Thite ies big on the DESLIVITH ITTER DIfficulties and Distortions in the Lives and Teachings of Paula and Randy White

Late last year, *Christianity Today*, a magazine characterized in recent times by doctrinal entropy, offered a sound observation:

"Pentecostalized Christianity is nearly synonymous with the prosperity gospel. So while we listen to our brothers and sisters, we also need to proclaim biblical truths that counter the 'health and wealth' message. The spiritual gift most needed in the 21st century is the gift of discernment (1 Cor. 12:10)."

About the same time, the Reuters news service published a small article with the headline, "Hundreds sick on world's largest cruise ship." Although neither the headline nor the article had anything to do with today's megachurches, it did draw a very practical conclusion along this line. How so? Because bigger is not always better. Bigger is not always safe or healthy.

Islam, for instance, has more than a billion followers. If bigger were automatically better, Islam would be very, very good. The ruins of massive pagan temples all over Greece and Turkey tell us that heathens in darkness believed their gods would be impressed by bigger buildings. Yet a baby in a manger in an obscure village says something different and reminds us that God can do wonders

by G. Richard Fisher and M. Kurt Goedelman

with the weak, the frail, and the insignificant. Think back on the contrast between Herod the Great, the "King of the Jews" installed by the Roman Senate in 37 B.C., who built a kingdom of stone; and Jesus Christ, the "King of the Jews" born in a stable and who built a kingdom of people.

The Apostle Peter warned that individuals and groups, both small and large, can twist and distort the Scripture (2 Peter 3:16). No doubt, the bigger and more impressive the group is, even twisted Scripture may seem straight. The peer pressure of a large group can overcome reality. Illusion, after all, sometimes *feels* better and more real than reality.

Twisting the Scriptures is a serious matter. Saying that God said something when He did not is a lie and borders on blasphemy. So many Word Faith teachers are quick to say that God "told" them various things, when in fact He didn't. To try to use God's Word to foster teaching that is really unbiblical is a horrible distortion and fabrication. It is a horrible lie with horrible consequences.

This is what popular televangelist Paula White and her "Bishop" husband Randy are doing. Paula's mixture of Word Faith teaching, self-help concepts, false prophesies, and outof-context verses to support her confused theology is a stew which is, at best, spiritually non-nutritional and, at worst, deadly. Claiming that she may temporarily help some people cannot be the final arbiter, because cults, New Age advocates, psychologists, and the like all claim the same thing. The discerning Christian must inquire if her teachings are true to Scripture. Paul warned that we should not "think beyond what is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6) and Jesus sternly said, "the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

PAULA WHO?

On Jan. 1, 2005, the *Tampa Tribune* listed Paula as one of "Tampa Bay's 25 People to Watch." Last year the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, offered a brief biography of Paula White:

"Paula White is a Christian evangelist. She is currently copastor of Without Walls International Church, a megachurch in Tampa, Florida along with her husband Randy. She speaks in many conferences nationwide, especially targeting hurting women. Her small stature (she is only about 5 feet, 2 inches tall)

when she enters a room does not match with her powerful 'big lady' voice. Through 'unction of the Holy Ghost', she can belt out many prophesies. She admires T.D. Jakes as her 'spiritual father'. Living the good life as a child in Tupelo, Mississippi; it abruptly ended when Paula's family went 'astray'. She then lived the rest of her teenage life through poverty and sexual abuse until 17, when she found a Bible one day. She married Randy, a recent graduate of Lee College (now Lee University) in 1989. After two years of ministry in the Washington, D.C. area, they moved to Tampa and started what became Without Walls in 1991. She hosts Paula White Today, a talk show which airs on several Christian television stations nationwide."3

The timeline Paula gives for her conversion to Christianity conflicts with other documentary evidence. According to a *Tampa Tribune* article, in 2004, on the then rising evangelist, "She had a child out of wedlock at age 18, then married. But the union only lasted a year." The newspaper offers details of her conversion:

"Her son was still an infant, she was still a teenager, when a Christian friend showed her passages in the Bible that offered her comfort and compelled her to embrace God in her life." 5

Her late-teen conversion is confirmed in an interview Paula gave to *The 700 Club*. She said that when she was 18 years old, "I got saved! I got rescued. I was radically changed." Paula confirmed her conversion at age 18 in another interview:

"I had never heard the gospel until I was 18 years old, and I had not been in church. Then I was at a friend's house, and his uncle said, 'I can give you the answer to the love you're looking for and for the hope you need.' He led me to Christ — I heard the gospel for the first time [and] my life was radically changed. ...

I just knew my life was suddenly radically changed."⁷

However, records show Paula was less than five months shy of her 20th birthday when her son Bradley was born.⁸ Thus, the data seems to indicate that the birth of her "out of wedlock" son and her failed marriage followed — not preceded — her conversion when her "life was suddenly radically changed."

Last January, the Without Walls International Church web site claimed ship of 5,000 in 1988, a dispute over Strader's leadership started the church on a steady decline. By the time WWIC purchased the facility, renaming it Without Walls Central, Strader's flock was said to have "dwindled to 1,500."

In July 2005, the *Tampa Tribune* reported that WWIC was the nation's fastest-growing church, having added 4,330 attendees during the previous year.¹⁰ That figure significantly eclipsed Joel Osteen's Lakewood



In June 2005, the Whites' Without Walls International Church agreed to purchase Carpenter's Home Church in nearby Lakeland. The 10,000-seat auditorium, located on a 75-acre campus, was sold for about \$8 million. It was renamed Without Walls Central and dedicated on Sept. 11, 2005.

18,000 members. A month later Paula's ministry web site was claiming a membership of 26,000. Helping fuel its growth, WWIC signed a contract in June 2005 to purchase Carpenter's Home Church in nearby Lakeland. The 10,000-seat auditorium, located on a 75-acre campus, was sold to Without Walls for about \$8 million. Carpenter's Home Church was built in 1984, under the leadership of its pastor, the Rev. Karl Strader. When the structure was built, Strader claimed worshippers from Central Florida would fill its sanctuary. However, one year after a peak memberChurch in Houston, which had an increase of 3,000 attendees.

