



Books in Review

THE MANY FACES OF BENNY HINN

by The Door Magazine

180-minute video tape, \$29.95

Did you ever wish you could collect and compile all the major news media's investigative exposés on the antics of Benny Hinn? Well, now you can. The televangelist watchdog group, The Trinity Foundation, has organized three solid hours of documented, hard-hitting reports on the escapades of the controversial faith healer. It's all you ever wanted to know about Hinn and more.

The montage begins with the 1993 *Inside Edition* investigation of the finances and healings of the evangelist. The *Inside Edition* footage, the first study of Hinn by the national news media, still ranks as one of the best — if not the best — of showing Hinn at his worst. It features Hinn and his entourage trying to bully their way past *Inside Edition's* news crew at the Philadelphia airport and how the Hinn ministry's irresponsible disregard for documented healings caused them to broadcast a "fake" healing. But the *Inside Edition* piece is just the tip of the iceberg.

From there the video moves on to Hinn's 1993 *700 Club* appearance with Pat Robertson where he laments his former ways and teachings. As the video progresses into more recent reports, much of what Hinn bemoaned to Robertson and his audience is still evident in Hinn's life and ministry.

The collection also contains reports that would otherwise be hard or impossible to find. These include Pam Zekman's 1993 three-part report (WBBM-ABC Chicago), the 1998 *60 Minutes* (Australia) segment, and Richard Ray's 1999 two-part report (KDFW-FOX Dallas-Fort Worth). Also included are local news items from various Orlando television stations that chronicle Hinn's problems at home. They reveal Hinn's misfortune when he hired a private investigator to look into his ministry's finances (and apparently found more than what Hinn bargained for) and the deaths of two of his key staff by heroin overdoses.

In all the reports, Hinn consistently groans with ignorance of the facts as to the out-of-control world he

has created around himself. The astute viewer of all this will ask, "How can someone who is so in tune with the Divine (i.e., receiving personal messages from Jesus), be so out of touch with his life and ministry?"

Interspersed throughout the reports is a selection of Hinn's most outrageous theological bloopers, including Adam was an astronaut, the Red Sea icecapades, the Holy Ghost machine gun and TBN to raise the dead. And, yes, no Benny Hinn video collection would be complete without his wife, Suzanne's "Holy Ghost enema" and "butt-kisser" statements. Those clips are there too.

The video not only will educate and entertain, but bring most viewers to heartbreak by the revelations of how this man's false and reckless teachings have devastated the lives of some followers.

—MKG

MAINTAINING THE DELICATE BALANCE IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

by Jay Adams

Timeless Texts, 115 pages, \$9.95

Cults and aberrational teachers constantly get people off balance, keep them off balance, and then thrive on this lack of balance in the lives of their devotees. Jay Adams rightly observes that "the history of the church could almost be written in terms of imbalance."

Maintaining the Delicate Balance in Christian Living is a helpful handbook showing that balanced thinking, balanced attitudes and balanced actions, which are Bible-based, are essential to Christian living and peace in the Christian life. Without these balances our life and nature is hopelessly "tilted toward sin."

Adams also reconciles some very difficult spots in Scripture. Some of the areas he covers and balances out are:

- Making balanced change,
- Making balanced judgments,
- Balancing predestination and responsibility,
- Balancing resistance and retreat,
- Balancing faith and works,

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argument. So, let me say without hesitation that my predictions did not come true. The events did not take place. ... So, at this point in the aftermath of the rollover, I look foolish. I was prepared for this. I thought it was better to risk my reputation or credibility in a life-saving effort than to tell people, 'yes, Y2K will cause problems,' and then refuse to define what degree of problems and what to prepare for."

Still, some may question the sincerity of North's wordy confession. Anybody who writes that much to apologize (over 4500 words) isn't really apologizing — especially when North, throughout, puts the blame onto others. As well, his confession falls short of Christian reconciliation in that he fails to ask forgiveness. His apology also concludes with an appeal for ministry donations to continue the work.

Moreover, his words of regret are posted, not on his ministry's web site (www.GaryNorth.com), but on the DiscoverTruth.com web site. (If it does appear on North's site, it is not readily available and is well hidden among a maze of documents.) North's ministry, on its web site, continues to publish and promote the same "doom and gloom reports" of Y2K devastation. As such, web surfers who log onto the site are completely unaware that any apology was issued.

—MKG

NEWS UPDATES

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bringing them closer to the TV set and as people are coming closer, I see loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen and people are getting raised as their hands are touching that screen," Hinn said. "The word will spread that if some dead person be put in front of this TV screen, they will be raised from the dead — and they will be by the thousands," Hinn promised the Crouches and the viewers of their *Praise the Lord* show.

Yet Hinn had much more to tell viewers of the world's largest network of religious stations. "TBN will no longer be just a television network, it will be an extension of heaven to earth. ... The Lord just said to me these words, ... 'TBN will not only be a Christian network, it will be an extension of heaven to the earth,'" he declared. Hinn went on to say, "So if you want to go to heaven, if you want to see heaven, if you want to taste heaven — turn on that channel because you will."

Once again Hinn's declarations put him more at home with the occult than a biblical setting. His concept that TBN is to become an open passage to a higher spiritual realm closely resembles an occult vortex known as a "Cone of Power," through which spiritual powers energize agents on earth.

Hinn also weakens his claim of divine revelation for the careful listener. "Now the Lord just told me — and I don't know whether this is true or not..." he said during the TBN broadcast.

—MKG

ENGLAND DENIES SCIENTOLOGY CHARITABLE STATUS

The foreign crusade of the Church of Scientology suffered yet another setback when it recently was "denied the tax benefits that go with gaining charitable status in England and Wales," according to a Religious News Service article. The December 9 ruling was one more defeat in Europe for the Los Angeles-based sect. Germany and several other European nations have opposed the church, claiming it is "more a business than a genuine religious movement," the report stated.

Similarly, the Charity Commission, which oversees and regulates charities in England and Wales, stated the controversial group did not meet the qualifications of a "public benefit" organization, which is a primary requirement in securing charitable status. However, the church was granted nonprofit tax status in Sweden.

The church responded to the Charity Commission's decision by saying they were "wrong on the law and wrong on the facts," according to the Associated Press. Scientology says it has 15,000 followers in England.

—MKG

BOOKS IN REVIEW

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- Balancing submission and authority,
- Balancing covering and counseling,
- Balancing sorrow and joy,
- Balancing the Law and the Gospel,
- Balancing the church and family, and much more.

Adams succeeds in his purpose: "It is my hope to observe the importance of proper balance in a number of specific areas, to point out some of the imbalances currently weakening the church, to describe the sorts of influences that tend to knock Christians off balance, and to suggest some of the ways in which to counter these. So far as I can tell, there has been a lack of interest in this subject that, consequently, has resulted in great confusion" (page viii).

This book is recommended, knowing it will help to keep you on track and balanced.

—GRF