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Exclusive Psalmody

A Response to "The Singing Of Psalms In The Worship Of God"

by Edgar L. Havaich

Some people teach that believers must sing only the 150 canonical Psalms in public worship. While there is nothing wrong with a person preferring to sing only these Psalms, there is something wrong with teaching that singing anything else displeases God.

Worship is very important to every believer. All Christians should want to praise God in a way that will please Him. If the claims of exclusive psalmody were true, then believers would need to take notice and follow them. But its claims are false and believers need to expose the error and save others the confusion.

An Illustration

If a preacher were to speak in a worship service using words and expressions that were scripturally correct but not found verbatim in the 66 canonical books of the Bible, no one would question his intentions or challenge his application. For example, a pastor could open a service by speaking the words of this famous hymn — "Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things; Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of Kings" — and no reasonable believer would find fault.



only proper to worship God the way He has commanded us to. He cites

Yet if the pastor sang those same words, the exclusive psalmodist would call them unfit for use in worship, because they were not inspired but the products of human imagination.

A major proponent of "exclusive psalmody" is G.I. Williamson, author of the booklet, **The Singing of Psalms in the Worship of God**.

On page 1, Williams writes that it is

Deuteronomy 12:32, which says: "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it; thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." Christians need to look at the Bible and see what, if anything, God commands concerning worship. Elsewhere, he cites James 5:13, Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19 to show that believers are to sing the Psalms. Then on page 18 he adds: "No one has yet found a single scripture text to prove that God commands His Church to sing other than the psalms of the Bible in worship."

On page 13, he writes, "The Apostle carefully states that we are to sing only spiritual songs" but does not cite any passage. Then on page 17 he writes that the first uninspired — non-canon-

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EDITORIALS

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM I. CETNAR

On Nov. 9, 1991, William I. Cetnar, a Personal Freedom Outreach director, was called home to be with the Lord. He died of heart failure at age 62. Cetnar became a PFO director in 1984. He and his wife, Joan, managed PFO's Pennsylvania office. Cetnar was among the nation's most widely known former Jehovah's Witnesses involved in Christian counter-cult ministry.

Before becoming a Christian and cult ministry worker, Cetnar rose to a high level in the Watchtower Society. He was raised in a family of Jehovah's Witnesses. During 22 years of Watchtower activity, Cetnar did full-time pioneer service in California, worked for 8-1/2 years at the Society's Bethel headquarters in Brooklyn, N.Y., was on Bethel's speaking staff, answered mailed-in Bible questions from one-third of the United States and wrote and produced a 30-minute program for the Watchtower-owned radio station WBBR. He gave his last sermon as a Jehovah's Witness before a quarter million Watchtower adherents.

In December 1962, Cetnar was disfellowshipped from the Watchtower for advising a Jehovah's Witness couple to let their doctor determine if their granddaughter needed a blood transfusion. Two years later, Cetnar received Christ as Savior and was baptized in the Pacific Ocean.

In addition to his active counter-cult ministry work, Cetnar was a stockbroker since 1968. He worked for Stein Abbott, Inc. at the time of his death.

Cetnar is survived by his wife, Joan. Also surviving are four children: daughter, Lorna; and three sons, Lyle, Robin and Philip.

For his memorial service, fellow PFO directors Edgar L. Havaich and M. Kurt Goedelman prepared some comments on Cetnar's impact on the field of cult evangelism:

"Where and how does one begin to pay tribute to one who has touched so many lives for Christ as Bill Cetnar? Few Christians will ever have the impact of touching the lives of Jehovah's Witnesses lost in the quagmire of Watchtower bondage and false doctrine as did Bill, through and with the loving support of his wife, Joan.

The love and passion in Bill's life was to share the gospel with anyone who would listen to his simple message. This simple message was that Jesus is Yahweh come in the flesh to save sinners. However, his efforts to share this message were not always well-received. Nonetheless, Bill's concern was not what you thought of him, but what you thought of Jesus Christ.

A clear example that comes to mind was his dialogue several years ago with a recently disfellowshipped Jehovah's Witness. Bill's question to this man was one that haunted and irritated him, but nonetheless was one that must be addressed by anyone who desires to embrace the Christian faith. Bill's inquiry was, 'Do you know who Jesus is?' The person to whom Bill addressed the question was Paul Blizard. Paul related, 'This made me mad.' Shortly thereafter Paul came to know who Jesus is, and confessed him as Lord. Today Paul's commitment to Christ compels him to challenge both active and former Jehovah's Witnesses with the same question which Bill provoked him with and he now receives similar responses of irritation.

Bill's desire to share the Lord was always unselfish and without qualification, and can be demonstrated in his ministering to the pastor of a small storefront church hundreds of miles from his home. The pastor desired to have his congregation inoculated to the dangers of the cults, and called Bill to see if he could come to his church to speak, stipulating that the church was small. His response was that he would be there. No matter how big or small the congregation, whether viewed by thousands as was the case with his appearances on **The John Ankerberg Show**, or speaking to a handful of people across town or across the world, Bill was a willing servant of the Lord. He always joyfully rose to the occasion to proclaim to others the message which had set him free.

The many efforts Bill will be remembered for include his appearances on national television and radio, magazine articles, widely utilized books and cassette tapes, particularly 'Dialogue on the Doorstep,' his mock dialogue with Walter Martin. However, surely the greatest fruit of his ministry is the founding and ongoing Witnesses Now for Jesus Convention. These annual conferences continue to be a tremendous harvest field for reaching those ensnared in the Jehovah's Witness cult. In addition, they have been a tremendous source of support for families who have loved ones ensnared in the web of Watchtower deception. Further, these conferences have been a key factor in allowing several major counter-cult ministries to network together for the cause of Christ. They have also served in the establishing, aiding and supporting of new outreaches to the cults. The impact and full extent of these annual conventions will never be completely realized this side of eternity. Truly the scope of Bill's ministry reached and touched thousands of lives not only during the few days of the annual conventions, but also by way of

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With Deep Appreciation...

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many measures of support received in Bill's memory. The cards, flowers and gifts were a wonderful outpouring of love to myself and my family and have been a comfort to us during this transitional time.

Our prayer is that the ministry and message that were so much a part of Bill's life will continue to be shared by all those whose lives he touched. As his family, we would be grateful for your continued support in prayer.

