



# JESUS PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

4338 Third Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817



## The "Reality Check" Zine

Editor: Thomas Adcock

NATIONALISM

Conversations with God

A Course in Miracles

Celestine Prophecy

DARWINISM

Ellen G. White

Way International

Pantheism

Metropolitan Community Church

Jehovah's Witnesses

Psychics

Rastafarianism

Astrology

SPIRITISM

Shepherd's Chapel

Jesus Seminar

Racism

Cowardice

Goddess Worship

Islam

Paganism

Swedenborgianism

Ignorance

Covetousness

Reincarnation

Bahai Faith

Universalism

Mormonism

Scientology

Urantia Book

Pyramidology

The Forum

Aum Shinrikyo,

Atheism

Eastern Star

Freemasonry

Tyranny

Spiritualism

Christian Identity

Church Universal and Triumphant

Apathy

Unity School of Christianity

Christian Science

Polytheism

REV. SUN MYUNG MOON

Jean Houston

Wicca

DEEPAK CHOPRA

Sikhism

Theosophical Society

Humanism

Religious Science

International Church of Christ

Gnosticism

Globalism

Eckankar

Buddhism

Confucianism

Chen Tao

Idolatry

Shintoism

Hinduism

Taoism



IN A WORLD OF MANY VOICES

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe:

In the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is True God and True Man. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. The Old and New Testaments are God's Divinely Inspired words. All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God and are in need of salvation. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men. It is the will of God that every believer be filled with the Holy Spirit. Healing is available to every believer only when it is God's will to act. Ultimate healing is at the resurrection of the body. The Church consists of all those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. In the personal, visible, imminent return of Jesus Christ. In water baptism, and observance of the Lord's Supper.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:18 NKJV)

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## NOTICES

1. **Our newsletters are available in bulk orders: Mini-bulk order: 10 copies for \$5.00. 50 copies for \$25; 100 copies for \$45. We pay shipping on all bulk orders. These prices are for the United States only.**
2. Free Bibles and Christian books to prisons.
3. Free Christian literature and Bibles to 3<sup>rd</sup> world pastors, as the Lord leads and supplies.
4. Join our Jesus People Book Club. For a \$25 or more tax-deductible donation per month, to help us supply free literature worldwide, we will send you a quality Christian book every month.
5. For a free subscription to receive our newsletter write us.

Send for above requests to:

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**website: <http://www.jesuspeopleinfo.org>**

**So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Rev. 3:16 NKJV**

Places where we have sent free Christian literature for the last 40 years:

|                       |                        |                           |                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| U.S.A.- every state   | France                 | Liberia, W. Africa        | Rhodesia                |
| American Samoa        | Finland                | Madagascar                | (Zimbabwe),S.Africa     |
| Argentina, S. America | Germany                | Malawi, Africa            | Rwanda, Africa          |
| Australia             | Ghana, W. Africa       | Malaysia                  | Romania                 |
| Belgian Congo, Africa | Greece                 | Mexico                    | Russia                  |
| Belgium               | Greenland              | Micronesia                | Scotland                |
| Belize, C. America    | Guam                   | Mozambique, Africa        | Sierra Leone, W. Africa |
| Benin W. Africa       | Guinea, Africa         | Myanmar                   | Singapore               |
| Botswana, Africa      | Guyana, S. America     | Namibia, S. Africa        | South Korea             |
| Brazil, S. America    | Haiti                  | Nepal                     | Spain                   |
| Bulgaria              | Hong Kong, China       | Netherlands               | Sri-Lanka               |
| Burma                 | Hungary                | New Zealand               | Sweden                  |
| Cameroon, W. Africa   | Iceland                | Niger, Central Africa     | Switzerland             |
| Canada                | India                  | Nigeria, W. Africa        | Taiwan                  |
| Chad, Africa          | Indonesia              | Norway                    | Tanzania, E. Africa     |
| China                 | Ireland                | Pakistan                  | Thailand                |
| Colombia. S. America  | Israel                 | Panama                    | Tibet                   |
| Cuba                  | Italy                  | Philippines               | Togo, W. Africa         |
| Denmark               | Ivory Coast, W. Africa | Poland                    | Trinidad, W. Indies     |
| Ecuador, S. America   | Jamaica, W. Indies     | Portugal                  | Uganda, Africa          |
| Egypt                 | Japan                  | Puerto Rico               | Ukraine                 |
| England               | Kenya, E. Africa       | Republic of Congo, Africa | Zambia, Africa          |
| Ethiopia, E. Africa   | Kuwait                 | Republic of S. Africa     |                         |

