

yielded neither the barrels nor the remains. Waters has not been formally charged with murder in connection with the disappearances.

Waters, a murder convict, is on probation for embezzling over \$50,000 from O'Hair's atheist organizations for which he worked in 1993 and 1994. The IRS also named Danny Fry in the conspiracy. Fry's dismembered body was found in Texas two days after the O'Hair family's disappearance.

A third man, Gary Karr, a former cellmate of Waters, who is currently in a Detroit prison, is said to have confessed to his participation in the murders of O'Hair and her family. However, a news article in the *Dallas Observer* disputes that claim. "Karr's lawyer attacked this and other FBI statements about Karr implicating himself in four Texas homicides as exaggerations of the record," the Dallas newspaper reported. A fourth person also was named, but his suspected involvement in the murders was not detailed.

Waters, in an affidavit, also challenges the conclusions of the government authorities. "One fact that seems to have gotten lost in all this is that the O'Hairs have been sighted dozens of times since 1995. Considering the number of sightings involved and the odds against them all being cases of mistaken identity, I think it is more likely that the O'Hairs are alive and well and enjoying this immensely," Waters wrote in his declaration.

—MKG

## TBN DENIED MIAMI TV STATION LICENSE

A ruling last spring by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was a moral setback for Paul Crouch and his Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). According to an Evangelical News report, "the FCC found that TBN attempted to circumvent federal limits on TV station ownership by creating a sham minority-controlled company to hold the license."

The debate concerning WHFT, Channel 45, in Miami, Fla., had been raging for a number of years. In August 1994, a legal document before the FCC charged that, "Trinity Broadcasting Network abused the Commission's processes by using NMTV [National Minority Television, Inc.] as a vehicle to claim unwarranted minority and diversification preferences. The record clearly established that Trinity Broadcasting Network created NMTV for the purposes of seeking an anticipated low power minority preference as part of a plan for a network of stations designed to further Trinity Broadcasting Network's religious mission."

In the judgment, handed down April 15, the FCC determined that "TBN founder Paul Crouch was principally to blame for the creation of National Minority

Television as part of a plan to control more full-power stations than he was allowed under federal law."

Crouch is the president of TBN, which he founded in Southern California in 1973. It has grown to become the largest religious broadcaster with a worldwide network of more than 800 broadcast and cable outlets.

The FCC ruling will not affect any of the other stations under the ownership of TBN. An attorney for the religious broadcaster said that TBN "would continue to litigate and to vindicate itself, and eventually win the renewal of its Miami station."

—MKG

## NO NEAR MISS FOR NOSTRADAMUS

The 16th century prophet, Michel de Nostredame, more commonly known as Nostradamus, has now unquestionably confirmed what critics have known for a long time: His claimed calling as a visionary of future events was not ordained of God. Yet there are some Christian doomsday-watchers, like Jack Van Impe, who give credence to this false prophet.

Most of the purported success of Nostradamus' predictions lies in the mind of the interpreter, as his revelations were written in ambiguous four-line verse forms known as quatrains. With his broad and sweeping statements, devoid of specifics, it is easy for the Nostradamus enthusiast to assign any number of successful meanings to his prophecies. This can be clearly seen in the way one of his predictions is now asserted to have foretold the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers. Prior to the murders of John and Robert Kennedy in the 1960s, this same exact prophecy was said to be a fulfillment of World War II events, including the "taking over of Czechoslovakia by [Adolph] Hitler."

Other of his predictions, said to be telling of coming events, are circumvented by being pushed further into the future when they do not come to pass as expected. Nearly all of Nostradamus' prophecies contain no specific month and date — and those with a timeframe are done so with astrological configurations. When the oracle does not come to fruition, it can be pushed to the next such astrological configuration, which may be centuries into the future.

However, July 1999 was for Nostradamus (and his modern-day devotees) a month and year with no equal. In a prediction known as Quatrain X:72, the prophet makes his only prediction that includes an exact date. The passage reads: "In the year 1999, and seven months, From the skies shall come an alarmingly powerful king, To raise again the great King of the Jacquerie, Before and after, Mars shall reign at will."

The quatrain was, in recent years, one of his most widely discussed prophecies and generated extensive speculation and enthusiasm among his followers. One interpreter defined the revelation as: "In this gloomy prediction, Nostradamus seems to foresee the end of the world at the Millennium, the year 2000." Another claims that, "A tremendous world revolution is foretold to take place in the year 1999, ... Nostradamus shows his mystic knowledge of the great secret of the book of revelations and solves for us the identify of the 'Beast of the Apocalypse' and the time of his arrival which John of Patmos (Rev. XIII:18) records."

Despite variation in the exact details of what was to occur as provided by his interpreter, one element was firm — the cataclysmic events would take place in July 1999. One writer even added to the mystique by noting that when one inverts the last three digits of the year (1999) it is "the number of the beast" (666) found in Revelation (13:18).

As is now known, July 1999 came and passed without the fulfillment of Nostradamus' prophecy. What did come to pass, however, was *once again* confirmation that his gift of prophecy was not from the Lord. "If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:22). July was not the crowning moment for Nostradamus, but yet another reason for Christians to avoid him and his prophecies and get back to the safe and sure Word of God.

—MKG

## BOOKS IN REVIEW

(continued from page 24)

The three main sections of the book are: The Contemporary World of Witchcraft, The Biblical View of Contemporary Witchcraft and Philosophical Critiques of Witchcraft.

There is an index for persons, a subject index and a Scripture index, which make the book even more valuable. Hawkins has included helpful sections in the book on the motives for witchcraft and how the witches' world is set up — with its practices, calender and accoutrements.

This book is a well-documented "who's who" of contemporary paganism — an up-to-date handbook on witchcraft. Given the modern revival of interest in Wicca and attempts to make it respectable, this book is a must for anyone wanting a handle on our times. It could serve as an inoculation for our churches and young people.

This book is scholarly but not technical. It will satisfy the student who wants insights into the Hebrew and Greek text but is written in such a way as to be easily grasped by the average reader.

We are grateful for Craig Hawkins, for his research and for his help in equipping the Church with tools and weapons for the contemporary battle. We need to see the gaping holes in the witchcraft worldview. This book helps us do that very thing.

—GRF

### 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.