In His Service,
Joan Cetnar and Family

WAY CAMPUS IN EMPORIA SOLD

A 41-acre site in Emporia, Kan., once the home of The Way International's college, has been sold to a Topeka real-estate developer.

Don Wierwille, The Way's vice president and son of founder Victor Paul Wierwille, arranged for several auctions of personal property from the campus last October.

While no dollar amount for the sale was given, it was reported that The Way received much less than the appraised value of the campus. A 1990 report indicated the appraised value at \$8 million.

Wierwille said he was satisfied with the deal. "I'm not in this to make money. I never have been. My main priority has always been to sell the property..."

Plans for the site include a restaurant, houses and a park. Three buildings in the center of the campus probably will remain. The Emporia American Legion will buy the campus' recreation center.

The Way had been looking for a buyer for the campus since 1989, when it closed the campus because of declining enrollment. The Way founded the college in 1974. It had a peak enrollment of 578 during the 1980-81 school year.

—AMG

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY OUSTS UNITED PENTECOSTALS

Three students at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., have been expelled from the school for refusing to stop promulgating the beliefs of the United Pentecostal Church, according to a Religious News Service report.

Several Liberty students had been attending an area United Pentecostal Church, which holds four weekly services. According to the RNS report, a Liberty spokesman said students would be "free to attend those services if they also attended the three required campus chapel services on Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday evening."

However, the majority of United Pentecostals enrolled at Liberty have agreed to stop attending the church and have been allowed to remain at the University. The three ousted students refused to stop attending worship at the local United Pentecostal Church in addition to rejecting the university's demand to discontinue promoting UPC doctrines. The three were dismissed Sept. 20.

Chuck Grooms, one of the three, acknowledged that he had told other classmates that they could possibly go to hell if they were not baptized in the United Pentecostal Church.

During the Sept. 11 chapel service at the university, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, Liberty University's founder, denounced the United Pentecostal Church and its doctrines as heresy. In a subsequent written statement, Falwell said the university has a responsibility to parents and pastors to assure that Liberty students "do not become victims of cultic or heretical influence." He said UPC doctrine "is not only incompatible with mainstream Pentecostal theology, but, in fact, is incompatible with all traditional Protestant and Catholic theology."

The United Pentecostal Church differs from orthodox Christianity in its denial of the doctrine of the Trinity. The UPC teaches that the Godhead consists of three "offices" but only one person. This theology has become known as "Jesus Only," modalism or Sabellianism. The United Pentecostals also baptize members only in the name of Jesus, rather than in the Trinitarian formula of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Nathaniel Urshan, UPC general superintendent, said he was "shocked" by Falwell's remarks. "If people choose to follow their convictions and find absolute truth in the Scriptures, I'm a little amazed that our friend Jerry Falwell would take such a strong position and call us heretics," Urshan said.

The sect is based in Hazelwood, Mo. and claims 2 million members worldwide.

—MKG

ALAMO ACQUITTED OF CHARGES

Tony Alamo, founder of the Alamo Christian Foundation, has been acquitted of charges that he threatened to kidnap and murder a federal judge. Alamo was found innocent of the indictments by a U.S. District Court last Sept. 12. He had been arrested on a fugitive warrant in South Tampa, Fla., last July. He had been accused of threatening U.S. District Judge Morris Arnold.

Arnold had presided over a civil trial last February. The judge ordered Alamo to pay \$1.6 million to former supporters for labor violations and had seized Alamo's religious compound in rural Arkansas. The nationwide search for Alamo escalated following a report in the Feb. 21, 1991, edition of the **Southwest Times Record**, a Fort Smith newspaper, which quoted Alamo as threatening the judge.

While prosecutors expressed disappointment in the verdict, Alamo is still being held in a Fort Smith, Ark., jail on a detainer filed by the State of California. The California warrant charges Alamo with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution resulting from a child-abuse charge. Alamo has been accused of directing four followers to beat an 11-year-old boy 134 times with a wooden paddle.

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DEAD AIR: *Fantasy or Fact?*

The Illogic of the Satanic Slaughter Conspiracy

by G. Richard Fisher

Bob Larson's novel **Dead Air**, whose story line involves a satanic cult that practices child rape, torture and sacrifice, and **Cornerstone** magazine's criticism of it have whipped up a controversy in some Christian circles. The book, published by Thomas Nelson, contains explicit descriptions of ritual torture and has disgusted many. It has even been called "Christian porn."

Worse than that could be the book's premise that there is a nationwide network of satanists sacrificing numerous children and Larson's claim that the book is based on eyewitness and survivor accounts.

America's secular media, in its search for ever-more sensational stories to report, has been swift in its promotion of such activity. However, one would hope that the Christian media would insist on giving balanced and sensible accounts. Sadly, even some of the so-called Christian media have jumped on the hype bandwagon.

The theory that there is an expansive network of ritual child-abusers has existed for a number of years. Those who promote it do not agree on its extent. In a paper called **Save Your Child's Life**, Lyndon LaRouche's Schiller Institute says 1,800,000 babies in the U.S. have been sacrificed by worshipers of Satan. On **The 700 Club**, evangelical comedian and former Satan worshiper Mike Warnke once suggested that 2,000,000 children are kidnapped and murdered every year.

Rebecca Brown, self-proclaimed but discredited "expert" on the occult says, "At a police conference in February 1986 in Las Vegas, it was estimated that there were approximately 40,000-60,000 ritual homicides (human sacri-

fices) in the U.S. in the previous year. I consider that estimate to be extremely conservative" (**Becoming a Vessel of Honor**, pg. 238).

Retired Captain Dale Griffis, a 26-

year veteran of the Tiffin, Oh. police department, along with Larry Jones, a Boise, Id. police officer and president of the Cult Crime Impact Network, claim 50,000 sacrifices a year. Local newspapers such as the **Buffalo** (continues on page 7)

An Open Letter to Thomas Nelson Publishers

December 4, 1991

Thomas Nelson Publishers
P.O. Box 141000
Nashville, TN 37214

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of myself and many other Christian leaders who are shocked that Thomas Nelson Publishers has published a book such as Bob Larson's **Dead Air**. I will not take the time to detail the contents that are disgusting and offensive. I am sure that you are well aware of them. When such graphic practices described in Larson's book are published by "reputable" houses, how are Christian leaders expected to respond? Do you believe that this kind of material will advance the Gospel? Are you riding the tide of sensationalism for profit? Have you fallen into the trap that says sales goals and substantial profits supersede Christian ethics?