Free literature goes out constantly

## Note To Our Regular Readers.

This is an “Encore Edition”. I have plenty of other things that could be said. But 95% of all our newsletters go out free to the “general public” and God led me to do this issue at this time. To answer one question I’ve been asked a thousand times – “I hope Barack Obama and all his ilk are voted out of office. If they are not America is doomed!”

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

If this is the first free newsletter you have received from us and you do **not** want to receive any more-**Do Nothing**-you will not receive another. However, if you would like to continue receiving our newsletter and for **everyone else** on our mailing list who has not contacted us in the past year for any reason you **must** contact us by e-mail or letter to keep receiving it. We will not send you any letters begging for money and we will not give your name and address to anyone else. Thank you. Tom Adcock, President, Jesus People Ministry. Mailing address: 4338 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Sacramento, CA 95817

E-mail address:  
jesuspeoplemin@sbcglobal.net



“I love my dog, I can’t be all Bad!”

## Salvation

**Acknowledge:** “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”, (Romans 3:23) “God be merciful to me a sinner”. (Luke 18:13)

**Repent:** “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3) “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” (Acts 3:19)

**Confess:** “If thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:9)

**Believe:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

**Receive:** He came unto his own, and his own received him not, but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (John 1:11,12)

**Follow Jesus:** “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15) “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” (1 John 5:3) “For the **grace of God** that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” (Titus 2:11 & 12)



Street Preaching

## SEDUCED BY NONSENSE!

The focus of logic is the quality of arguments. An argument is considered sound if both its premises are true and the reasoning from premises to conclusion is valid. It is unsound if either premise is false or if the conclusion does not follow (*non sequitur*) from the premises. Central to traditional logic is the principle of contradiction, which states that *something may not be both true and false at the same time and under the same circumstances*. (Challenge: What about the case of a person changing her name? Response: The times are different--at one time she had one name; then later, another. Challenge: What about H<sub>2</sub>O being either liquid, solid, or gas? Response: The circumstance of temperature varies.)

How can it be that so many intelligent, educated social analysts and critics are so tolerant of contradictions, so blind to relationships between ideas and events, so oblivious of the massive influence of popular culture? How explain the business community's first spending more than \$115 billion annually to sponsor programs and advertising messages that impede education, next spending \$35 billion annually in corporate classrooms to teach the skills they have obstructed, and then planning to donate \$200 billion more\* to improve the effectiveness of the educational system they have thwarted? How grasp the logic of a society's producing books, magazines, records, movies, and television shows that promote disrespect for parents and teachers and then castigating parents and teachers for their lack of success in reaching young people?

I submit the answer is that America has been seduced by nonsense--that is, by a number of fundamental ideas that run contrary to human experience, thoughtfully considered. The communications and entertainment media are the means by which this seduction has occurred, but they are not, generally speaking, the creators of the nonsense. whatever ideas they disseminate already exist. (In this sense, their defenders are quite correct in claiming that the media merely hold a mirror to society.) What is not yet fully appreciated, however, is that the media's unparalleled efficiency and technological sophistication intensify the impact of ideas. This is particularly true of cinema and television. When ideas are made visual, dramatized, and enhanced by music, they are more readily assimilated and more persuasive. And when the characters in dramatic shows, the talk-show guests, and the reporters of the news are known, respected,

and admired, the line between representation and endorsement is blurred. Shallow and fallacious ideas have always had the potential to do mischief, as sound ideas have had the potential to do good.

Contemporary media facilitate that mischief.

The first step in overcoming the seductive power of nonsense is to examine the cherished doctrines of our age, the ideas we have been conditioned to regard mindlessly, recite dutifully, and applaud when we hear recited. No easy task, this requires a degree of irreverence toward intellectual fashion and thus takes courage. The following questions, each of which will be examined in detail in subsequent chapters, are among the most profitable to raise.