Amid all this growth, hardly an eyebrow is raised regarding Paula's constant praise of T.D. Jakes, whom she calls her "spiritual father" and "spiritual mentor." Jakes enmeshes himself in a Oneness Pentecostal theology which denies the doctrine of the Trinity and espouses the heresy of Modalism. To this end, Paula has never offered a disclaimer. And Jakes reciprocates Paula's admiration.

Paula's mannerisms and cadence when on stage is reminiscent of Jakes'

style. *Charisma* magazine noted that some refer to her as "Barbie-like."¹⁴ Others observe that if she slowed down a bit she would, in fact, resemble a female Joel Osteen.

THE PAULA SHOW

There is little doubt that Paula has a natural gift to speak by rote. Her rhetoric is reminiscent of a scene in the movie The Truman Show where Truman Burbank, the character played by Jim Carrey, begins to realize that everything is a show being orchestrated around him. As he sits in his car in his driveway, he watches the same scene play over and over again in the rearview mirror. First, a lady rides by on a red bike, then a man walks by carrying a bouquet of flowers, finally a VW Beetle with a dented fender drives by. A few minutes later the very same scene plays over, and then over again. Truman exclaims, "They're on a loop. ... They just go round and round." Paula is much the same; catch her for five minutes and you may well have her full content and even the full content isn't a lot.

Perhaps, to make up for a lack of content, she thinks that by speaking loudly and fiercely, she can impress. And it does impress some. However, there is a big difference between machine-gunning information at people and real understanding and application. Her delivery is so fastpaced that it overwhelms the listener, who has little time to evaluate what is being said. With talk of birthing visions and birthing dreams coming fast and furious, the hearer may give up trying to keep up and just conclude, "She must be right because she seems so forceful, so sincere, and so committed."

And when Paula speaks, she wants you to know that it's no mere mortal words being offered. A few minutes into her message, she will tell her audience:

"I feel a set-up anointing. ... But I'm prophesying from the Lord right now. ... I don't know who I'm prophesying to, but I feel the Holy Ghost in this place. I feel

God getting ready to release something in your spirit. There's a turn-around anointing. ... I've got a word for you. Grab the person next to you, grab their hand, throw your hands up high in the air. Because God's getting ready to release a prophetic word to you right now. ... Well, I've got a word of the Lord. Should we go with a word? And this is God getting ready to do something significant. God [is] getting ready to do something. I came with a prophetic word. The beginning of this year, God spoke to me on an extended fast. And He said this would be the year of the supernatural. God would add His super to your natural. ... Well, how do I know the Lord's speaking to me? Because you're going to feel an unction in your spirit."15

WONDER WOMAN

On her ministry's web site, Paula is unabashedly advertised as a "Pastor, Life Coach, Motivational Speaker, Author, Philanthropist, TV Personality, Wife, Mother, Preacher and Teacher." One almost wants to add, "And she can leap tall buildings in a single bound."

Paula has played into and plays off the worn-out self-help movement and the declining fads of people such as Bruce Wilkerson and Tony Robbins.¹⁶ After one of her appearances on the *Tyra Banks Show,* she was critiqued in the following manner:

"Paula White says her becoming a Christian was 'crucial to her success.' Christianity has now become just another self-improvement measure that will help low self-esteem and get you on the track to be all that you can be. No mention of sin, no mention of God's holiness, no need for a Savior for our souls, just Jesus as a 'Life Coach' buddy who can provide therapeutic answers for our obesity, eating disorders, drug addiction, social problems and a bad self-image.''17

WHITES' TESTI-MONEY

Though the Word Faith teachers have taught their hard-core followers to believe that their gurus should be rich and live luxuriously (they deserve it and God wants it for them, after all), the Whites have come under fire for their lavish lifestyle. Because they teach the prosperity gospel — that Christians should be financially wealthy — they certainly live that message:

"An August 2002 profile in the Tampa Tribune described the Whites' \$2.1 million home overlooking Hillsborough Bay, Fla., two luxury cars, a private jet on loan from a friend and a combined salary of about \$300,000 from their church, plus an \$80,000 annual housing allowance."

Apparently, the staff of Without Walls International Church knows what the Whites want and need. In a letter sent to the congregation, dated Oct. 31, 2002, it was stated that a "literal translation" of 1 Timothy 5:17 meant that the people were supposed to "beat or pulverize" the Whites "with monetary reward." The staff went on to write, "we are asking everyone, who are both willing and able, to join with us, in sowing a love offering of at least \$100.00 per household into the lives of Pastors Randy and Paula. We certainly understand that some will prefer to sow \$500.00, \$1,000.00, \$10,000 or more."19

Of course, "double honor" (1 Timothy 5:17) does not really mean "beat or pulverize" with money. Such is a silly perverted twist from a prosperity gospel mindset. The verse simply means that if a church has true, trustworthy, and godly elders (i.e., elders who *rule well*), that the local church should make sure to pay them so that they are not lacking. The next verse illustrates this and informs us that, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." It does not mean make them rich — or "beat them with money."

Charles Ryrie points out that double honor means "Respect and remunera-

tion (v. 18). The church was beginning to face the problem of financial support of its workers."²⁰

Just a few weeks after the appeal by the WWIC staff, another letter went out to the faithful of Paula White Ministries. This one, dated Nov. 25, 2002, requested they become "a 2003 World Partner with Paula White." In the correspondence, Paula announced, "I have a word from the Lord for you that will TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE in 2003. God has given me instruction on how you can reach the next spiritual level while helping this ministry launch a powerful new year of ministry. ... Partner, I believe God has joined you and me in a COVE-NANT CONNECTION."21 The bottom line on God's instruction and becoming a 2003 World Partner with Paula White was "to commit a gift of at least \$20 a month" or "you may want to give \$50 or \$100, or even more each month."22

MAGIC NUMBERS

One of Paula's fund-raising methods is to tell people there is a major breakthrough waiting to happen in their lives if they will sow the right amount. Sowing, of course, means sending her the money or sending it to the organization for which she is raising the money. The amount she calls the "instruction of the Lord" and it is, many times, a Psalm chapter and verse.

For instance, in November 2002 on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, she used Psalm 68:19. First came Paula's windup:

"So God is speaking to you. And when God begins to speak to you — because I'm about to prophesy. I didn't come to preach, I came to prophesy. Been locked away with the Lord. Had my hand on the pulse of God. Put my ear to the bosom of God. And God has given me a word for you. And when I begin to deliver that word, you have to jump in. You have to get in synchronization with the Holy Spirit and activate the word.