I am not ignorant of hideous practices in the world of the occult. As someone who belonged to a cult for 28 years I can relate firsthand to spiritual bondage. Personal testimony, tastefully written, can edify, inform and encourage Christians. Fiction can inform and entertain. **Dead Air** is neither personal verified testimony, nor "Christian" fiction that entertains or informs. It is the kind of trash I would expect from Chick Publications.

I am a director of Personal Freedom Outreach, an internationally recognized and respected counter-cult ministry, and am on the executive board of one of the largest state associations in the Southern Baptist Convention. I plan to help organize a boycott of all Thomas Nelson publications until its publication policies change.

If Christian leaders pressure secular media to produce programs and material that are tasteful and moral, then we also must hold each other accountable. Your response will dictate our actions. A committee is already in place to advance our message of boycott to thousands of Christian organizations and churches. I await your reply.

Sincerely,
Paul Blizard

The Use of Metal in The Book of Mormon

by John R. Farkas

Books considered scripture should be judged on, among other things, their historical factual content. If a canonized book, such as the Latter-day Saints' Book of Mormon, can be shown to be factually incorrect, then its theological authority also can be questioned.

For example, **The Book of Mormon** says that a complex metal technology existed in the New World prior to 421 A.D. If it can be shown this technology did not exist at the time or place claimed, then **The Book of Mormon** is a suspect document.

According to Mormon authorities, **The Book of Mormon** covers two distinct periods: The Nephite-Lamanite period (ca. 600 B.C. to ca. 421 A.D.) and the Jaredite period (2247 B.C. to 600 B.C.).

People in **The Book of Mormon** are described as having complex metal technology that included mining, smelting, metal working and manufacturing involving gold, silver, copper, brass, iron, steel, and "all manner of metals." The references for this are as follows:

Period 1:

3 II Nephi 5:15 - (588 to 570 B.C.) Nephi teaches his people to work "...iron and of copper and of brass and of steel and of gold and of silver and of precious ores, which were in great abundance."

3 Jacob 2:12 - (544 to 421 B.C.) "...you have begun to search for gold, and for silver, and for all manner of precious ores, in the which this land, ...doth abound most plentifully."

3 Jarom 1:8 - (ca. 399 B.C.) "...exceedingly rich in gold and precious things, ...and also in iron and copper and brass and steel, making all manner of tools of every kind to till the ground, and weapons of war ...yea, the sharp pointed arrow, and the quiver, and the dart and the javelin, and all preparations for war."

3 Mosiah 8:9,10 - (ca. 121 B.C.) "...brought twenty-four plates which are filled with engravings, and they are of pure gold. And behold, also, they have brought breastplates, which are large, and they are of brass and of copper, and are perfectly sound."

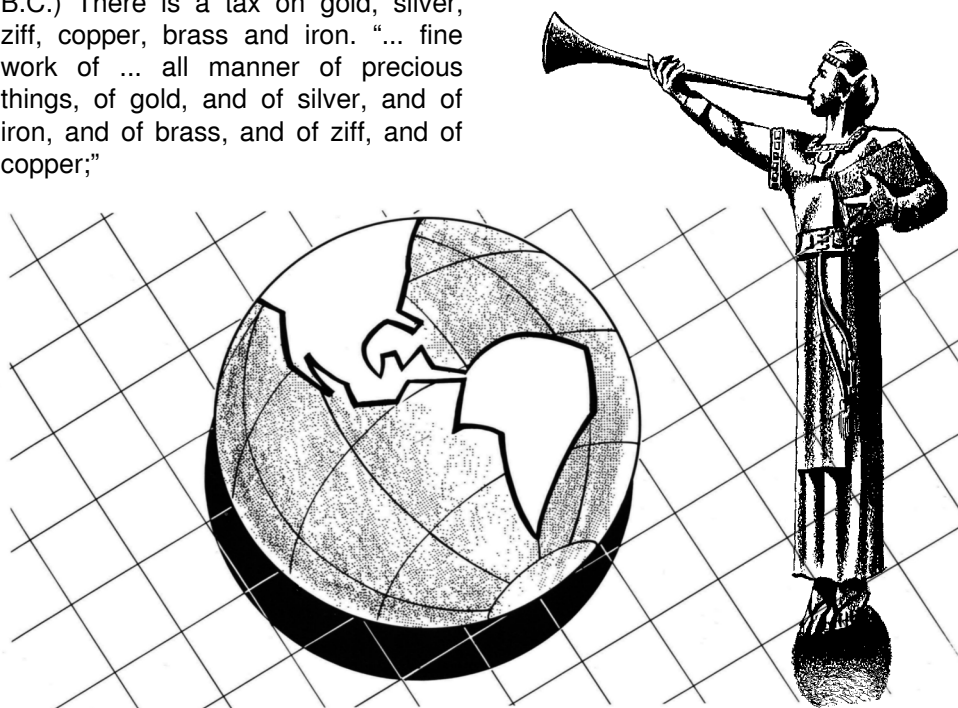
3 Mosiah 11:3,8,10 - (160 to 150 B.C.) There is a tax on gold, silver, ziff, copper, brass and iron. "... fine work of ... all manner of precious things, of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of brass, and of ziff, and of copper;"

"And he also caused that his workmen should work all manner of fine work within the walls of the temple, of fine wood, and of copper and of brass."

3 Helaman 6:9,11 - (about 29 B.C.) "And it came to pass that they became exceedingly rich, both the Lamanites and the Nephites; and they did have an exceeding plenty of gold, and of silver, and of all manner of precious metals, both in the land south and in the land north."

"And behold, there was all manner of gold in both these lands, and of silver, and of precious ore of every kind; and there were also curious workman, who did refine it; and thus they did become rich."

(continues on next page)



Period 2:

3 Ether 7:9; 10:23 - (before 600 B.C.) "Wherefore, he came to the hill Ephraim, and he did molten out of the hill, and made swords out of steel for those whom he had drawn away with him;"

"And they did work all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth, wherefore, they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of copper. And they did work all manner of fine work."

Judging from those passages, the New World characters in **The Book of Mormon** were quite the metal workers. But what do non-Mormon experts in the field say about such technology in the Americas during that era?

Keep in mind that many Mormon experts support the notion that the great Mayan civilization of Central America is actually the one described in **The Book of Mormon**.