Popular writers, particularly those of New Age disposition, are fond of saying that each person creates his or her own reality and that truth is whatever we want it to be. What are the practical implications of the idea? If doctors believe they create their own truth, will their diagnoses improve? Will juries deal with evidence more carefully, serve justice more effectively? Will this idea prompt us to prepare our income tax returns differently? Will it improve the quality of scientific research, history, education, and government? Will it make the instant replay in sports obsolete and force changes in the parimutuel system at the racetrack? Will it sharpen or erase the distinctions between knowledge and ignorance, wisdom and foolishness, excellence and mediocrity, sense and nonsense? If we come to believe each person's idea is the best of all possible ideas for him or her, will our curiosity be stimulated or suppressed? Will we be more or less inclined to value reading and learning?

No doctrine has achieved certitude in any age more quickly than has the doctrine of self-esteem in this age. Its principal tenet is that we must hold ourselves in high esteem before we can achieve anything in life. Accordingly, lack of self-esteem is considered the cause of every social evil from academic deficiency to criminality. But what line of thought prompted this reversal in our parents' and grandparents' view that feeling good about ourselves is the *result*, rather than the *cause*, of achievement? Since most of our grandparents came from authoritarian families in which duty and respect were emphasized and criticism was more common than praise, how is their success to be explained? Did the immigrants at the turn of the century have self-esteem? Did the children who worked in sweatshops fourteen hours a day, seven days a week? Did the survivors of concentration camps? Is it possible that

too much self-esteem is more harmful than too little? (The myth of Narcissus comes to mind.) Is the self-esteem doctrine more reasonable than Christ's admonition, "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Matt. 23:12)? Does unconditional self-acceptance motivate people to self-improvement or promote complacency? Does liking ourselves make us likable?

Feelings, popular culture advises, are more trustworthy than thoughts. Emotion is considered more natural and more reflective of our individuality. Is this actually the case? Does careful thinking make one more vulnerable to conformity? Is the heart more intelligent than the head? Will trusting feelings help a prejudiced person become fair-minded, a suspicious person trust others, a wife beater overcome his violence, envious people count their blessings? Will it prompt us to forgive people who have offended us and seek forgiveness from those we have offended? If everyone put emotion above thought, would marriages be stronger, careers more productive, neighborhoods safer? Are criminals and compulsive individuals more proficient in thinking than in feeling? If we are more likely to be victimized by our minds than by our hearts, why do most advertisements appeal to the emotions? (Is it because advertisers want us to make wise choices?)

Knowledge is constantly expanding. In 1780 there were six known planets; in 1781, seven; in 1846, eight. Today there are nine, but some astronomers suspect the existence of a tenth. The atom that was considered impossible to split is now known to be divisible. The same cigarette smoking once considered beneficial to our health has been proved harmful. And the art world was shocked some years ago to learn that the famous Rembrandt painting *The Man with the Golden Helmet* is not genuine. To speak of creating truths in such cases implies that someone constructed a planet where there was none before, that the nature of atoms is now different than it once was, that the effects of smoking on the body changed, that someone stepped back in time and changed the authorship of the painting.

How presumptuous to believe that reality is altered by our ignorance or our convenient interpretations of it. Psychologists have long wondered why Freud abandoned his theory that hysteria in women was caused by sexual abuse in childhood and embraced the view that women's claims of abuse were sexual fantasies. Jeffrey Moussalief Masson believes the change is related to Freud's efforts to protect the reputation of a friend,

ear/nose/throat specialist Wilhelm Fliess. Freud had referred a client, Emma Eckstein, to Fliess, who operated on her nose to cure her of the habit of masturbating, but accidentally left in the incision a half-meter of surgical gauze, which later caused massive bleeding. In defense of his friend, Freud argued that the cause of Eckstein's bleeding had been *longing for her psychoanalyst*.<sup>6</sup> Did this interpretation escape absurdity because an eminent person advanced it? Hardly.