How do I get it? Get up and go to the phone and become part of a vision that is bigger than you. When you begin to sow up, you go up. And God is doing great things with TBN. This is a great ministry — the greatest ministry that God is raising up."²³

Then came her pitch:

"When the Holy Ghost begins to speak to you, I want you to get up and go to your phone and for the next 12 months I want you to sow 68 dollars and 19 cents. You would say, "Why 68-19?" Because Psalm 68:19 says, 'daily God loads you up with benefits.""24

In March 2004, she again was doing fund-raising for TBN. This time she set the amount from Psalm 71:21, meaning \$71.21:

"When God speaks to you, you better praise Him, you better go to the phone and sow \$71.21."25

In April 2005, the magic number was \$66.12. That figure from Psalm 66:12 was at that time, "the instruction of the Lord" for the next twelve months. So now it was \$66.12 a month.

This is so contrary to the intent of Scripture that it is close to blasphemy. Linking God to these kinds of schemes is frightening. It is a little more sanitary than trying to find direction by divining animal livers and entrails as the ancients did, but in its essence it is pagan divination.²⁷

Some might say, "Don't you believe God could do it this way?" The short answer is that God would not do it this way. Chapter and verse numbers are not inspired, but were put in the text simply to help us refer to and find passages in Scripture. Moreover, the New Testament is filled with information regarding principles for giving. We do not need mystical numbers and contrived esoteric teachings to give us that information.

F.F. Bruce explains:

"Some of the divisions which appear in copies of the Hebrew

Bible were fixed by the end of the Masoretic period. The division into verses is quite early; it can be traced back to the early centuries of the Christian era. There were fluctuations of practice with regard to verse division in various centres; the standard division of the Old Testament into verses which has come down to our own day and is found in most translations as well as in the Hebrew original was fixed by the Masoretic family of Ben Asher about A.D. 900. ... The division into chapters on the other hand, is much later, and probably was first carried through by Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher in 1244."28

Using chapter and verse numbers (from the Bible) in an arbitrary and subjective way as Paula does, shows that she is a product of cultural conditioning. She is really postmodern in her thinking, though she probably would not know what postmodernism is. This view, also called deconstructionism, marks all the new prophets as they turn the Bible on its head through subjective twisting and distorting of the text. Barbara Lipstadt makes this salient observation:

"[Postmodernism] began to emerge in the late 1960s. Various scholars began to argue that texts had no fixed meaning. The reader's interpretation, not the author's intention, determined meaning. Duke University professor Stanley Fish is most closely associated with this approach in the literary field. ... Others rightfully worried that it opened the doors of the academy, and of society at large, to an array of farfetched notions that could no longer be dismissed out of hand simply because they were absurd. ... It also fostered an atmosphere in which it became harder to say that an idea was beyond the pale of rational thought. ... it created an atmosphere of permissiveness toward questioning the meaning of historical events and made it

hard for proponents to assert that there was anything 'off limits' for this skeptical approach. This relativistic approach to the truth has permeated the arena of popular culture, where there is an increasing fascination with, and acceptance of, the irrational."²⁹

One may be surprised — and glad for her donors — that God did not give Paula Psalm 150 — but that may be forthcoming.

transform your mind, to take you to where you want to live."³⁰

What two spiritual giants would appear? The introduction continued:

"If you want to change the way you live, change your thinking. I want them to bring their wisdom to you today, give people tools to really transform their lives." ³¹

The two icons of wisdom and mind transformation were Donald Trump and co-author Robert Kiyosaki ready dren. The Donald — living in the lap of luxury, flying around in his own private jet, hosting his own reality program, *The Apprentice*, and here on this 'Christian' program to share his worldly wisdom with all of us: how to become rich — how to become a billionaire.''33

The pitch finally came and people could get the book for a "gift" of \$25 with Paula's promise that "It will radically change your life. … Then you can have the life you've been dreaming of."³⁴

Paula's ministry is still making the book available. For \$25, one can purchase the "Why We Want You To Be Rich" pack from Paula White Ministries. Not only will "Trump and Kiyosaki teach you what they believe you need to know to be rich," but "To complete this powerful message, Paula has included her teaching on 'The Value of a Vision' on CD."36

The Apostle Paul would say: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16). The only thing Paula should be saying to Donald Trump is that he needs to repent and turn to Christ. How in the world (and in the Name of God) can she hold him up as a paragon of wisdom and mind transformation for believers? The Apostle Paul called for a transformed mind, but it is through Scripture and the Holy Spirit that it occurs, not the ungodly example of ungodly people who are obviously living for the flesh.

THE WHITE HOUSE

In June 2002, the Whites secured a \$2 million, 30-year mortgage to purchase a \$2,150,000, five-bedroom, 8759 square foot English Manor home at one of the city's premier addresses on Hillsborough Bay in Tampa.³⁷ The



The White House: In June 2002, Paula and Randy purchased a \$2,150,000, five-bedroom, 8759 square foot English Manor home at one of the city's premier addresses on Bayshore Boulevard overlooking Hillsborough Bay in Tampa.

GOD, PAULA, AND DONALD WANT YOU RICH

Last fall, Paula hit another low-water mark in her cheapening of the Christian faith. In October 2006, her television broadcast, *Paula White Today*, was titled, "Discover God's Abundant Life for You." The show opened with a sensationalistic hook regarding her two featured guests. She appealed to the element of surprise with a buildup:

"Two of the greatest minds that have ever been raised up for such a time as this, are here to to hawk their new book, Why We Want You To Be Rich. Paula's ministry overstated and hyped the program as a "groundbreaking interview" and an "unprecedented media event." 32

Here is a justified reaction from one apologetics ministry:

"Yes — the Donald. Donald Trump — to give you the wisdom of the world to transform your life! I mean, who wouldn't want a life like his? On his fourth marriage — all to beautiful (at least by outer appearance) women who mothered his chil-

average list price for a home in this area is \$530,910.³⁸

If one considers the taxes and maintenance on a \$2.1 million home, along with deployment of a private jet, it is no wonder the Whites are constantly begging for donations and are so up-front with their money pitches. Paula often claims God tells her the exact amount each person is supposed to send. Donors never think about the fact that the prosperity message does not work for them, but only for the ones they are sending money to. Paula does not have to sing as many did years ago, "I've got a mansion just over the hilltop in that bright land where you'll never grow old." She has her mansion here and

This is a far cry from the self-denial of Jesus and the apostles. It is foreign to "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). It is distant from Moses who esteemed "the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt" (Hebrews 11:26). It is apart from those who, destitute, afflicted, and tormented, wandered in deserts and mountains and caves of the earth (Hebrews 11:37-38). It seems that all these hadn't been given the prosperity message.