Summarized below is what many authors have said about New World metal technology. The time frames either were given by the author cited or by this writer, using the standard nomenclature of Mesoamerican archaeologists.

New World Metals

3 **Cenote of Sacrifice — Maya Treasures from the Sacred Well at Chichen Itza**, edited by C.C. Coggin, and O.C. Shane III; University of Texas Press, Austin, 1984. Chichen Itza covers the period of about 700 A.D. to 1500 A.D. The only metals found are gold and copper. No iron/steel was found.

3 **Indians of Middle America**, by R.B. Taylor; Lifeway Books, 1989. On pages 105-6 and 266: only gold-copper, copper-lead, silver-copper alloys; gilded copper, copper, and gold (time period not given); but note that iron/steel is not present.

3 **Prehistoric Man in the New World**, editors J.D. Jennings and E.

Norbeck, 1964. Pages 233-4, 317-8, 374, 501-2, 519, — in the northern U.S. only the "Old Copper Culture" (3000-1000 B.C.) had metal (copper); there was no metallurgy before the Toltec period (roughly 1200 A.D.) in the north Mesoamerica area; the early post classic period (1200 A.D. and on) only had gold, copper and silver; there was an absence of metallurgy in Mesoamerica at an early period and no iron at any time, and there was no use of the wheel; metal use was almost exclusively decorative.

3 **A Forest of Kings**, by L. Schele and D. Freidel; William Morrow & Co. Inc., 1990. Pages 90, 96 — the Maya were a Stone Age people (no metal manufacturing) until several centuries before the conquest, no cargo animals, no wheel.

3 **The Maya World**, by E.P. Benson; Thomas Y. Crowell Co. Publisher; 1967. Pages 29, 90, 138-9, another invention missing in classic Mesoamerica was metalworking, — Metal not worked until about 1000 A.D. The great classic Maya civilization was a Stone Age culture, metal used chiefly for ornaments.

3 **Pre-Columbian Metallurgy of South America**, Editor E.P. Benson and M.D. Coe, 1979; *Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections*. There is no mention of iron/steel in the period before 421 A.D. In most areas of South America there was no metallurgy of any kind until after this period; there was only gold, copper, silver manufacturing in the Peru area starting 200 A.D.; all metal working in Mesoamerica area is late, roughly 1000 A.D.

3 **The First Americans** by G.H.S. Bushnell; McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1968. There is no mention of iron/steel in the period before 421 A.D.

3 **Ancient Peoples and Places — MEXICO**, by Michael D. Coe; Frederick A. Praeger Publishers; 1962. Pages 103, 132, 150, 151, metal was unknown until after 900 A.D.; no iron/steel mentioned.

3 **MAYA — Treasures of an Ancient Civilization**, General Editors: C. Gal-

lenkamp and R.E. Johnson; Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Publishers, 1985. Only gold and copper items shown, no other metals are mentioned.

Note that while the above references run from 1962 to 1990, the basic message is unchanged from the older to the newer publications. There was no iron/steel metallurgy in the New World prior to Columbus. Metallurgy of any kind only existed in isolated pockets prior to 421 A.D., and there was **none** in Central America. The great Mayan civilization prior to 421 A.D. had no metallurgy of any kind.

The Book Of Mormon Most Correct Of Any Book?

This presents a problem to people who consider **The Book of Mormon** to be scripture. Joseph Smith, founder, first Prophet and President of the Mormon Church and "translator" of **The Book of Mormon**, called it "...the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion..." (**Mormon Doctrine**, by Mormon Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, pg. 99; **History of the Church** 4:461). The Mormon 8th "Article of Faith" does not consider the Bible to be reliable.

On minor matters of metallurgy, modern scholars do not consider the Bible to be totally accurate, either. For example, experts say that biblical references to "steel" in II Samuel 22:35, Job 20:24, Psalm 18:34, and Jeremiah 15:12 should be replaced with the word "bronze." The "New Revised Standard Version" of the Bible (1989) has done this. The difficulty was one of "translation," not archaeology or historicity.

In light of this how could I Nephi 4:9 and 16:18 correctly mention a "sword of steel" and a "bow of steel" that probably were made in what is present-day Israel?

Also, the many other claims of a complex metal technology in the New World are not supported by the evidence. Again we have one more proof that **The Book of Mormon** is man-made fiction. ❁

News and the **Richmond News Leader** carried the pair's claims in 1989.

Pat Pulling, founder of BADD (Both-ered About Dungeons and Dragons), presented in the Apr. 6, 1989 edition of the **Richmond News Leader** a number of 10,000 or more.

In "America's Best Kept Secret," an article appearing in Calvary Chapel of West Covina's **Passport Magazine** (special edition), author John Frat-tarola writes of a devil-worshipping conspiracy that is responsible for the deaths of 5,000 unidentifiable children whose bodies are found each year and for the deaths of another 2,000,000 missing children.

However, the National Child Safety Council, a branch of the U.S. Depart-ment of Justice, reports that only 67

child disappearances can be attributed to abduction by strangers. Of the 240,000 children reported missing each year, 120,000 run away and return within two weeks. Another 119,000 are runaways who don't come back or who are not wanted back or are abducted by parents or relatives in custody disputes.

During the mid-1980s, the FBI was logging fewer than 100 stranger ab-ductions per year, according to the Oct. 7, 1985, **Newsweek**.

Where these so-called experts get their figures is anyone's guess. But there's no wondering how they come up with their ideas if their thinking is anywhere near as cloudy as that shown on the Oct. 31, 1991, edition of **The 700 Club**. CBN reporter Cynthia Glaser presented a report that exam-ined teen-age involvement in satan-ism. After the report, Glaser spoke briefly with host Pat Robertson. Her comments during the interview exem-

plified intemperate observations which, if not questioned, could then be recorded as fact:

Glaser: Pat, it [satanism] is very true. It is very real. Our teen-agers are getting involved. If not innocently at first wearing pentagrams and skulls and dragons. Go around the mall. Look at the mall and see how many wear T-shirts. See how many hats with skulls. See how many tattoos. Ask the kids. Ask them, 'Well, what does that mean?' 'Well, you know it might be a little satanic, maybe not. I don't know.' We're talking about a **great majority** of kids. (emphasis added)

Robertson: Majority?

Glaser: Well...

Robertson: A bi... A large group, or substantial...

Glaser: Oh yeah. I have to correct myself. Maybe not a majority, but a large number to the point where as a journalist I'm shocked.

