

the terrain's unhealthy. You sort of know the terrain. ... there's a certain weird comfort and safety factor even in insane places if you know how it all works. ... Because to be on terrain they don't know is very, very fearful" (G. Richard Fisher, *Getting Out - Getting On*, cassette tape).

As difficult as it may appear and as hard as it is to try, one *must* go on — and above all, stop drinking from the contaminated well and be committed to the antidote. Life and habits will have to be reorganized. And you must remember: You can't change the past. Dr. Jay Adams zeros in on the debilitating effects of dwelling on the past:

"Some persons focus on the past. So long as they do, change will not be possible, since no one can change the past. It is not the past that needs to be dealt with; actually the past no longer exists. It is not his *past* that needs changing; it is the counselee *himself as he now is* who must change. Counselors must help the counselee to refocus from the past to its effects upon the present. They must explain that the past is present in the life patterns of the counselee himself and in the present effects of past activities. Just as those who focus on the future (which does not exist) in worry do not change, so too those who expend their energies and concern upon the past (which does not exist) find that they are unable to make the required adjustments" (Jay E. Adams, *The Christian Counselor's Manual*, pp. 172-173, italics in original).

The Apostle Paul offered this example and advice to the believers at Philippi:

"Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Paul left his impressive-sounding Jewish pedigree behind. As Jesus said, "the Truth will make you free" (John 8:32); He has the power to set you completely free (8:36). The unhealthy doctrine and practice of false teachers and aberrant churches must be left behind. The healthy discipline of being in a well-balanced church family with worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship must be established and continued. It will be just what the doctor ordered! A caring body of true believers is also needed for support in the fearful times.

God is bigger than your fear, God is bigger than your afflictions, God is bigger than your hurt. He will see you through — His Word guarantees it:

"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are things I will do; I will not forsake them" (Isaiah 42:16).

—MKG

reach of many ordinary people and living standards have been gradually falling for years," the report stated.

Before the Kenya services, Hinn took publicity of his crusades to a new level. On several television broadcasts, he suggested that Jesus Christ would personally and physically appear at the Kenya meetings. However, such purported appearances apparently are not unheard of among Kenyans. The *Kenya Times* reported in its June 22, 1988, edition that about 6,000 worshipers at a Muslim village in Nairobi believed they saw Jesus Christ in broad daylight.

The newspaper described that a tall, white-robed, barefoot and bearded figure appeared at the Church of Bethlehem during a miracle prayer meeting conducted by spiritual healer Mary Sinaida Akatsa. The man believed to be Jesus left the meeting by car, but the driver later claimed he was instructed to stop the car at a bus terminal where the man got out "walked a few paces beside the road and simply vanished into thin air." The *Times* article also identified the person claiming to be Jesus Christ as the Lord Maitreya. New Age guru Benjamin Creme stated that "Maitreya's appearance was in keeping with the crowd's expectations, as Jesus Christ, hence his bearded face and biblical robes."

Despite Hinn's hype of the crusade in early May, media coverage of the event was sparse. The limited coverage by the secular media appears to be a strategy orchestrated by Hinn's ministry to control and filter crusade details. A reporter for the *Daily Nation News* told PFO that "there was minimal coverage as the local press were prevented from entering the crusade compounds."

A freelance news writer in the United States told PFO that while Hinn's organization permitted her to attend the Philadelphia Miracle Crusade (which was held a few weeks after the Kenya meetings), no cameras were allowed. The reporter was further instructed that she was forbidden to speak directly to anyone presented onstage as healed. Any details of those claiming to be healed were to come solely from Hinn's crusade representatives.

—MKG

## A HEAVYWEIGHT DIVORCE SETTLEMENT

Three-time heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield and his second wife, Janice, reached an out-of-court divorce settlement in March. The agreement, which ended the couple's 3½-year marriage and full year of divorce proceedings, precluded what could have been a very messy split, including the incarceration of Holyfield's pastor, the Rev. Creflo Dollar, for refusing to give a deposition in the case.

The couple first met in June 1994 at faith healer Benny Hinn's Philadelphia Miracle Crusade. Two months earlier, Holyfield had lost his championship belt and had retired from boxing after receiving what later was learned to be an erroneous medical diagnosis. Holyfield traveled from his home in Georgia to Hinn's meetings "to get closer to the Lord." He said that while there, he "got anointed and I got closer to the Lord and got healed as well."

