churches — at this particular time in history, namely, during the late 20th and early 21st centuries?** Could it all be part of some wider development in this corrupt, apostate world?

Having observed the world and the visible church from many aspects over the last few decades, I believe that it is indeed part of a wider development in the demonic scheme of things. Allow me to show you how and why. As I stated in the previous Chapter (written way back in 2002):

"Essentially, the "Deliverance" ministries do the same kind of work as intelligence operatives in brainwashing and interrogation. You simply have to break people down, abolish their inhibitions, emotionally disrobe them, undermine their individuality, and you will soon have them doing whatever you want them to do. This is basic psychological manipulation, somewhat akin to the strategies used to brainwash people, or to 'break' people to get them to talk in interrogation sessions. If you can shock someone severely, their defences will be broken, they will feel adrift and insecure, and then you can easily gain control over them".

So now, as promised, I am dealing with it here in the Concluding Thoughts. The key is in the breaking down of people's defences, or shocking them profoundly so that they feel adrift and insecure, thereby being more easily able to be controlled, which is how government 'psyops' operate. This is the key. In 2002, elsewhere in what was the previous Chapter (though I have saved these words for use in these concluding thoughts), I wrote the following:

"The defences of everyone are being broken down by traumatic experiences imposed on them by the powers which rule this world, just as they are by the powers which rule in the false church. You see, my friends, the ruling powers of the world can also easily put whole populations in a very suggestible Altered State of Consciousness (ASC) by contriving hugely shocking scenes — preferably televising them for maximum effect — which render entire populations open to their manipulations. I am sure that many of you will be making the right connections here. [By "right connections", I was there referring to such psyops as the manufactured assassination of Lady Diana Spencer (1997) and the manufactured demolition of the World Trade Center (2001). Today in 2023, there could be added to these the manufactured pandemic or 'plandemic' of 2020-2022].

This whole process of generating Altered States of Consciousness through shock tactics and other pre-hypnotic means is absolutely seminal to making sense of the pattern of manipulation in both the world and the church today. **Thus, we can see that Altered States of Consciousness are a vital element in the establishment of the New World Order, whether within the church or outside it.**

All the churches and 'Christian' organisations which have been destroying good pulpit ministries, or buying

into the “Toronto Blessing” and similar ecclesiastical atrocities, getting people to speak in pagan gibberish (phony ‘baptism in the spirit’), making them fall down and start behaving madly (the nonsensical ‘Slain in the Spirit’ cabaret routine), or practising these Gospel-effacing “Deliverance Ministries” are nothing less than destructive cults which are plainly a part of the mass mind-control manipulations being carried out across the globe today in a multitude of disciplines, in order to stifle individuality and program people into blindly accepting godless authority — which is always, ultimately, satanic authority”.

That is what I wrote in 2002. Not many were interested in such thoughts at that time. But surely now, as we look around at the madness of the world and of the church, we can see that it all correlates and dovetails into one vast morass of social engineering by powerful people who must surely be themselves under the control (conscious or not) of the forces of darkness.

If one can additionally engineer a youth population which, in the main, is confused about what gender they are and in which masculinity has been rebranded as “toxic” (thereby undermining the sacred masculine pioneering and leadership element in society), and in which the sacred feminine has been manipulated into feminism and the “girl power”/“believe her”/“metoo” feminobabble (thereby destroying the stability and cohesion of independent families), and in which parental authority has been usurped by the state and education agencies, then all of that is a tremendous preparatory coup for the provisional forces of the Antichrist.

The same goes for the destruction of powerful pastoral and teaching ministries by an evil group in a church, and the mass implantation of unbiblical madness which undermines the exclusive Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is another tremendous preparatory coup for those same dark forces. **This is what I mean**

by these two types of spiritual abuse dovetailing with the New World Order: They all serve the purpose of undermining genuine authority, authentic leadership, Divine morality, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the principles of God's law.