The Disposal of Human Bodies

Let's look at the sheer impossibility of sacrificing and slaughtering thousands upon thousands (remember by some reports 5,000 a year, by others 2 million and leaving no physical evidence).

This writer does not want to be gross or graphic but in the interest of truth it is necessary to try to grasp what would be involved in the hiding of 1000's upon 1000's of dead victims. I apologize for the graphic nature of the following information but it shows the absolute impossibility of what is alleged. Thousands, perhaps, millions of victims and not a single trace! A holocaust comparable to Nazi Germany and not a trace!

Don Davis in his book, **The Milwaukee Murders**, (pp. 275-277) describes what a massive job serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer had in trying to hide or dispose of his victims. The description points up vividly the implausibility of Larson's premise that people in the United States are being sacrificed by the thousands or millions:

- An average American male body contains about thirteen pints of blood. The arithmetic is easy, because two pints equal one quart, and four quarts equal one gallon... Smaller people would have meant less blood, of course, but the rule of thumb is about a pint of blood for every twelve pounds of body weight. It would be a formidable task to wash away that much blood, since it is about three times thicker than water. Complicating even that task would be the fact that it would be combined with the other bodily fluids present at death.

- Then he had to deal with the various organs. Once the heart stops beating about four times per breath, it becomes just a lump about as big as a fist and weighing just under a pound. Then there is the stomach, that J-shaped receptacle that takes up space in the middle of the torso, up to thirty feet of intestines, and a brain weighing about three mushy pounds.

- There are 656 muscles, tight sinews, some more than a foot in length, that are strong and so fibrous that they resist all but the sharpest knife. But muscles are relatively soft, unlike the 206 bones in a body, a multitude of big and little obstacles to a saw. Each arm has 32 bones and a leg has 31. The skull, which many people think of as a single thing, actually is made up of 29 different bones. The spine has 26, there are 6 in both ears, and even 1 in the throat.

- And the hardest of all are the enamel and dentine that make up a tooth. Archaeologists regularly uncover teeth that have been buried for thousands of years. In addition, the thirty-two permanent teeth of an adult human is like a roadmap to his or her identity. Comparing dental records is an accepted method of determining the name of a John Doe in the morgue.

Truly gross, truly sickening. But we are asked to believe that this is being done in some fashion to thousands, even millions of infants and children every year. What technology vaporizes millions of bodies or causes them to vanish without a trace?

—GRF

Another clear instance of a Christian representative who oversold reality was **Dead Air** author Larson himself. Featured on a recent **Larry King Live** television broadcast, Larson and Jon Trott, assistant editor of **Cornerstone** magazine, discussed the alleged epidemic of ritual abuse. When pressed for documentation, Larson gave a brief list that included Jeffrey Dahmer, who was arrested last summer in Milwaukee and accused of nearly 20 murders.

Dahmer may be a lot of things, but he does not appear to be a satanist. He has been accused of mutilation and cannibalism, but not of participating in satanic rituals. Not all sadistic murders can be directly linked to satanism. Mental and emotional problems must be distinguished from the demonic. A Christian's zeal to expose the works of darkness should never overrule fact.

Since Larson and the other conspiracy theorists cannot base their

premise on fact and tangible evidence, they rely on accounts from anonymous "breeders" (people who produce the babies for these sacrifices) and survivors of the abuse.

For example, Rebecca Brown says: "I have recently come under much criticism because I do not give specific names and places in my books or report the incidents to secular authorities. I want to make one thing very clear. My calling from the Lord is to bring people out of captivity to Satan into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. I deliberately left those details out of my books. If I had wanted them known, I would have published them" (**Becoming a Vessel of Honor**, pg. 241).

Therefore, while the conspiracy theorists might admit that people such as Sean Sellers, Tommy Sullivan, and Richard Ramirez were crazy loners and self-styled satanists, they presume that the many anonymous story-tellers

are telling the truth.

One can only speculate why these conspiracy theorists and their alleged victims persist in the face of contradictory accounts, numbers and details and in the absence of any physical evidence. Possible motives are: opportunism; mental illness or delusions; desire to be a celebrity or thought of as an expert; attention-craving; deception and fraud; desire to sell books and make money.

Anonymous testimony from so-called "victims" is not enough. The Bible is a book of evidence and Christians should demand evidence of such heinous acts before plunging themselves into fear. Christ gave evidence of His messiahship by miracles and a resurrection from the grave. There is no evidence that thousands are being ritually murdered. Give us the facts! Give us the evidence! Document this alleged carnage! The fantasy of **Dead Air** is just not enough. ❀

Psalmody

(continued from page 1)

cal — hymns were introduced by errorists to lead God's people astray.

A Response

Statements such as these should send any thinking Christian to his or her Bible for verification. One way to start would be to search for a divinely prescribed formula for public worship. A survey of 30 Bible passages on worship shows many acts of worship but no clear system.

The passages surveyed were: I Samuel 1:3, II Samuel 12:20, II Samuel 15:32, II Kings 17:36, II Kings 18:22, I Chronicles 29:20, II Chronicles 7:3, II Chronicles 20:18, II Chronicles 29:28, II Chronicles 29:29-30, II Chronicles 32:12, Nehemiah 8:6, Nehemiah 9:3, Job 1:20, Psalms 95:6, Psalms 99:5, Psalms 99:9, Psalms 132:7, Psalms 138:2, Jeremiah 26:2, Ezekiel 46:3, Matthew 4:9, Matthew 18:26, Matthew 28:9, John 4:20-24, Acts 10:25, Hebrews 11:21, Revelation 4:10 and Revelation 22:8.

In these passages we find descriptions of physical posture (kneeling, bowing, hands raised, etc.), places (at the city gate, on a mountaintop, in the temple), giving of sacrifices, and atti-

tudes (worshiping in spirit and in truth) among other things, but none calls the singing of Psalms as the only acceptable worship of God. Only one passage cited above (II Chronicles 29:30) specifically refers to singing Psalms — and it also commands people to sing the songs of Asaph the Seer. When one examines every single passage in the Bible where the word "worship" is used, not one passage even remotely implies that exclusive psalmody is the only expression of true worship.

Exclusive psalmodists have no scriptural backing for their teaching.