It appears that the Whites have been a part of at least seven non-profit, six profit, and one limited liability corporations since 1991.³⁹ It is hard to tell how many of these continue.

BREAK THE CURSE

Paula also teaches the idea that Christians can have curses on them that need breaking, and she may well be the one who can do it. Of course, Christians do not have curses and such teaching is more superstitious than it is biblical. In one of her meetings the following was reported:

"How many of you know God's about to reverse a curse in your life?' she asks, her voice booming out to the nearly 6,000 churchgoers attending Super Sunday.

'Slap somebody upside the head and say, "Reverse the curse!"'"40

The word "curse" is in the Bible, but it is quite a different concept than taught by Paula. In the Old Testament, the word "curse" more often than not refers to God's judgment, as in Deuteronomy 27:11-26. The word "curse," used of judgment, is attached to various sins such as idolatry (Deuteronomy 27:20-21), bribery (Deuteronomy 27:25), and — just as important — repentance, forgiveness, and obedience are the obvious antidotes.

The word "curse" was used in the Balaam story in Numbers 23, not in the sense of some inherent power to be magically applied to someone, but rather as a wish or pronouncement of non-favor. Balaam admitted that he could not undo God's favor. He said, "How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?" (Numbers 23:8). The word "denounce" is the equivalent of the word "curse."

In the New Testament, the only curse referred to is the "curse" of sin, guilt, and lostness that Jesus removes from every believer. Paul writes:

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.' But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for 'the just shall live by faith.' Yet the law is not of faith, but 'the man who does them shall live by them.' Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" (Galatians 3:10-13, emphasis added).

Christ has set us free from the only curse that mattered.

Indeed, as Deuteronomy states, "the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD

your God loves you" (23:5). The book of Proverbs assures us that a "curse" is like a flying bird that cannot land (26:2). Paula's teaching is a grave error which can put sensitive souls into great bondage.

GREAT CLAIMS — NO EVIDENCE

Paula White, like so many Charismatic extremists, makes mighty claims and boasts of incredible feats. However, they turn out to be bogus. She claims a vision when she was 18 years old and has shared it in various places:

"The Lord showed me millions of people,' she says. 'When I would open my mouth, masses and millions of people would get saved, delivered or healed. But when I shut my mouth, the people would fall into utter darkness."

Obviously these kinds of statements are for effect.⁴² Now more than two decades later the millions saved, delivered, or healed have not materialized. A spiritual awakening of this magnitude would be obvious everywhere and reported widely. The hype is reminiscent of the bogus claims made by the leaders of the now defunct "Pensacola Revival" at the Brownsville Assembly of God. This kind of exaggerated claim has long been a staple of Pentecostalized Christianity, which gained prominence in the 1940s with the Latter Rain Movement.43

It is similar to another claim Paula made last year when she wrote, "It is through our hands that Jesus will heal the sick, raise the dead."⁴⁴ Paula is living in an illusion and the deluded are following along.

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

Paula demonstrates her lack of discernment by quoting favorably from Helen Keller with no disclaimer. Paula, in writing about having and fulfilling a vision, says that Keller once was asked "what could possibly be worse than blindness."

Apparently, Paula thought that Keller's response, "To have sight, but no vision" was insightful to her own message.

The misfortune in this is that Paula has cited Keller without qualification. Keller was not only physically blind, but spiritually blind as well. Keller followed the occultist and universalist Emanuel Swedenborg, and in her 1960 book, *Light in My Darkness*, advocated without question Swedenborg's teachings. 46

Swedenborg (1688-1772) was a contemporary of Franz Mesmer and "is most noted for his communication with angelic beings, the results of which filled many volumes of theological treatises and biblical commentaries. Systematized, his thought became the basis of the Church of the New Jerusalem. ... one cannot understand Spiritualism without reference to his thought and his metaphysical assumptions, which would become major building blocks taken over by Mary Baker Eddy and her students." 47

Paula's error in citing Keller is misleading by affirmation. To quote another person favorably leaves the reader assuming that the writer referred to is sound and that all they say is all right. It endorses the person quoted in the mind of the reader.

LIMITING GOD

Not all of Paula's sources of inspiration are as suspect as Keller. However, at times, when she does cite a trusted source, the theology she puts forth is suspect. An example of this is her citation of John Wesley. Paula presents a defective view of God in her teaching on prayer, when she says that God is restricted to our prayers and confessions. Here she mimics the error of David (Paul) Yonggi Cho,⁴⁸ but she does not cite Cho to bolster her thinking. She goes much more mainstream, citing Wesley:

"During an exhaustive study on the subject, I came across an intriguing quote by John Wesley. He said, 'It seems that God is limited by our prayer life — that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him to do it."⁴⁹

Despite Paula's questioning if Wesley had the "answer" and her declaration that she "found affirmations in the Word" to that effect, her (and Wesley's) concept is a frightening and unbiblical thought. The idea that God can do nothing unless someone asks Him has staggeringly negative implications. It means that we command and control God. Paula may well believe that, as it neatly fits within the perimeters of Word Faith errors.

No one asked God to create the heavens and the earth. No one asked God to send a flood or save Noah and his family. No one asked Jesus to die on the cross and rise again. The idea of God being dependent on man and being unable to act without man is absurd at best, and heretical at worst.

That He even invites us and allows us to pray is all because of His great mercy and grace. A God who is even slightly dependent on man and easily manipulated by man is a figment of a distorted imagination and a charade. It is a god who is less than the True and Living God.

Paula's teaching sounds like that of someone unfamiliar with the sovereignty of God. The Apostle Paul affirmed, "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" (Romans 11:34-35). In short, God owes us nothing and is not beholden to us. He does not need us, but we desperately need Him. It is He Who is Lord, and not we ourselves.