While at the Philadelphia meetings, Holyfield agreed to foot the \$265,000 bill for Hinn's two-day crusade. As Hinn prayed for the then ex-boxing champion, he asked that God would "Give him a wife, because he's got five children that need a mother." Hinn then proclaimed that his future wife would be found among those attending the Friday morning service of the Philadelphia crusade. Attending that service was a Chicago-based physician and licensed minister, Janice Itson. Itson did volunteer work at Hinn's crusades. Holyfield met her there and soon afterward began calling her on the phone. The couple were married Oct. 4, 1996, in a private courtroom ceremony in Atlanta.

Apparently the marriage had as many twists and turns as the divorce case itself. While the union produced one child, Elijah Jedidiah Holyfield, two other children were born out of wedlock to Holyfield during his brief marriage to Janice. Holyfield has a history of marital infidelity. Of the nine children Holyfield has fathered, three were born to his first wife Paulette, one to second wife Janice, and the five other children were born out of wedlock. His first child with Paulette was born a year before their marriage in 1985.

Before the births of Holyfield's two children in late 1997, he told his wife of his infidelity, suggesting they divorce quietly. She declined. Ultimately, Holyfield filed for divorce in March 1999, citing irreconcilable differences. Charges and countercharges mounted.

According to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Holyfield claimed "that a prenuptial agreement existed, an allegation denied by Janice Holyfield." The issue was never settled, the newspaper reported. In May 1999, Mrs. Holyfield sought that the divorce case be dismissed claiming that she and her husband had marital relations after he had filed for divorce, thereby constituting a reconciliation. Holyfield "said he couldn't remember when they had sex," the newspaper further reported. Fayette County Superior Court Judge Ben Miller, who presided over the divorce, denied Mrs. Holyfield's request, saying that Holyfield would only re-file his petition for divorce.

Holyfield also sought a paternity test on Elijah, the couple's child. John Mayoue, lawyer for Mrs. Holyfield, said he was "appalled" at the boxer's request given his "track record of fidelity." The *Journal-Constitution* reported that, "The tests showed the boxer was the father."

The divorce proceedings caught even more of the news media's attention when Mayoue alleged that Holyfield gave \$7 million to his pastor, the Rev. Creflo Dollar and his World Changers Ministries. *Charisma* magazine

quoted the Atlanta newspaper as stating, "The boxer reportedly gave more than half the sum to the church in the 60 days before his filing for divorce in March 1999." Mrs. Holyfield's attorneys wanted Dollar to account for the millions of dollars Holyfield gave to the church and to Dollar personally.

Dollar promised he would go to jail before he would respond to questions in a court deposition. He cited constitutional provisions for the separation of church and state, pastor-parishioner privilege, and his personal opposition to divorce as the reasons for his refusal. Judge Miller found the minister in contempt of court. Dollar appealed the judge's ruling. On March 9, the Georgia Supreme Court dismissed Dollar's appeals. However, the oral agreement between the Holyfields the following day put to rest the possibility of arresting Dollar.

Critics of the 38-year-old "prosperity gospel" preacher label him "Cash-Flow Dollar." His World Changers Ministry's property holdings include the World Changers Dome (built in 1996 at a cost of \$6.5 million), two homes (one valued at \$1 million, the other at \$1.25 million) and a pair of private jets (a Gulfstream Jet valued at \$5.3 million and a Gates LearJet valued at nearly \$1 million). According to a report in the *Christian News*, "Members are required to tithe and show church leaders their personal financial information."

Dollar's connection to the Holyfield divorce caused other unfavorable information to be published about the minister. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* further reported that last December, "100 Fulton County police officers were admonished for accepting \$1,000 apiece from Dollar." According to the newspaper, "Dollar sent the money to recognize the officers' service to the community. But the gesture was criticized because it came a month after two traffic tickets Dollar had received were downgraded to warnings."

Mrs. Holyfield's attorney said during the announcement of the initial oral settlement last March, "The parties have resolved the issues between them, and we fully expect to take a final settlement to Judge Miller within the next week or so." Mayoue further said the terms of the Holyfield settlement will remain confidential.

—MKG

## EVANGELIST HILL LEAVES BROWNSVILLE REVIVAL

In March, Evangelist Stephen Hill announced to the congregation of the Brownsville Assembly of God that he will be leaving their church's "revival." The purported revival is said to have first begun on Father's Day, June 1995, when Hill was a guest evangelist at the Pensacola, Fla.-based church. Brownsville leaders, following the announcement, stated that the revival meetings will continue despite Hill's absence, *Charisma* magazine reported in its May issue.