In light of this survey, one wonders why the exclusive psalmodist is not as sensitive to other matters of worship as he is about what to sing. Postures, places and attitudes could be deemed just as crucial. Exclusive psalmodists say nothing of falling down, bowing their heads or bringing sacrifices when they worship. Yet, there are more scriptures depicting the saints of God falling down when they worshiped than there are for any other expression.

Inspired Singing, Inspired Teaching

Williamson uses the method of arguing from the Bible's silence and gets into trouble. On page 22 he writes, "And no proof is given to show that

God commanded us to sing uninspired songs." However, this depends on how one understands the terms used in Colossians 3:16, which says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

In this verse, the singing originates in the heart of the believer, not in public worship. Some commentators differentiate between psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, psalms and hymns referring to the canonical Psalms, and spiritual songs being non-canonical. If these three words mean the same thing, then Colossians 3:16 could be rendered "...psalms, psalms, and psalms..." (See also Ephesians 5:19.)

Williamson is caught in the trap of his interpretation of this verse in another way, too. He states on page 12: "Only the inspired words are appropriate for teaching and admonishing the Church of God. To receive instruction or admonition from uninspired words is wrong." Yet his own booklet, which he certainly must consider an admonition to the Church, is full of uninspired terms and expressions and lacking in inspired, scriptural support for its thesis.

What Really Displeased God?

The Bible clearly records a number of instances in which God expressed His displeasure with evil and people who worshiped other gods (Isaiah 1:12; Jeremiah 7:24; 13:10; 19:5). God rebuked the Israelites for unacceptable sacrifices, sacrificing to false gods and a host of other things, but not once did He rebuke them for singing something other than the inspired Psalms.

Are We Following Jesus?

Williamson writes on page 5: "Jesus said, 'Go ye... and teach all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you' (Matthew 28:19,20)." Williamson implies here that those who are not exclusive psalmodists are not obeying Jesus but gives no basis for his declaration. He cites no scripture where Jesus commanded believers to sing only canonical Psalms and gives no examples of condemnation for those who failed to follow such a command.

Let's look at a group who did draw Jesus' wrath for their incorrect worship: the Pharisees. They worshiped God in vain, but not because they weren't exclusive psalmodists. Had such a doctrine been clearly stated in God's law, the Pharisees would have known it. They saw themselves as God's lawyers. Their sin was their adherence to the letter of the law

while missing the spirit of the law. They loved keeping the law and forgot the lawgiver. Their glory was in their self-righteousness.

In John 4:22, Jesus rebuked the Samaritan woman by saying "ye worship ye know not what." He said "what," not "how." The issue here was on the object of worship, not the manner or method.

In John 4:24, Jesus expresses another idea: We are to worship God in spirit and truth. If we can determine that what we are saying is a scriptural truth then, according to this verse, it is acceptable in worship. Truth is the prerequisite of all worship. Had it been important to Him, Jesus would have said "I want you to worship in spirit and using the canonical Psalms exclusively," but He didn't.

Romans 1:21-25 rebukes those who serve the creature more than the creator. There is no reference to mode of worship, only the false object of worship.

Exclusive Psalmody's Other Problem

Williamson admits on page 23 that, "Our psalm versions are far from perfect. But the remedy is not to add to the sin of doing what God commands in a slovenly manner, also the doing of that which God has not commanded at all."

To admit that its teaching isn't perfect is to admit to either an addition to the command of God in public worship, or a deletion from the command of God. Exponents of exclusive psalmody end up rebuking others for non-compliance with God's commands while doing something themselves that is imperfect. Their only justification is that what they do is closer to God's will than what anybody else is doing.

Close isn't good enough when dealing with God's commands. Take the example of two men standing on the ledge of a large chasm. To reach the other ledge, they must jump and clear a 20-foot gorge. The first man jumps 10 feet and falls to his death. The second leaps 15 feet and falls to his death. The second man came closer to the mark, but is no better off than the first.

So it is if the exclusive psalmodists are right in saying that only canonical psalms can be used in worship but that we don't have perfect translations of them. God is pleased with nothing short of His perfect will. God gave us commands for a reason and it was not so we could see how close we can come to obeying them. ❁

Editor's Note: For additional information on exclusive psalmody see: **An Examination of Exclusive Psalmody** by Robert A. Morey.

News Update

(continued from page 3)

Alamo had been living a fugitive since 1989, when he fled California following the filing of the child abuse charges. In August 1989, he said, "I'm not hiding. I'm just trying to get my story out before they drag me into a kangaroo court or kill me." Alamo is being held in lieu of \$1 million bond.

—MKG

CONTROVERSY ARISES OVER CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PUBLICATION

Leaders of the Christian Science Church are faced with a \$90 million question: Should it publish **Destiny of The Mother Church**, a book that deifies church founder Mary Baker Eddy, so that it can collect a bequest from wealthy members?

The book was written 44 years ago by Bliss Knapp,

whose father is reputed to have been one of Eddy's closest associates. The controversy erupted last August when the five-member board of directors of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, decided to publish the book.

Critics within the church say the board wants to publish the book so it can collect the bequest and prop up its financially ailing media operations, including the **Christian Science Monitor** newspaper and the church's 24-hour cable TV "Monitor Channel."

Harvey W. Wood, a church spokesman, said the controversy is being fueled by "disgruntled former employees." Wood said the work is only a part of a series of profiles of Eddy and that church publication would not be an endorsement of Knapp's conclusions.

According to **The New York Times**, the book "effectively raises Eddy to a divinity" and "asserts that Eddy was the fulfillment of a Biblical prophecy just as Christians believe Jesus was." The book, which was privately published in 1947, was ruled unacceptable by the church's board of directors and has been considered heretical, according to **The Times**.

Knapp, his wife and her sister agreed to bequeath their combined estates to the church provided that the book was published as a church-authorized text and prominently displayed in "substantially all" of the 2500 Christian Science Reading Rooms worldwide. The wills further stated that publication must be completed by 1993 or the bequest will be given to Stanford University and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Stephen Gottschalk, former editor and consultant for church publications, estimates that the deficit from 1990 media expenditures alone could be \$80 million. According to a report in **The New York Times**, Gottschalk and other members say that the \$90 million bequest will only delay the collapse of the church's media empire.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, was founded in 1879. While no current membership figures for the sect were disclosed, in 1988 the church reported 1,963 congregations in the United States.

—MKG

UNIFICATION FRONT GROUP SEEKING UNIVERSITY

The Professors World Peace Academy, purportedly a front group of the Unification Church and its leader, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, would like to take over the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, Conn.

