
News Updates

BOOKSTORES PULL TENNEY BOOKS

LifeWay, the Southern Baptist Convention-owned bookstore chain, will no longer sell Tommy Tenney's *The God Chasers* or *The God Catchers*. The bookstore chain offered no official statement about the decision to drop the best-selling books, but *Charisma* magazine reported obtaining "a copy of a message sent by a LifeWay store manager to a customer who asked about the removal of *The God Chasers*." The manager's statement specified Tenney's "unbiblical theology," including the author's disparaging of Scripture and an emphasis on subjective experience.

Tenney alleges that "a misinterpretation of his beliefs" is the cause for the bookstores removing his publications. In two major articles appearing in this newsletter, PFO detailed Tenney's unbiblical theology noted in the LifeWay manager's observation, in addition to a bent toward pantheism.

Tenney's roots in the United Pentecostal Church has also cost him book sales within the Assemblies of God. The Radiant Book and Music Store in Springfield, Mo., has also pulled Tenney's works from its shelves. The store maintained that the books are not in doctrinal harmony with the Assemblies denomination. However, not all bookstores with AG ties have followed the lead of the Springfield store.

Tenney says he withdrew direct association with the UPC during the 1980s and claims to no longer hold the group's "views." His father still is a UPC superintendent. Tenney was quoted by *Charisma* as telling AG General Superintendent Thomas Trask, "I can't turn my back on my heritage," and that he has "friends on both sides, and I'm sticking with my friends."

—MKG

SCHULLER'S CHURCH CUTS STAFF

The current ebb in the nation's economy seemingly has had a negative impact on "possibility thinker," the Rev. Robert Schuller and his Southern California church. The Crystal Cathedral announced in July that it cut the jobs of 37 of its staff in an effort to offset substantial financial deficits in recent months.

The layoffs represent six percent of the church's entire 600-member work force and affects both church staff and

employees at its popular television broadcast, "Hour of Power." The cutbacks have forced the closing of the church's infant care nursery and terminated 12 positions within its executive pastor's staff.

The mega-church, located in Garden Grove, averages 8,000 in attendance each Sunday, having grown from humble beginnings in the 1950s when the "self-esteem" minister began preaching from the roof of a drive-in theater's snack bar. The *Dictionary of Christianity in America* says Schuller "attempts to recast the gospel in a positive form that appeals to the human quest for a positive self-image."

—MKG

SWAGGART ACCUSED OF PLAGIARISM

Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, who once wrote that he owes his "Bible education" to Finis Jennings Dake, is now being accused of more than just gleaned teaching from the heretical Bible commentator. The evangelist and author, who was disgraced by a sex scandal in the late 1980s, has been sued by the heirs of Dake and their publishing company, Dake Publishing, Inc.

The lawsuit, filed in late May, charges Swaggart with copyright infringement and plagiarizing the late minister's writings and publishing them as his own. Also named in the lawsuit is Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers, and religious groups associated with Swaggart in his hometown of Baton Rouge, La.

The suit charges that Swaggart and his publisher had "taken and used plaintiff's proprietary works for their own benefit and profit." Swaggart is said to have taken large portions of Dake's writings and, while at times he gave Dake credit, he neglected to receive permission to cite the extended passages. The Dake family seeks damages from Swaggart, including a share of the profits he made from the sales of his works containing the citations, along with an order to stop further use of Dake's writings. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Nashville.

In 1987, following Dake's death, Swaggart wrote a tribute to Dake in his monthly magazine, *The Evangelist*. Swaggart described Dake as "a scholar unparalleled" and stated he "will forever be indebted to Finis Jennings Dake." He also wrote that to say "Dake was the greatest Bible scholar who ever lived" was not an exaggeration.

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