Some years ago Donald Naftulin, a University of Southern California psychiatrist, ran a novel experiment to test the perceptiveness of mental health educators. He hired a professional actor, gave him a false name, Dr. Myron Fox, and a false *curriculum vitae*, and coached him in delivering a calculatedly nonsensical speech titled "Mathematical Game Theory as Applied to Physical Education" The actor was told to be charismatic, yet to use doubletalk and meaningless reference. The lecture was shown, variously to psychiatrists, psychologists, social work educators, and administrators, fifty-five in all. Each was asked to complete a questionnaire. All had more favorable than unfavorable responses, often adding comments such as "Excellent presentation," "Enjoyed listening," "Good analysis," "Knowledgeable." One respondent claimed to remember having read Dr. Fox's work.<sup>7</sup> A relativistic interpretation robs this incident of its inherent ironic humor: The relativist must say that people heard something, they took it to be true, and so it was true, period. Yet it is precisely because we do not create truth, because even the most theoretically perceptive of us can be deceived or deceive ourselves, that the incident has meaning.

\* This was the amount projected in the Bush administration's "America 2000" educational reform program. pg 25-28

6. Jeffrey Moussalief Masson, *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory* (New York: Farrar, Strause, & Giroux, 1984).

7. Donald Naftulin and others, "The Doctor Fox Lecture: A Paradigm of Educational Seduction," *Journal of Medical Education*, 48 (July 1973), 630-635.

Excerpts from *Warning, Nonsense is Destroying America* by Vincent Ryan Ruggiero (Nashville, Tennessee, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers, 1994) See our book list.



Seeking Truth? See our web site:  
[www.jesuspeopleinfo.org](http://www.jesuspeopleinfo.org)

# THE OLD CROSS AND THE NEW

All unannounced and mostly undetected there has come in modern times a new cross into popular evangelical circles. It is like the old cross, but different: the likenesses are superficial; the differences, fundamental.

From this new cross has sprung a new philosophy of the Christian life, and from that new philosophy has come a new evangelical technique—a new type of meeting and a new kind of preaching. This new evangelism employs the same language as the old, but its content is not the same and its emphasis not as before.

The old cross would have no truck with the world. For Adam's proud flesh it meant the end of the journey. It carried into effect the sentence imposed by the law of Sinai. The new cross is not opposed to the human race; rather, it is a friendly pal and, if understood aright, it is the source of oceans of good clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference. His life motivation is unchanged; he still lives for his own pleasure, only now he takes delight in singing choruses and watching religious movies instead of singing bawdy songs and drinking hard liquor. The accent is still on enjoyment, though the fun is now on a higher plane morally if not intellectually.

The new cross encourages a new and entirely different evangelistic approach. The evangelist does not demand abnegation of the old life before a new life can be received. He preaches not contrasts but similarities. He seeks to key into public interest by showing that Christianity makes no unpleasant demands; rather, it offers the same thing the world does, only on a higher level. Whatever the sin-mad world happens to be clamoring after at the moment is cleverly shown to be the very thing the gospel offers, only the religious product is better.

The new cross does not slay the sinner, it redirects him. It gears him into a cleaner and jollier way of living and saves his self-respect. To the self-assertive it says, "Come and assert yourself for Christ." To the egotist it says, "Come and do your boasting in the Lord." To the thrillseeker it says, "Come and enjoy the thrill of Christian fellowship." The Christian message is slanted in the direction of the current vogue in order to make it acceptable to the public.

The philosophy back of this kind of thing may be sincere but its sincerity does not save it from being false. It is false because it is blind. It misses completely the whole meaning of the cross.

The old cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said good-by to his friends. He was not coming back. He was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing; it slew all of the man, completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck cruel and hard, and when it had finished its work, the man was no more.

The race of Adam is under a death sentence. There is no communication and no escape. God cannot approve any of the fruits of sin, however innocent they may appear beautiful to the eyes of men. God salvages the individual by liquidating him and then raising him again to newness of life.

That evangelism which draws friendly parallels between the ways of God and the ways of men is false to the Bible and cruel to the souls of its hearers. The faith of Christ does not parallel the world, it intersects it. In coming to Christ we do not bring our old life up onto a higher plane; we leave it at the cross. The corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die.

We who preach the gospel must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to big business, the press, the world of sports or modern education. We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.

God offers life, but not an improved old life. The life He offers is life out of death. It stands always on the far side of the cross. Whoever would possess it must pass under the rod. He must repudiate himself and concur in God's just sentence against him.

What does this mean to the individual, the condemned man who would find life in Christ Jesus? How can this theology be translated into life? Simply, he must repent and believe. He must forsake his sins and then go on to forsake himself. Let him cover nothing, defend nothing, excuse nothing. Let him not seek to make terms with God, but let him bow his head before the stroke of God's stern displeasure and acknowledge himself worthy to die.