Those who would say God makes His plan contingent on man need an introduction to the doctrine of God's sovereignty:

"The Scriptures abundantly teach that God is sovereign in the universe. Note the following statements: 'All that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Jehovah, and thou art exalted as head above all' (1 Chron. 29:11); 'the

earth is Jehovah's, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein' (Ps. 24:1); 'woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! a potsherd among the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him that fashioned it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?' (Isa. 45:9); behold, all souls are mine: as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die' (Ezek. 18:4); 'all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?' (Dan. 4:35); 'is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?' (Matt. 20:15); 'who worketh all things after the counsel of his will' (Eph. 1:11). See also Rom. 9:14-24; 11:36; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 4:11."50

It must be acknowledged that the intricacies of prayer in relation to God, and answers to prayer are complex issues and there is no simplistic answer. Does God make his plans contingent upon man? We must answer the question in the negative if we truly believe in the sovereignty of God. Good and wise men have struggled for centuries with the questions of how prayer and our petitions harmonize with the sovereign plan and purpose of God. We must be careful to keep a biblical balance lest we fall into error on either side.

One theologian tries to help us through the struggle while maintaining a biblical balance:

"We say, Prayer changes things; but how does that statement harmonize with the sovereign plan and purpose of God? ... The positive answer to this question involves a right view of God's foreknowledge and foreordination. We remind the reader again of the fact that God has set certain general bounds within which His universe is to operate.

Within these bounds He has given man freedom to act. Prevenient grace restores the power to choose or reject the offer of salvation. Once saved, man has the power of the Spirit in his life and may cooperate largely or only in a small degree with the Spirit in the accomplishment of God's work. ... God foreknew what each man would do in respect to prayer, and embraced that fact in His foreordination. Thus when a man prays he only carries out what God foresaw he would do, and what He set him down for to do. Where man fails to cooperate with God within the bounds of His predetermined will, there He works by reason of His sovereignty apart from prayer. In doing so, however, as we have already said, He does not set aside any law of nature, but rather counteracts it by higher or stronger law. His will is the law of nature, and when His will changes in any particular instance, the law of nature involved is overcome by His law."51

Paula does not declare God weak. She will speak about His power, His might, and His grandeur. The problem is that all the might, power, and grandeur is locked up in a sense, waiting for our faith and our affirmations and words to unleash it. It is much like the genie in a bottle. The genie, who has all kinds of wonderful powers, needs us to uncork the bottle. The powerful genie can do nothing unless we ask him. It is up to us.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

A few years ago, Paula appeared with Benny Hinn on his *This is Your Day* broadcast. She tells Hinn, "I just want to prophesy for a moment." She began by telling Hinn that God was going to enhance and give a 1,000 times more anointing. She assured Hinn that 2004 was the year for harvest and supernatural increase and that Hinn would have favor with presidents (although no specific president was named). She then gave what were called "prophecies" for the

then coming year of 2004, but in very broad terms. What she said can only be described as "buckshot" or "soft" prophecies.

She appears smart enough not to be boxed in with details that can later be verified. Her prophecies are broad statements that can be interpreted in any way the hearer wishes. It is the stuff of which supermarket tabloid predictions are made. They are much like the nebulous words of Nostradamus, which were more a riddle than clear direction.

Lord," which by the way, according to Luke 4, already had happened in the ministry of Christ.

Paula appears to captivate Hinn with a few of her riffs and clichés, such as "Yesterday is in the tomb, and today is in the womb." She also breaks out into tongues (with no interpretation). She says that God actually told her that the triple portion would raise up the "unknown soldier" and that the glory of God would be released on the earth that year. In fact, "the dead will be



The Without Walls International Church worship experience: Surrounded by four cameras and five large projection screens, Senior Pastor Paula White outlines her "principals to success" during her Feb. 4, 2007, sermon. In July 2005, the Tampa Tribune reported that WWIC was the nation's fastest-growing church.

She described a vision from God that, for the year ahead, the anointing would come in an unprecedented way. She saw two huge doors and two guards who opened the doors. This was supposed to indicate that in 2004 the "floodgate" would open and there would be "harvest time" — a year of "supernatural divine visitation." All of these statements about a particular year being *the* year have been a staple delivered by Hinn and others for more than two decades. In the mid-1990s, the cliché used was "the acceptable year of the

raised." On this last point she gets specific enough to discredit herself. One could search the newspapers of the world for verification of one dead body brought to life supernaturally in 2004. Such an event, without question, would have been reported.

Peter Worsley, Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester in England, writes about what he calls "spongy" prophecies in his book, *The Trumpet Shall Sound*:

"... the belief is so vague, so ambiguous, so generalized, that

no particular event can possibly constitute a falsification of it. Conversely, given a spongy enough style of prophecy, all events can be interpreted as positive confirmation of the prophecy. More precise prophecies do face the serious problem, and prospect, of disconfirmation. ... Prophecy is most subject to disconfirmation when it is precise and testable, least vulnerable when most vague."53

NON-PROPHET PAULA

For all of Paula's claimed prophetic insight, she appears to have been ignorant of the fact that the driving school, known as REACT, Inc. (Restoration & Evangelism Advanced through Community Training), which operated its office on their church property, was selling bogus commercial driving licenses. In April 2002, the Tampa Tribune revealed that two years earlier, the FBI had busted the illegal operation and sent its head, Tony Puleo, to a federal prison for an 18-month sentence.⁵⁴ His partner, Hilary M. Winniczek, "was sentenced to 22 months in jail and fined \$7,500."55

Paula's husband Randy claims he too was scammed and did not know applicants were getting commercial licenses for cash. While the racket was independent of the church, WWIC received 10 percent of the school's gross receipts, which Randy called a "tithe." Many of those enrolled at the bogus school paid between \$800 and \$1400.56 The tragedy in this occurrence is that two of the unqualified truck drivers from REACT "were later involved in two separate accidents with a total of nine fatalities."

More recently, Paula again demonstrated her lack of the prophetic — or at least a lack of integrity and discernment — when she and Randy invited Joe Redner to address their congregation regarding Redner's 2006 campaign for a seat in Florida's Hillsborough County Commission District 5. Redner's 10-minute address about protecting the environment, improving public transportation, and

reducing overcrowding in schools received applause and shouts of "Preach! Preach!" from Paula's congregation.