The group reportedly offered \$50 million for the school, which has suffered declining enrollment and financial difficulties. Deliberation of the offer by the president and board of trustees of the university met with intense controversy. If the offer is accepted, Moon's group would take over administration of the school.

According to a Religious News Service report, both faculty and students of the university "are not certain that they want to be associated with a group that most people think of as a religious cult."

It is feared that the takeover will hurt academic freedom and that Unification Church teachings and standards will be imposed at the school. The University of Bridgeport currently is a private, non-sectarian school. However, some of the school's trustees and administrators contend that a takeover would not mean the end of academic freedom in spite of admissions by Unification Church officials that "they would seek control of the university if the money is accepted."

Despite the varying opinion expressed by board members, the institution's board of trustees voted unanimously on Oct. 28 to refuse the offer made by the Unification Church affiliate group. Nonetheless, even with the decision rejecting the PWPA's offer, the group said it would persist in its efforts to secure the university.

The Religious News Service article maintains that the Unification Church's effort to secure a university is a further move to gain respectability and legitimacy within

the confines of "mainstream" America. The church has pursued this goal for the past 10 years. The Unification Church currently owns **The Washington Times** newspaper, along with numerous other commercial ventures.

—MKG

ISRAELI LICENSE PLATES USHERING ANTICHRIST?

Reports that automobile license plates in Jerusalem bear the prefix "666" have sparked speculation that the Antichrist is preparing to establish his government of world domination.

Israeli license plates bear prefixes that distinguish autos by the home city of their owners. Long before 1967, vehicles owned by Jews from Jerusalem bore the prefix "66."

After the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, the Israeli government differentiated between taxis and buses from Arab East Jerusalem and Jewish West Jerusalem by assigning the Arab vehicles a "666" prefix.

The license-plate numbers have nothing to do with prophecy or the Antichrist.

—GRF

SECOND ORGANIZED EVANGELICAL DEMONSTRATION AT WATCHTOWER HEADQUARTERS

For a second straight year, evangelical Christians from around the world gathered Oct. 17 at the International Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in Brooklyn, New York to protest the unbiblical teachings and practices of the sect. About 75 people assembled in a downpour of rain to participate in the two-hour endeavor that included street preaching, a continuous prayer vigil, pamphlet distribution and formal protest with picket signs.

The demonstration group included both former Jehovah's Witnesses and non-Jehovah's Witnesses. The former Jehovah's Witnesses in attendance represented over 500 aggregate years of dedication and service to the Watchtower organization.

Reports of the event were picked up by the Religious News Service wire and were featured on several radio broadcasts and newspapers, including the **Los Angeles Times**.

The gathering again inaugurated the annual Witnesses Now for Jesus Convention, a conference of former Jehovah's Witnesses, active Jehovah's Witnesses desiring to make an exodus from the sect, family members with loved ones involved in the sect and numerous counter-cult ministries. The convention was held Oct. 18-20, in New Ringgold, Pa.

—MKG

the conventions' various teaching and testimony tapes which help to minister to people throughout the world.

To those involved in cult evangelism, whether for the past two decades or for those who have in recent years undertaken the mission of proclaiming the gospel to the cults, the name and work of Bill Cetnar have been and will continue to be a standard. The respect and integrity of Bill's research which had led the lost to Christ serves to many as a shining example of dedication to spiritual truth.

Bill's enthusiasm never dimmed and remained unabated to the end of his earthly ministry. Just a few weeks ago, he gathered and led nearly 75 people in an organized demonstration at the Bethel Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses. With a torrential downpour of rain, Bill's body may have been dampened, but his spirit was not. Future protests will continue to take place but his absence from these demonstrations will be felt by all.

In closing, those who were familiar with Bill's testimony of what Christ had done in his life, may recall his statement that the second-best day in his life was the day he was kicked out of Jehovah's Witnesses. Today we can assemble at Bill's memorial service with a joy in our hearts because of the **best day** in his life — the day he made Christ the Lord and Savior of his life. Yet, we still assemble today with a tremendous sadness because we will deeply miss our brother in the Lord. However, we can and should be comforted and encouraged by the promises in Scripture, that because of Bill's commitment to Christ, this very day he is away from the body, yet is at home with the Lord. Yes, Bill is absent from us; he has gone home and is in the presence of the Lord he truly loved.

In John, chapter 11, Jesus said to Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me, will never die. Do you believe this?' Bill did."

Editor's Note: PFO's operations in Pennsylvania will continue to operate under the direction of Joan Cetnar. Joan is also a former Jehovah's Witness who served at the Bethel headquarters. Also the annual Witnesses Now for Jesus Conventions, held in New Ringgold, Pa., will continue unabated.

“PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF”

Jimmy Swaggart, who last October again was caught in the company of a prostitute, continues to bring shame upon the church and the office of evangelist by refusing to step down and seek spiritual help.

At first it appeared that the Louisiana-based preacher would do just that. Swaggart was arrested Oct. 11 in Indio, Calif., on charges of a traffic violation. Riding with him was a woman who admitted she was a prostitute and said Swaggart had picked her up. She also said Swaggart had several pornographic magazines in the car.

Shortly after news accounts of the arrest, Swaggart's son Donnie announced that his father would step down for an indefinite time to get "medical and spiritual help." But then Jimmy got a different idea. Four days after his arrest, Swaggart was in his pulpit in Baton Rouge, La., telling the

congregation at his Family Worship Center that God wanted him to return to the pulpit. When confronted by questions about his behavior, he replied: "The Lord told me it's flat none of your business!"

How should the Christian community respond to reports of immorality committed by an internationally known minister? First, we openly admit that Satan is ever trying to entice Christians into sin. Christians do sin but through the atoning blood of Jesus, they can be forgiven and restored.

However, Christian leaders bear a greater responsibility. They are public figures who must set the highest moral standard. When such a leader falls he must know that his public ministry must end because he has lost his credibility. The more publicly visible the "ministry," the greater the fallout. Swaggart's 1984 biography, **To Cross a River**, states on page 231:

"The Camp Meeting Hour' was being aired on 550 stations — the largest daily gospel radio program in the world. The telecast was on two hundred television stations with an additional two thousand television cable outlets. Over a million record albums were sold each year. An additional million cassette tapes were sent out each year. Thousands of pieces of mail arrived at our office daily, and over a million pieces of mail were sent from our offices each month. Our budget was now \$35,000 a day."