Additionally, one will very often find that those who destroy pastoral ministries and who propagate the false ministries so revered in the visible church today are also those who deny the existence of conspiracies and they will ridicule those they regard as 'conspiracy theorists'. That is surely a dead giveaway about whose side they are on and where they are coming from.

The 'Church' in Which ANYTHING Goes



Anything goes: The 'Drag Queen', Lady Die, 'preaching' in the pulpit in the cathedral mass in Tromsø, Norway, in November 2021, while the officiating priest looks on approvingly surrounded by rainbow flags

Bear in mind that the visible 'Church' in this world is not at all identical to the body of Christ, although the body of Christ exists within it, physically speaking (though not in any spiritual sense). The false church is therefore an impostor under the control of the satanic forces of darkness. This is why absolutely 'anything goes' inside it — and I mean *anything*. Theological liberalism, homosexuality, 'queerness', so-called "Pride" events (the new religion), Drag Queen preaching (see image above), the 'social gospel', creating Altered States of Consciousness, Multifaithism,

New Age and 'New Thought' practices, the "Law of Attraction", Jungian psychology, rejection of the Bible as the word of God, the 'prosperity Gospel', superficial "faith healing" masquerading as a continuation of the works of Christ and His Apostles, blabbering gibberish and ludicrously making out that it is the same as what happened at the beginning of Acts 2, catharsis therapy masquerading as the casting out of demons from believers, and much more. *In fact, they have created another religion altogether which no longer represents the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

What a masterstroke it also is for those forces of darkness to make the church people who practice this devious evil — like the smug priest in the image above — imagine that they are doing God a favour in bringing their imagined "new message" to God's people. Impostors will always convince themselves that they are doing God a favour in all their works — even if they are in the process of actually killing God's people (cf. John 16:2)

The Bane of the Unteachable Spirit

One of the central elements which has made all this madness in the churches possible is the burgeoning of the unteachable spirit. That bane is one of the main reasons for the proliferation of all this madness. Where the people listen to and follow God's word there is wisdom, understanding, self-denial and stability. Where there is an unteachable spirit, arrogance and egocentrism masquerading as piety will prevail and a church becomes a playground for unclean spirits and thus all hell will break loose.

Comparatively few in the 'Christian' scene understand any of this. So when anyone writes about it they have the support of the few and the animosity of the many. **It may seem crazy to say this but genuine truth in all its revelatory glory is as unpopular in the churches as it is in the secular world!** In some, even more so.

The Shamanic Hold Over Pentecostals and Charismatics

When folks are offended by my writings, they are not slow to react. In fact, they cannot wait to shred my work or go behind my back

to make the most ridiculous accusations (e.g., that I am a secret Gnostic, a clandestine interfaith ecumenist, an agent of the Antichrist, an antinomian, an apostate, a member of a cult, etc.), all of which I have laughed at many times at the satanic desperation of it all. Believe it or not, there are a number of sad folks who go on my website solely so they can complain to their mates about my writings. (Hint: I have informants in their ranks 😊). Then there are those who read some little bit of an article which doesn't fit into their already-learned behaviour, so they just react and stop reading the whole thing. This is especially true of Pentecostals and Charismatics, for there is a powerful control over their minds due to their repeated entry into Altered States of Consciousness and the shamanic hold that has over them, leading to demonic interference and control. Breaking that hold and control is extremely difficult. I can only say that if they are part of God's elect then the truth will inevitably be brought to bear in their minds and lives. Genuine pilgrims may wander off the path for a while but they cannot be permanently bamboozled by falsehood. As Jesus said, no one can snatch His sheep out of His hand (John 10:28).

If these folks started actually reading an article or this book through to the end instead of abandoning it after a few pages because it does not fit into their already-learned worldview, they will find that they may have a Eureka moment and begin to see how the whole Pentecostal/Charismatic scene fits into the New World Order/New Consciousness zeitgeist of the end of this present age (as I also showed in detail in my free-to-download book, "[Signs, Wonders and Divine Revelation](#)"). I know this is hard for many to accept, but this is the necessary work which has to be done now. One has to develop a teachable spirit today in order to slough off the dross which has been imposed from without over so many years that it is now regarded as normal.