The depravity in this episode is that Redner is a self-professed humanist who admitted in a federal lawsuit that he is a homosexual and that he owns a strip club in the Tampa area. In fact, the *St. Petersburg Times* calls Redner the "strip club king." Paula, in allowing Redner a platform in her church, clearly violated 2 John 10.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

While much of the above focuses on Paula, it is helpful to also take a closer look at her husband Randy. Some of the most helpful information can be gleaned from public court documents and sworn testimony. Many of these documents are a window into his world and his ethics.

One very revealing document is the deposition of Randy White taken on Sept. 17, 2003. Randy had been deposed by the plaintiff in a paternity action brought against one of his church members. Randy's sworn testimony yielded a 34-page document. The foundational questioning therein provides an intriguing perspective of the man:

"Q ... Can you please state your full name for the record.

A Randy Allen White. ...

Q Are you the senior pastor for Without Walls International Church?

A Yes. ...

Q Have you been divorced?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Are you a certified counselor in the area of marriage and family counseling?

A No.

Q Have you counseled or given advice in the areas of marriage and family counseling?

A No. ...

Q Is the reason that you don't counsel in the areas of family and marriage issues is because of your divorce?

A No.

Q Do you have a reason why you don't counsel in those areas?

A Too busy. ...

Q Are you a college graduate?

A Yes

Q What college did you attend, and what type of degree did you attain?

A Lee College. I finished it through continuing education.

Q What type of degree did you attain?

A A bachelor's degree in theology. ...

Q Have you ever referred to yourself as being a doctor, having a doctoral degree, either verbally or in writing? ...

THE DEPONENT: No. ...

Q No? Never referred to yourself as Dr. or Pastor Randy White?

A Pastor.

Q Dr. Randy White?

A Pastor.

Q In your books, have you ever referred to yourself as Dr. Randy White? ...

THE DEPONENT: Well, I have an honorary degree. I don't know. Sometimes I may something like that. ...

Q Okay. Does your advertisement reflect Dr. Randy White? A No.

Q None of your advertisements reflect as Dr. Randy White?

A Not that I'm aware of."59

Further into the deposition, Randy is questioned about business reports and financial documents that he was ordered by the court to bring and many of which he failed to bring.

In page after page of questioning, Randy denies knowing things that a good administrator and/or pastor should have known about people and events within his church, including charges of multiple sexual relationships between the defendant and a youth pastor, a church bus driver, and a prominent televangelist.

According to the document, the plaintiff then suggests that Randy has used "exact events" of the plaintiff's relationship with the defendant in a

chapter titled, "Breaking the Curse," in his book *Without Walls*. This chapter details the account of an unmarried and pregnant active church member who, thinking she would receive the rejection of the church, met with the opposite:

"Every staff member met Julie with open arms and words of encouragement. A few months later, someone in the church gave her a baby shower, which was well attended. Paula made it a point to be there with a gift. Her card said, 'Julie, I love you. Here's a gift for your baby.' When Julie's baby girl was born, she had everything she needed, from clothing to crib."

The plaintiff said the situation described, including the baby shower attended by Paula, was his. He maintained that he had not given Randy permission to disclose these issues in his book:

"Q Is the book that you wrote, Without Walls, still published, circulated, or distributed to the public?

A Yes.

Q Does your book contain — does your book describe factual events that occurred at Without Walls?

A Most of it's factual, yes.

Q Did you change most of the names to protect the privacy of the individuals in your book?

A Yes.

Q In a chapter in your book titled Breaking the Curse, the events described there reflects the same, exact events detailed in the petitioner's relationship — my relationship with [the defendant]. Is this correct?

A I don't know.

Q Okay. Where did you get the information for the chapter, Breaking the curse.

A It was probably fictional.

Q Fictional? Your book was fictional?

A Some of it.

O Some of it was?

A (Nodding head affirmatively.)

Q Okay. ...

Q According to the — the book that was published, incidents and persons portrayed in this volume are based on fact. Now you're saying it's fictional?

A Some of it.

Q Some of it was fictional? So when you published the book and you indicated it was based on fact, it was false?

A Yeah.

Q So you lied?

A Yeah.

Q So you have a propensity to lie?

A Yeah.

Q However, some of the names and details have changed to protect the privacy of individuals, has that changed?

A I don't know. ...

Q ... You indicated that the names changed to protect the privacy of the individuals?

A I said it was fiction. It was fictional.

Q Okay. So this chapter's completely fictional?

A Yes. ...

Q Have you at any time obtained permission for anyone described in this book for the purpose of publishing private matters?

A I — I believe the publisher did, yes."61

The document also discloses that when Randy later was cross-examined about his admission to lying and being a liar, he was asked if he was being facetious. He replied, "I was being facetious." That put Randy in a quandary: If he was telling the truth under oath about lying, he would be a confessed liar. However, if he was lying about his lying (which he says he was), then he still committed perjury.

As far as Randy's alleged memory lapse in regard to referring to himself as "Dr. Randy White," both legal and church documents contain his signature above the name, "Dr. Randy A. White." The legal document is a sworn affidavit from July 16, 2001, concerning business conducted by

Without Walls International Church. The church document is a Dec. 18, 2002, letter to his congregation reviewing ministry highlights of the year and projection for the new year.⁶³

WHITE AVENUE — A ONE WAY STREET?

Although the Whites consistently campaign for money to come in, they do not seem quite so eager to give any out. Most of the "apostles" of prosperity expect money to flow in only one direction. The Apostle Paul said that we should "Render therefore to all their due" and "Owe no one anything" (Romans 13:7,8). In other words, pay what we owe every time and on time. However, Randy's track record is less than honorable.

Court documents exist showing that in 1992, while Randy was employed by the Bayshore United Methodist Church in Tampa, his ex-wife Debra Jean White filed a petition for unpaid child support for the couple's three children. A year earlier, the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Hillsborough County, Florida, had issued an "Immediate Income Deduction Order" against Randy for the "total sum of \$265.50, bi-weekly" (based upon \$88.50, bi-weekly, per child).64 În January 1992, an "Order Establishing Arrears" against Randy was imposed by this same court in the amount of \$5,195.50.65 Randy's three children, Kristen (then 14), Angela (then 11) and Brandon (then 8), had their mother Debra fighting for them. On Aug. 11, 1992, Randy was served with an "Evidence of Final Judgment and Certificate of Delinquency" by the Circuit Court which, in part, stated, "The Central Governmental Depository hereby certifies that a delinquency in support payments exists as of the date of this certificate."66

What is ironic in all this is Paula's public statements about her compassion for children. For instance, she writes:

"What would happen if we made a commitment to God to end the cycle of oppression by offering compassion and dignity to children shamed by their circumstances? What if we were to show them how precious they are to Him? What would they accomplish as a result of our kindness? How many lives would they change? The task seems huge, I know. But it begins with reaching out to one child. You have the power to touch a person's life for eternity."⁶⁷

It would also start with fathers who kept their marriage vows and who cared for the physical needs of their children without having to be hauled into court. This compassion in writing may be a little too late.