It has been reported that Swaggart lost 65 percent of his contributors following the 1989 incident in which he was caught with a prostitute at a motel in Baton Rouge. One can expect last October's incident to further erode his support. However, the cost cannot be measured solely in monetary terms. Thousands of followers have been wounded because of his public sin and this is the most serious repercussion.

Personal Freedom Outreach and others in the Christian community have a responsibility to rebuke public teachers who publish or teach things that injure the cause of Christ. We believe in the biblical provision of forgiveness and restoration but Swaggart has made a mockery out of the Christian ministry by remaining in the pulpit while engaging in open sin. The biblical office of evangelist has been lampooned by comedians and been mocked and shamed. Many honest evangelists have been branded as hucksters and as immoral because of one preacher's sin.

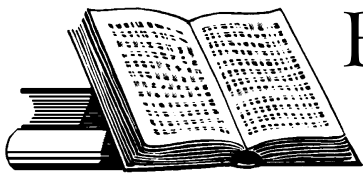
When news of Swaggart's first fall was published, The Assemblies of God denomination tried to deal with Swaggart through its restoration program. Swaggart proudly refused to submit to counsel and spiritual advice. Swaggart's second fall is evidence that he is a man who needs to humble himself, back out of the ministry and submit to counseling.

Swaggart needs to read and heed advice he wrote on page 208 of his 1985 book, **Rape of a Nation**:

"It's an awesome thing to be called of God. We preachers bear a tremendous responsibility to dig out the Word of the Lord and then to deliver it to the people. In addition, we must live as examples of righteousness and holiness. You see, a man preaches more than a message; he preaches a life. Unless God's ways and will become an inseparable part of your life, your preaching will be empty and fruitless."

We agree, and we appeal to Swaggart to step down, for the good of the cause of Christ.

—PRB



BOOKS IN REVIEW

UNDERSTANDING JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

by Robert M. Bowman, Jr.

Baker Book House, 165 pages, \$7.95

Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses should be read by evangelical Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses. For the Christian, this book presents an excellent perspective of the "whats," "hows" and "whys" of the Jehovah's Witness faith. For the Jehovah's Witness who is serious about his belief in the authority of Scripture, this book will not only cause him to rethink his current manner of Bible understanding, but will likewise challenge his opinion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The author spends the first two chapters outlining some of the basic rules and principles of proper biblical interpretation and the contrasting views Evangelicals and Jehovah's Witnesses have of each other. Following chapters include examinations of Watchtower authority, the New World Translation, the basis of Watchtower doctrine, why people convert to the Jehovah's Witness faith, a detailed and critical analysis of the Watchtower interpretation of Luke 23:43, and a study of the Divine Name.

Two appendices further complement the book. The first presents opinions of reputable scholars as to the New World Translation. Also explored in this section are a handful of "scholars" whose "favorable" reviews of the Watchtower Bible have been included in **Watchtower** and **Awake!** magazines. The second appendix is a brief word study on "stauros," which is rendered "torture stake" by Jehovah's Witness writers. A list of ministries that help in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses, and subject and Scripture indexes round out the publication.

Several months prior to publishing **Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses**, author Bowman asked PFO Director G. Richard Fisher to review and suggest improvements in the manuscript. After completing his review and suggestions, Fisher said: "It is a very powerful book — in fact, outstanding! He [Bowman] deals with some issues that I have not seen dealt with before. I think it is persuasive and complete. He has done a tremendous job."

—MKG

IF GOD IS REAL, WHERE ON EARTH IS HE?

by Angela Elwell Hunt

Here's Life Publishers, 173 pages, \$6.95

While the next generation of apologists and cult watchers may be years away from reading the works of the Apostolic Fathers and may not even be ready for Robert Morey, Josh McDowell or Norman Geisler, a new book by Angela Hunt can be encouragement for upcoming defenders of the faith.

If God Is Real, Where On Earth Is He? is billed as "a combination novel and Bible study on apologetics." It is a good tool to use in teaching teen-agers how to understand and defend their Christian faith.

The book was written on the premise that a young reader is more likely to absorb his or her apologetics in the context of a novel than if he or she were to simply pick up an abstract reference work and start reading it.

If God is Real? is the story of teen-ager Jerry Hamilton and his two cousins, Corey and Tawny. Jerry, a recent convert to Christianity, throughout the book is challenged with opportunities to share his faith with his cousins and schoolmates and to make a defense for his Christian faith against the various campaigns of atheistic and agnostic teachers.

Jerry learns of the need to defend the Christian faith, the trustworthiness of the Bible, the nature and work of Christ, Christ's claim as the only way of salvation, the problem of evil and suffering, and other topics related to apologetics.

Most chapters conclude with review capsules, review questions, Bible memorization verses, and role plays. In addition to the book's value as a personal study guide, these items make this a good book for use by a youth leader or teacher.

One major error keeps Hunt's book from being exceptionally good. On page 35, she writes: "Space manifests itself in matter and/or energy, just as God the Father manifested Himself as Jesus the Son and God the Holy Spirit." It is unfortunate to have the modalistic heresy slip into this otherwise noteworthy book.

Perhaps future editions of the book will have that corrected. Hunt references her statement to Henry Morris' **Science and the Bible**. However, it is not even a correct interpretation of what he wrote. A survey of pages 22 and 23 of Morris' book shows him to be firmly in the Trinitarian camp, using simple mathematical and scientific concepts to eloquently describe how God can be three persons in one unified deity.

—MKG

A SHATTERED VISAGE

The Real Face of Atheism

by Ravi Zacharias

Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers, 206 pages, \$9.95

This book is a well-documented masterpiece that unveils the errors of atheism and establishes the logic and credibility of Christianity.

Dr. Ravi Zacharias, visiting scholar at Cambridge and President of International Ministries, has a firm grasp on the large issues in history, literature and philosophy and quotes freely and widely from these fields in making his points.

Using illustrations and humorous stories, this mind-stretching book can be digested by every Christian. There is a moving section on the Gospel message and what that means in practical terms.

This is one of the best apologetic works available on the subject of atheism.

—GRF

Editor's Note: The above publications are available from Personal Freedom Outreach (P.O. Box 26062, Saint Louis, Missouri 63136). Please add \$1.25 to the price listed to cover postage costs. These publications are also available to those who help to financially support the work of PFO. Please see our funds appeal flyer for details.