

CANADA STRIPS MINISTRIES OF TAX EXEMPTION

The Canadian government is putting the squeeze on some charities. Officials have ordered MacGregor Ministries shut down as a charitable organization. This prominent apologetic and counter-cult ministry, based in British Columbia, has operated as a registered Canadian Charity for nearly three decades. MacGregor Ministries is one of about 2,500 charities which has had its charity status recently revoked.

"We have been (unjustly, we feel) accused of not fulfilling our original statement of purpose when we became a charity in 1980," according to Lorri MacGregor. The ministry has said that the Canadian government — despite freedom of speech guaranteed under the Charter in Canada — no longer allows critiques of other faiths, even if done fairly and documented thoroughly. "We are being accused of dispensing 'hate,'" MacGregor said.

Initially, the ministry moved to accommodate government regulations by agreeing to shift the analysis of cultic and aberrational groups found on its website and in its publications to a non-charitable entity, teaching only Christian doctrine under the charitable heading. This proposal has been rejected by the government. "We now cannot present Christianity as better than any other religion. We cannot be 'persuasive' when presenting Christianity," a ministry statement reported.

MacGregor Ministries, as a registered Canadian charity, will dissolve and its assets will need to be transferred to a government-approved charity or taxed by the government. The organization has been forced to restructure itself, starting from scratch, and now operates under MM Outreach, a ministry corporation that is no longer allowed to provide tax-deductible receipts for the support it receives.

—MKG

YOU CAN BE A PROPHET

Saying he wants to "comfort and strengthen his church after two years of traumas," Brady Boyd, pastor at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., is teaching his 10,000-member congregation "how to become modern prophets in their own lives."

Boyd replaced Ted Haggard, who resigned after a sex scandal in 2006. In December 2007, New Life was the

scene of a shooting that left two members — and the assailant — dead after a Sunday morning service.

In late April, Boyd told his flock, "I want all of us here tonight to hear God's voice. You've all been uniquely hard-wired to hear the voice of God," according to a news article in the *Denver Post*. What is being labeled as "comprehensive instruction on prophecy," Boyd wants all of his members to be able to "hear God and foresee their future plans." Boyd alleges that as pastor, prophecy is one of his chief abilities, but he desires his entire congregation to be able to operate with this spiritual gift rather than to depend upon him.

Boyd is enlisting the help of others from the New Life ministerial staff, as well as "prophetic ministers" from his former church in Texas, to promulgate his revelation precepts. Jeff Drott, another minister at New Life, explained that "God rarely speaks to people in an audible voice, often sending a thought, vision, dream, image or scriptural insight," the *Post* reported.

The direction in which Boyd is trying to take his congregation is not new as the membership of his megachurch has long been exposed to such unbiblical teaching. Haggard was part of the National School of the Prophets conference, where he and other leaders would "minister and release you into a new level of prophetic anointing" — all for just \$175. Haggard had also repeatedly claimed to have powerful visions from the Lord — many of which were vague or proven false.

—MKG

BYNUM APPEARS ON DIVORCE COURT

In 2003, Juanita Bynum allowed her million-dollar wedding to Bishop Thomas W. Weeks III to be televised, so it only seemed fitting that she likewise use the same media to discuss her pending divorce. On April 25-26, Bynum appeared in a two-part episode of "Divorce Court," a nationally syndicated reality program. During the broadcast, she confirmed that she is "done" with her marriage and spoke about domestic violence. "I said to myself, I love him, but I love me more," Bynum told "Divorce Court" Judge Lynn Toler during the interview.

Weeks was convicted of aggravated assault after attacking Bynum in August 2007 outside an Atlanta hotel. He was sentenced to three years probation, 200 hours of community service, and must undergo counseling.

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