A handful of events in the distant past may not mean much to some, but it seems that this pattern continued. In June 1994, the Whites and their Destiny Ministries (dba South Tampa Christian Center) were to be evicted from their location by court order because they "failed to deposit the rental payments due into the Registry of the Court or file proof with the Court that payment for rent had been made as required by Florida Statutes 83.232."68 In July, the court issued a "Default Final Judgment" against Destiny Ministries, stating, "a total amount due of \$1,361,340.26 to accrue interest at 12% hereafter per annum pursuant to Section 55.03, Florida Statutes, plus prejudgment interest for seven (7) months in the amount of \$95,170.09, for a total judgment amount of \$1,456,510.35."69

The local church headed up by the Whites had a "Claim of Lien" filed against them in July 2000 when a contracting company tried to collect an unpaid amount of over \$47,000 (of a \$121,675 bill) for "labor, services or materials" on Without Walls International Church property. Even the Electric Company filed a "Corrective Summary Judgment" against WWIC in November 2000 to retrieve unpaid bills of over \$43,000, along with another \$12,000 for late charges, court costs, and attorney fees.

In December 2001, the bogus driving school, REACT, along with WWIC

were ordered by the county court's small claims division to pay David Dang, Sr., "the sum of \$778.06 with costs in the sum of \$149.20 making a total of \$927.26."⁷² Court records show the judgment was "satisfied in full" on June 17, 2002.⁷³

In April 2002, Jacqueline D. Knight filed a "Claim of Lien for Services Rendered" against the Whites and their Destiny Ministries/WWIC. Knight was seeking nearly \$17,000 for "General public relations and marketing duties" provided to the church.⁷⁴

With the pattern of courts and attorneys having to pressure the Whites to meet their financial obligations — and with the trail of court and legal documents this leaves in its wake — the couple seems to show little concern about their testimony. The Whites may not know the Bible in terms of living it, but they know attorneys, the court system, and money maneuverings very well. If bills are still going unpaid and the attorney's fees remain constant, the pressure for soliciting large amounts of income must be enormous. Sadly, some Christians can get used to anything, including unethical and unbiblical ways of doing business. The prophet Jeremiah warned, "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles" (Jeremiah 10:2).

According to God's Word, elders are to be "blameless, the husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2), and "must have a good testimony among those who are outside" (1 Timothy 3:7). Having a track record of court actions against a minister can only give an abysmal reputation locally and in the larger community. The Apostle Paul would have none of this. He asserted, "avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us — providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Corinthians 8:20-21). Charles Ryrie comments on these verses and says that Paul's team "acted as trustees of the money to insure complete propriety in the handling of it."75

GETTING TO KNOW HIM

In November 2005, Paula put her thoughts about her husband in print:

"When I met my husband, Randy, he was much heavier than he is today. He had a bowl haircut and wore green velvet bow ties, platform shoes and polyester suits. He had no money. But I did not marry my husband for his looks, his fashion sense or his wealth. I knew a great barber and a good tailor and had a reliable diet plan. I married him for who he was. What I never wanted to change and knew I could not change was the man Randy was on the inside. ... You need to know a person before you enter into covenant with him or her."76

It is also interesting to hear Paula's take on her marriage in another recent article:

"When Randy and I would fight during the first several years of our marriage, the aftermath would be disastrous. We had heated disagreements, and during those times my husband would say as little as possible, then he'd walk away to regain his composure and get his thoughts together. If I had been willing to leave him alone for an hour or two to give us time to calm down, everything would have been fine. But I wouldn't do it. I freaked out whenever he attempted to leave while I was upset about a situation. I didn't care if he wanted to yell at me all night long or if I found myself staring at a blank wall. I needed him right there with me! My reaction to Randy's habit of walking out during arguments caused more than its share of tension between us. If I tried to convince him not to go, he would shake his head and say, 'Paula, stop being so insecure!' His words made matters 10 times worse. In fact, they would infuriate me. How dare he accuse me of being insecure. ... Today, Randy and I very seldom fight.

But when we do have a problem, I give him the space he needs. Besides, what's the point in making a scene? He's coming back anyway."⁷⁷

It would have been so much better to hear that two mature adults have finally learned to sit down and calmly discuss a problem and bring a biblical solution to the existing differences according to Ephesians 4:22-32. Randy is still walking out and Paula has gotten to the place of passive resistance. It hardly sounds like spiritual maturity or a godly example.⁷⁸

WHITE WASHED

It is really hard to understand how anyone can take the Whites seriously. It all points to the low level of discernment in the Church and to the fact that many professing Christians are adrift on a sea of feelings and emotions. It seems that anything will do as long as it is big, flashy, loud, and overstated.

The Whites have an abysmal track record in terms of money management. Paula's use of the Bible as a subjective, magical numbers game to be used to manipulate and plead for money is deplorable. Her view of God as a Being who can be manipulated and controlled by His creation is off the charts. Their materialistic emphasis and exalting ungodly millionaires is neither biblical, nor is it representative of a Savior who had nowhere to lay His head. Her putty-like prophecies, which can take any shape and form, are downright silly. The difficulties and distortions in their teachings are a reason they should be critiqued and avoided. In the end, Without Walls International Church may help some because of some caring staff, but considering all the above, if it does, it is most likely in spite of the Whites.

The idea of truly "helping people" is a concept that needs to be thought through. It may appear to be helping someone by cleaning them up and dressing them up (short term), but if ultimately they are placed on the wrong road, the "help" has been

deceptive in terms of long-range outcomes. Let's always strive from beginning to end to put people on the safest of roads — the truly biblical road — so that short term or long term they will be just where God wants them to be. Lies, even "white" ones, cannot be tolerated.

