

that while he is “not a follower or supporter of Joyce,” “Jesus is coming back soon for his bride, hopefully soon but if not, I do hope there are teachers like Joyce Meyer still teaching the Word, even some of her life experiences, *because in my spirit, I really sense that she is called of God...*” (emphasis added).

Here, too, this brother has — whether knowingly or unknowingly — weakened the Word of God in his life. He is on mystical and dangerous ground when he wrote that “in my spirit, I sense that she is called of God.” He has allowed his senses and emotions to do something that the Word of God is to do. The Bible is the *only standard* by which we are to measure all teachers and their teachings, not our senses or emotions.

So then what’s an apologist to do? Well, the answer is obvious: Just keep on presenting the facts and remembering that unchecked doctrine can and does affect the lives of those following such teachers. And by God’s grace some will listen and consider the facts.

A lady from Ohio proves this beyond question. She first wrote to PFO to protest against our reports on Benny Hinn. She accused us of “jealousy” and labeled our writing as “disgusting.” We were told by her that we need to “get born-again.” I responded to her, reiterated the information in our articles, and asked her to please consider the Scriptural instruction and response for false teachers and false prophets (such as Romans 16:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Titus 1:9 and Jude 3).

This she did, and her harsh rebukes were immediately replaced by a kindhearted and positive attitude. “I must ask you to forgive me, I’m sorry, there are things I wrote that I shouldn’t have,” she said in a subsequent letter. And later wrote that, “After corresponding with you, I have been watching him [Benny Hinn] closer and as hard as it is for me to say, I don’t like some of the things I see.” She then acknowledged that she no longer sees PFO as “intent on getting at Benny Hinn, but honestly ... trying to protect the ‘body of Christ.’”

In one of her letters (which arrived just before this editorial was written), she asked me to “Please pray for me that I will grow in wisdom, knowledge and discernment.” What a humbling petition from a sister in Christ! Her prayer requests are some of the noblest for which a Christian can petition God. In an arena where the devotees of televangelists are prompted to seek from God more money, better jobs, bigger homes, newer cars and other grandiose “blessings,” it’s exhilarating to hear someone search for the things that matter. I know God will honor her requests as she considers her conduct, character and spiritual growth more important than materialism.

Her prayer, too, is much more in line with the instruction of God’s Word: “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up

against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Despite the accusations that we are “jealous,” “envious” or “just plain old stupid” by some, my colleagues and I will continue to hold fast and defend the faith. We will continue to evaluate and speak out against those who promote aberrant and heretical teachings. And by God’s grace there will be those who will be open to, ascertain, and become unconfused by the facts.

—MKG

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## NEWS UPDATES

(continued from page 3)

Julius R. Mantey, Dr. Robert Morey and Dr. Jerry Bergman were among the featured speakers. During the final years of his life, Dr. Mantey, a noted authority and professor of New Testament Greek, became a renowned and outspoken critic of the Jehovah’s Witnesses and their translation of the New Testament. The Watchtower had misrepresented Dr. Mantey’s writings on Greek grammar in its effort to undermine the deity of Christ.

During the recently held convention, a plaque commemorating the milestone event was presented to Joan on behalf of fellow directors of PFO and the numerous lives that have been impacted by her diligence in hosting the annual gathering.

The crowning event of the 20th convention was a live taping of a six-program series on Jehovah’s Witnesses by *The John Ankerberg Show*. The guests for Ankerberg’s shows included Joan Cetnar, Lorri MacGregor, Duane Magnani and David Reed, all former Jehovah’s Witnesses.

—MKG

## HOLYFIELD’S GREATEST OPPONENT NOT IN THE BOXING RING

During the past decade, Evander Holyfield has been a celebrated star in professional boxing arenas. His name and achievements will be indelibly recorded in boxing history books. Following his appearance at a Benny Hinn Miracle Crusade in Philadelphia, the three-time heavyweight champion’s prominence among Christians escalated as well. At the June 1994 crusade, Hinn claimed God was healing Holyfield’s heart of an alleged condition that forced him into early retirement. After his solidarity with the faith healer, Holyfield began to appear on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, and at

another of Hinn's crusades, and at least one charismatic conference.

On TBN's *Praise The Lord* show, Holyfield professed to be a devout Christian. With the help of Benny Hinn, Paul Crouch and others, Holyfield found himself ascending into Christian "superstar" status. He claimed his latest victories in the boxing ring were a result of the Lord's help and his second wife, Janice. Holyfield had met Janice at the Philadelphia crusade where Hinn prayed to God for a wife for the boxing star and a mother for his children. The faith healer "prophesied" that his wife would come from among those attending the crusade. Janice, a medical doctor from Chicago, did volunteer work for Hinn. The two dated briefly and were married in October 1996.

However, particulars of Holyfield's past and recent revelations of his current lifestyle should cause Christians to restrain from making him a superstar or role model. Holyfield married his first wife, Paulette, in 1985, a year after the birth of their first child. The couple broke up in 1991 with "infidelity" being named as a factor in the divorce.

Faithfulness to his present wife Janice has not risen significantly either. According to a report in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, prior to the birth of his first child with Janice, Holyfield confirmed "that he has fathered two children out of wedlock in the past year with previous girlfriends." In all, the boxing champ has nine children: one with his wife, Janice; three with his first wife, Paulette; and five others born out of wedlock to

four other women. In October, a paternity suit between Holyfield and Tamie Dewan Evans "was filed, settled and sealed all in one day in Fayette County [Ga.] Superior Court."

The Atlanta newspaper also stated that Holyfield and Janice "have been in and out of counseling" since their marriage began. *People* magazine portrayed to its readers a veneer of marital bliss of the couple: "A fervent born-again Christian, Holyfield can see God's fingerprints on every part of his life, especially his marriage to Janice ... What they are sure of is their marriage. 'I always thought I wouldn't want to be married again until after I stopped boxing,' says Holyfield. 'But the way God wanted it turned out right.'" The *Journal-Constitution* also reported that Holyfield "told Janice of his infidelity and the impending births and suggested they get divorced 'quietly' to spare her any humiliation." She declined and the couple has continued to attend counseling. She was against Holyfield speaking publicly on his recent infidelities and issued a statement through her husband's attorney: "Tell them Evander's wife has forgiven him, and that's all that should matter."

In a September interview, *Journal-Constitution* reporter Jeff Schultz asked Holyfield: "Where is your marital situation now?" Holyfield responded: "I'm not going to talk about that."

Holyfield himself was one of nine children born out of wedlock, the newspaper also reported.

—MKG

## PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD: IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.