Having done this let him gaze with simple trust upon the risen Saviour, and from Him will come life and rebirth and cleansing and power. The cross that ended the earthly life of Jesus now puts an end to the sinner; and the power that raised Christ from the dead now raises him to a new life along with Christ.

To any who may object to this or count it merely a narrow and private view of truth, let me say God has set His hallmark of approval upon this message from Paul's day to the present. Whether stated in these exact words or not this has been the content of all preaching that has brought life and power to the world through the centuries. The mystics, the reformers, the revivalists have put their emphasis here, and signs and wonders and mighty operations of the Holy Ghost gave witness to God's approval.

Dare we, the heirs of such a legacy of power, tamper with the truth? Dare we with our stubby pencils erase the lines of the blueprint or alter the pattern shown us in the Mount? May God forbid. Let us preach the old cross and we will know the old power.

A.W. Tozer, A true prophet of God, obviously

We do NOT have a Pen-Pal Program.

## WE GET LETTERS Thousands of them – Here are a few



The following is an inquiry we sent to: Jenny Whiteman in regards to the Luis Palau Sacramento Festival June 16-17, 2012 at Cal Expo

Dear Ms. Whiteman,  
We would like to set up a table and give away free Christian literature at the Sacramento Festival. We have about 2,000 "Power for Living" books by Jamie Buckingham we want to give away. I already sent you a sample book. Please see our web site at [www.jesuspeopleinfo.org](http://www.jesuspeopleinfo.org) to get a better idea of who we are and what we believe and what we do. We would need approximately a 12'x12' space preferably in a high traffic area. We can provide our own tables and awning and do not need electrical hook ups. Please let us know if this is acceptable and the details involved. We appreciate your consideration in this matter.  
Blessings in Christ Jesus,  
Tom Adcock

This was Ms. Whiteman's reply:

Hi Tom,  
Yes, thank you for your email and packet of information. Unfortunately because there are so many wonderful non-profit organizations we cannot attempt to say no to some and yes to others. We just try to keep the focus on the gospel being presented without distraction. So the only organizations with booths onsite are our corporate sponsors (which begins at a **\$5,000** level). Thank you for your interest though.  
Blessings,  
Jenny

Editor's Comment: \$5,000?? – That's one reason we don't work with "organized Christianity." Naturally we stayed home.

Dear Brother Adcock,  
Thank you for the 475 copies of the book "Power for Living" for the men here. I read that book years ago and it is a good basic Salvation book. Thank you for your generosity.  
Chaplain David Crumpler  
Pasquotank Correctional Institute  
Elizabeth City, NC

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your awesome newsletter. Please keep sending me your newsletters and other Christian literature....  
Bart Wendelin  
Graceville Correctional Facility, Graceville, FL

Jesus People,  
May God continue to bless you, keep sending me your free magazines...  
Charles Williams, Centinela State Prison, Imperial, CA

Hey Jesus People,  
Can you help me out with Christian books???...  
Jose Hernandez, Wasco State Prison, Wasco, CA

Hi,  
I am interested in getting your free magazines...  
Julie Meier, Minnesota Corr. Facility, Shakopee, MN

Dear Jesus People,  
Thank you for the books, please send me all the books and magazines about Jesus that you can...  
James Payne  
Calif. Rehabilitation Center, Norco, CA

Dear Sirs,  
I thank you for the Book "The Christian Assurance of Salvation" by Mr. Koerselman. Please send me any more books about false teachings and false prophets.  
Singh Raj Tamang, Nepal

Editor: More books sent. I respond to every request printed in this newsletter and thousands more.

Dear Thomas Adcock,  
I came across your newsletter by accident. I have been trying to do research on Islam and other false religions to get people who are being drawn away from the Bible back to the Bible. Please send me all your newsletters and books...  
Joshua Limes, Riverside County Jail, Blythe, CA

Tom Adcock,  
I want to say thank you and God bless you for all the Christian books you sent me...  
Don Byerly  
Deuel Vocational Inst., Tracy, CA

To Whom It May Concern,  
If possible I'd like to get all your free magazines...  
Jonathan Hart  
High Desert State Prison, Indians Springs, NV

Dear Jesus People,  
Can you please send me your book, "Mama, Mormonism and Me"?....  
Jeff Mahle, North Kern State Prison, Delano, CA

Editor: 99% of all letters we get are from prisoners and 3<sup>rd</sup> world Christians. I need financial help to keep this up.