Endnotes:

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- 2. "Hundreds sick on world's largest cruise ship," *Reuters*, Dec. 3, 2006.
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- 4. Michelle Bearden, "Paula White, Evangelist On The Move," *Tampa Tribune*, May 30, 2004, Nation/World section, pg. 12. 5. Ibid.
- 6. Stephen Hubbard and Lisa Ryan, "Turning Trash into Treasure: The Testimony of Paula White," *The 700 Club*. Document available at: www.cbn.com/ 700club/Guests/Interviews/Paula_White063005.aspx.
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- 11. Paula White, *Deal With It!* Nashville: Nelson Ignite, 2004, pg. VII.
- 12. "Paula White, Evangelist On The Move," op. cit., pg. 12.
- 13. See, G. Richard Fisher, "'Get Ready' for T.D. Jakes The Velcro Bishop with Another Gospel," *The Quarterly Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 4, 7-11.
- 14. Valerie G. Lowe, "She's Got A Testimony," *Charisma*, March 2005, pg. 48.
- 15. Paula White, *Praise-A-Thon*, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Nov. 10, 2003.
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- 19. Letter from "The Staff of Without Walls," Oct. 31, 2002. Copy on file, italics in original.
- 20. Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1976, note on 1 Timothy 5:17, pg. 1821.
- 21. Paula White Ministries, "Become a 2003 World Partner with Paula White" letter dated Nov. 25, 2002, pp. 1-2, bold and upper case in original. Copy on file.
- 22. Ibid., pp. 3-4, bold in original.
- 23. Paula White, *Praise-A-Thon*, Nov. 10, 2003, op. cit.
- 24. Ibid.
- 25. Paula White cited in "Paula White, False Teacher/Prosperity Preacher," Forgotten Word Ministries web site. Document available at: www.forgottenword.org/white.html.
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- 27. Everett F. Harrison, Editor-in-chief, *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1960, pg. 169.
- 28. F.F. Bruce, *The Books and the Parchments*. Westwood, N.J.: Fleming Revell, 1963, pp. 120-121.
- 29. Barbara E. Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust*. New York: The Free Press, 1993, pp. 18-19.
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- 31 Ibid
- 32. *Life by Design*, Paula White Ministries Covenant Partner newsletter, November 2006
- 33. "Paula White: Unable to Blush," op. cit.
- 34. Ibid.
- 35. This product available on the "Online Bookstore" section of Paula White Ministries web site. The home page URL is: www.paulawhite.org.
- 36. Ibid. Product page for "Why We Want You To Be Rich Pk," "Online Bookstore" section of Paula White Ministries web site.
- 37. Mortgage document recorded with the Hillsborough County Clerk's Office for Randy A. White and Paula M. White,

INSTR # 2002229714, OR BK 11763, pp. 1732-1751. Also "Assessor records" information provided by Trulia Real Estate Search.

38. Real estate averages provided by Trulia Real Estate Search.

39. According to the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, Randy and/or Paula White have been the registered agent or an officer/director for the following non-profit corporations: Destiny Ministries, Inc. (1991); Set Free If You Want to Be, Inc. (1996); Tampa Bay Billy Graham Crusade, Inc. (1997); Youth With a Vision Incorporated (1998); Without Walls International Church, Inc. (1998); Making a Difference Ministries, Inc. (1999); Paula White Ministries (2002); Institute for Community Development, Inc. (2002); the following for profit corporations: South Tampa Christian Center Foundation, Inc. (1993); Residential Acquisitions, Inc. (1998); KABB Enterprises, Inc. (2003); Paula White Enterprises, Inc. (2004); RAMP Corporation (2005); RAW Reality Enterprises, Inc. (2005); and the following limited liability corporation: E&R Music, LLC (2004).

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41. Ibid., pg. 79.

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43. See M. Kurt Goedelman with G. Richard Fisher, "The Latter Rain Movement — Showering Heresy on the Church for Nearly Fifty Years," *The Quarterly Journal*, April-June 1995, pp. 4, 10-12.

44. Paula White, "Miracles Happen," Inherit Your Promise column in *Charisma*, January 2006, pg. 94.

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50. Henry Thiessan, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1973, pg. 174.

51. Ibid., pp. 396-397.

52. Paula White on Benny Hinn, *This Is Your Day*, Jan. 6, 2004.

53. Peter Worsley, *The Trumpet Shall Sound*. New York: Schocken Books, 1974, pp. xix, xx.

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55. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), "Florida Truck Driving School Tester Jailed in CDL Bribery Probe," DOT Office of Inspector General report, June 6, 2002. Document available at: www.oig.dot.gov/item.jsp?id=809.

56. "Florida Can't Find Illegal Truckers," op. cit., pg. 1.

57. "Florida Truck Driving School Tester Jailed in CDL Bribery Probe," op. cit.

58. Kevin Graham, "Strip club king seeks votes at church," St. Petersburg Times, July 16, 2006.

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61. Deposition of Randy White, op. cit., pp. 24-28.

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63. Copies of these documents on file.

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65. State of Florida, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, on behalf of Debra Jean White, Petitioner vs. Randy Allen White, Respondent, "Order Establishing Arrears," Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit In and For Hillsborough County, Florida, Family Law Division, Case No. 90-24406, Division Y-D, O.R. Book 6498, pp. 494-497. Copy on file.

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73. David Dang, Sr., Plaintiff v. R.E.A.C.T. and Without Walls International Church, Defendants, "Satisfaction of Judgment," County Court In and For Hillsborough County, Florida, Small Claims Division, Case No.: 00-20524-SC, INSTR # 2002212451, OR BK 11730, pg. 1376. Copy on file.

74. Jacqueline D. Knight, "Claim of Lien for Services Rendered," INSTR # 2002124088, OR BK 11563, pg. 1457. Copy on file.

75. *The Ryrie Study Bible*, op. cit., note on 2 Corinthians 8:18, pg. 1762.

76. Paula White, "Unity of the Spirit," Inherit Your Promise column in *Charisma*, November 2005, pg. 110.

77. Paula White, "Take Off the Mask," Inherit Your Promise column in *Charisma*, September 2006, pg. 18.

78. For a biblical study along these lines, see Jay E. Adams, *Christian Living in the Home*, P&R Publishing.