The Only New Message from God

It is claimed that the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement has "a new message from God". But it is not new at all. It is the same old

message as Kundalini, Gnosticism, and other similar influences: Namely, that subjective experience is more important than objective truth. **However, there can be no new message in this age other than Jesus Christ, who was born into this world as God manifested in the flesh, who took upon Himself the sins of His people and suffered all the powers of darkness for them, who died, who rose again and who ascended to heaven.** That is the one and only new message for this age. NOT speak in gibberish, do false healings, call things miracles which are not, make people fall to the ground and laugh like hyenas in churches, get rich quick, promote the 'Law of Attraction', pretend to cast demons out of believers, etc. **That is why I say that a teachable spirit is so necessary. Teachable not from false prophets and workers of lawlessness who have their roots in the seminal, fatefully influential occult phenomena which took place in Azusa Street and elsewhere, but from the clear teaching of the Holy Bible.**

Someone who believes that Pentecostalism brings a new message to the world from God and is offended that I am rejecting this alleged "new message" said to me: "*Would you have accepted John the Baptist coming in from the desert wearing animal skins eating grasshoppers and saying he was sent by God with a new message? I don't think so*". My personal reply was this (slightly enlarged here):

"Of course I would have accepted John the Baptist when he pitched up eating normal food from that time and wearing the clothing of a prophet — the uniform of office. That's what disciples do when a genuine prophecy is truly fulfilled: They accept and receive genuine prophets (but not false ones). But John came to herald the Christ, which was wholly in line with Old Testament prophecy. And Christ is the REAL new message which John came to herald. **There has been no new message since then.** This is why I say that Pentecostalism and the Charismatic Movement are blasphemous. It is these truths that you are vainly

fighting against. Their platform error involves wrenching the unique Pentecostal event from its context in Acts 2 and saying that it applies to today. Even then, they transform the known ethnic languages from that event into the gibberish so-called “tongues” which is a psychological phenomenon practised by pagans and mystics for millennia. The wise disciple just watches all this chaos from his or her vantage point on the hilltop, knowing it is the fruit of prophecy, longing for the madness to be brought to a close — not merely the madness of the world but that of the noisy, deluded false church. Unfortunately, there is quite a way to go yet. Terrible things still have to come to pass. The church on earth will be tested in a vicious tribulation and the difference between the sheep and the goats will become increasingly clear”.

It is my earnest hope that many Pentecostals and Charismatics, if there is still an ounce of the love of truth left in them, will abandon their shamanic brainwashing as it becomes increasingly obvious that there is not going to be the global “revival” they are awaiting but, on the contrary, that there will be a hideous gathering of darkness and lawlessness — the rapid culmination of the “mystery of lawlessness” — in which the *Ekklesia* too will be involved, exactly as Jesus and His Apostles prophesied (Matthew 24:21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10; Revelation 11:7; 13:7).

The Name of the Madness in the Churches

If you want a name for all the madness in the churches about which I have spoken in this little book, I can give you one: It is nothing less than ‘apostasy’. There. I have said it. Paul stated that two events had to occur before the Lord Jesus Christ could return: 1) The fulfilment of “*the apostasy*” and, 2) The revealing of the “*man of lawlessness*”, who is the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4). We are, with rapidity, watching that great apostasy unfold right now before our eyes. This is the climaxing of the “*spirit of the Antichrist*”

(1 John 4:3), which is all part of what Paul refers to as the "mystery of lawlessness" that I referred to above as rapidly culminating.

When the Antichrist is revealed at a culmination-point in the future, presenting himself as the Christ for the Christians, as the Mahdi for the Muslims, as the Mashiach for the Jews, as the Bodhisattva Maitreya for Buddhists, as the 'World Teacher' for the New Age folks, as Kalki Avatar for Hindus, as the Pahana for the Hopi Indians and other tribespeople, how many professing "Christians" will fall for it hook, line and sinker? Bear in mind that this highly deceptive, sorcerous character will be

"accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them. For this reason God will send them a powerful delusion so that they believe the lie..."