Jesus People,  
Can I please get your newsletter and a book on the cult of  
Jehovah's witnesses...  
Kevin Boggs, Federal Prison, Lisbon, OH

The Editor, Jesus People Information Center,  
I have just made final decision of accepting Jesus Christ  
to become my intimate Lord and Savior. I need your  
advice and instruction and please a whole Bible as I only  
have New Testament...  
Paul Joshua Kalima  
Mzimba, Malawi

Jesus People,  
Please send me any old newsletters...  
Ben Conrad  
State Prison, Lovelady, TX

Dear Jesus People,  
I request your tracts about the different cults, especially  
Jehovah's Witnesses. I am witnessing to a lot of them in  
here...  
Cynthia R. Shepard  
State Prison, Gatesville, TX

Jesus People,  
Thank you for the book "The One True God" by Jean  
Carlson. I'm going to write her and tell her how good it  
is. I was a Jesus Freak back in the 60's but lost my way.  
But I'm back with God now...  
Barry Tatum  
Federal Prison, Lisbon, OH

Dear Reader,  
I wanted to send you a few lines to ask for prayers for my  
Christian stand in here. It is not easy...  
Michael Vance, State Prison, Corcoran, CA

Sir,  
We request Christian teachings and tracts to take into the  
rural areas here...  
Rev. Obasi Titus,  
Imo State, Nigeria

Hello Jesus People,  
Thank you for the Christian books. I was so surprised  
and happy because I want to learn what the Bible  
teaches...  
Patricia White  
State Prison, Gatesville, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Please send me your materials. There are a lot of beliefs  
coming in here and most are not real Christianity at all...  
William Whitehorse  
State Prison, Vacaville, CA

Dear Jesus People,  
Thank you for books you sent me. Send me more when  
you can. I have moved now and I'm here in a fire camp.  
Thank you for sending my daughter the books also.  
Please pray for me. It seems the closer I get to the Lord,  
the more the devil sends me bad temptations...  
Erika Schmid  
Los Angeles, CA

Tom,  
Enclosed is a gift of twenty-five dollars. I continue to  
pray for revival here and for you there in Sacramento...  
Steve Aivazis  
Sun City, AZ

To Whom It May Concern:  
I came across your literature in here and please enroll me  
to receive some...  
Brian Byers  
Lawton Corr. Facility, Lawton, OK

Jesus People Library,  
Requesting newsletters, tracts and books about Jesus.  
1000+ guys on this yard and 4,500 in the entire place. I  
will share what you send....  
Carl Brennan  
Mule Creek State Prison, Ione, CA

Dear Tom,  
Please send us 500 gospel tracts. We will pass them out  
this summer of 2012 in Tahoe. \$15 enclosed.  
Doug & Sherry Dubois  
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Editor: Anyone else in the free word who want 500  
assorted gospel tracts send us a \$15 tax deductible  
donation. God does the saving. The message must be  
delivered however. All the good "Social works" mean  
nothing if people don't get saved. This is Christianity  
101 and the "church" either doesn't "get it" or they are so  
afraid they have become more like the world because  
they don't want to "offend anyone". Read your Bible.  
The gospel is offensive to unsaved people -- Deal with it!  
-- or produce false converts!

Hello Tom Adcock, and Jesus People,  
I am 62 years old serving a life sentence. I have been  
saved in prison for 25 years. I witness to all in here, even  
the terminally ill. I want more literature to help me...  
Rogelio Salcedo  
Prison, Soledad, CA

Dear Thomas,  
I am here at this maximum security prison and want the  
following materials...  
Tshituka Walter, Republic of South Africa



Brother Tom,  
Thank you for the books you sent. I want to continue to study the Bible... Could you print this in a newsletter so my family can see I'm trying to change my life...  
Christopher McLane,  
Colusa County Jail, Colusa, CA

Jesus People,  
A brother in here said you would send me a Bible and a book called "Beware Deception and Delusion in the Church" by Bill Rudge...  
William Hodge  
Colusa County Jail, Colusa, CA