When more than half the church has no love of the truth and is practising what amounts to sorcery (prosperity gospel, Law of Attraction, etc.),⁵ divination (false prophecies and bogus words of knowledge) and pagan ritual ('slain in the spirit', false 'baptism in the spirit', gibberish 'tongues'), and is so easily deceived, it does not take much imagination to see how that ease of deception will pan out in the future as the Endtimes really start shaping up.

To sum up, all the madness of spiritual abuse in the churches which has been catalogued in this book — whether the destruction of faithful preaching ministries or the rampant lunacy among professing 'Christians' in Charismatic and "deliverance ministry" circles — is a manifestation of the burgeoning apostasy. When that has reached its zenith, then the Antichrist will be revealed; and when the Gospel has reached the

⁵ Which is also the religion of Donald Trump and his 'spiritual' advisers.

last soul destined for salvation, then the end of this world as we know it will come, as Christ returns in a cosmic cataclysmic blaze of glory (Matthew 24:14 & 27).

What I Wish For Above All Else

I am no doubt now nearing the end of my own life on earth. That end looms larger every day. The madness I have exposed in this book is really only just beginning to get going. We have barely seen anything yet in terms of the prophesied amorality and chaos. If I should be granted a little more time, what a blessing it would be if it could be spent in some way ministering quietly to a faithful flock who love to hear God's word — immersed in the truths of the Bible, with never a bad word being said in anger or malice (having overcome by the Spirit all the typical sinful manifestations of triggers and trauma flags), functioning as watchmen and watchwomen, and thereby as forhtelling prophets, resisting with joy the direction taken by the world and by the majority of churches, pointing the way to Christ even in the midst of the plethora of fads and fashions which dictate against that way, enduring everything — no matter how supposedly unendurable — until the last moment of breath, even if under torture from the apparatchiks of the Antichrist, all of that being the very epitome of what it means to be a disciple and follower of Jesus the Christ (Matthew 24:13; Luke 21:19).

Whatever has been written in any of the text in this little book, the conditions of the above paragraph are what I wish for above all else. May it be so! Μακάρι να είναι έτσι! **יָכֹל לְהִיוֹת שָׁפֵךְ יְהִי**.

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Swept Under the Carpet

The Scandal of Spiritual Abuse

in Churches Today

It is common to think of spiritual abuse in churches as referring to the excesses of a tyrannical minister or a manipulative group of elders terrorizing the unfortunate congregation. That kind of abuse has been written about many times in books and essays. Commonly known as "heavy shepherding", this is when a church slips over the line of exercising legitimate biblical authority into having the basic trappings of a nasty little cult; and it happens a great deal when immature or spiritually-untransformed men, or outright sociopaths wangle their way into office. This is what most people would readily identify as "spiritual abuse".

However, because that kind of abuse has been written about so extensively, the present book covers a couple of more suppressed but no less vicious or prolific aspects of spiritual abuse in churches. Namely, 1) The abuse of a pastor by the elders and/or members of the congregation and, 2) The abuse of members of a congregation through the prevailing religious practices of a church or organisation which they have chosen for themselves.

Based on a four-part series of articles on spiritual abuse which were written between 1998 and 2002 — including the harrowing testimony of a woman whose life was almost destroyed through Charismatic practices and so-called "Deliverance Ministry", these original articles have now been elaborated on through additional helpful commentary by the author showing that such practices have proliferated at an alarming rate to the present date.

Alan Morrison is a writer, poet, songwriter, Bible teacher and counsellor. Describing himself as "*a cosmic warrior with nothing left to lose*", he has been a disciple of Christ for many decades, including several years as a pastor, which gave him a steep learning curve in both his knowledge of the Sacred Texts and the fascinating vagaries of human nature. He currently lives in Mexico.