Hello and Blessings...  
I'm not sure what you can offer me free, but any books of sound doctrine will feed my soul...  
Morgan Smith  
North Kern State Prison, Delano, CA

To Jesus People,  
I'm a Christian, but here in prison. I saw a book in here "Who Is This Jesus?" with your address inside. Can you send me more Christian books like this one? ...  
Isaac Arriaga  
State Prison, Lancaster, CA

Dear Staff,  
Again I write. I didn't say before that I was saved at age 18 but fell back into the love of the flesh and the world and paying the consequences. I am trying to get back in our Lord's word and want all literature you can give me...  
Jose Escamilla  
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe, CA

Hello,  
Can you please send me your newsletters and some Christian books...  
Patrick Baccari  
State Prison, Tracy, CA

Tom,  
Thank you for the 200 copies of the book "Power For Living". We have a need for English and Navaho Bibles also...  
Betsy Frazier  
Widows Mite Mission, Flagstaff, AZ

Dear Jesus People,  
... I read an excellent book you sent here (Rebellion In the Church by B. Koerselman) and it brought tears to my eyes. I'd like a copy of that for my own personal use...  
Tyrone Hunt  
California State Prison, Represa, CA

To Jesus People,  
Thank you so much for all the books you sent, especially "The God Who Serves" and "The Christians Assurance of Salvation" and the 7 DVDs and 3 CDs. They help me in my ministry.  
Pastor Run Tin Cea  
Aizawl Mizoram, India

J.P.  
May I please get some of your good free Christian books. I know now I have to search for God with all my heart...  
Susan Stegall  
Colusa County Jail, Colusa, CA

Attention Jesus People,  
Please send me all Bible study reference books you can spare.  
Dennis Tolbert  
Upstate Correctional Facility, Malone, NY

Dear Brethren,....  
I just recently saw a newsletter of yours for the first time. I really enjoyed it and would like all you have and your books... I have been down 18 years but it was here in prison that I first read the Bible and got saved...  
Terry Nida  
Charlotte Correctional Institution, Punta Gorda, FL

Dear People,...

I'm in segregation, and a new believer and my goal is to saturate myself with the truth. Please send any and all resources to help me...  
Andre Jones  
Waupun Correctional Institution, Waupun, WI

E-mail from Charlene Pace (charlene\_pace@yahoo.com)  
What you call Mormonism is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We are the true restored church. The original church fell into apostacy after the apostles were killed... Jesus had established baptism, the priesthood, the perfect organization, prophets, revelation, eternal families, etc. ...

Editor: The Mormons (Latter Day Saints) have nothing that Jesus Christ established. All your "assertions" without one iota of evidence is typical of the many "Kool aid drinkers" who write me. The Bible condemns your religion. Read the Bible! We care about **you** personally!

Dear Jesus People,  
Hello... I would like to read more of your newsletters and any books on Christian faith...  
Casey Landis  
Colusa County Jail, Colusa, CA

E-mail from Elaine Greenberg (fiber88@earthlink.net)  
Subject: your crack pot newsletter  
i am totally offended by your newsletter.i did not request this newsletter nor do i ever want to get anymore of your stupid literature from you again. if i receive any more of your crack pot literature i will report you to the post office as receiving offensive mail,

Editor: If you had opened the first page you would have seen a bold letter paragraph with arrows pointing to it stating you will not receive another unless you request it. Since you claim it is stupid and did not even read it, your venomous “criticism” is meaningless. I’ve met thousands of your type over the past 40 years of ministry.

Jesus People Info Center,  
Please send me your excellent Bible reference books...  
Greg Smith  
State Prison, Wasco, CA

Your newsletter on Mormonism had old quotes from our prophets. [*and current ones also. What’s your point? J.P. Editor*] You should offer the hand of fellowship to us who worship the same God you do.  
Lee Weiler  
Rocklin CA

Editor: The newsletter **documented** from your church’s sacred books and the Bible that Mormons do **not** believe in the Christian God. And Mormonism is closer to Scientology and the Urantia Book and Freemasonry than it is to Christianity. Get out of Denial. You are more loyal to a church than you are to the real Jesus Christ. You are the one who will pay the consequences. Just accept this as “tough love”!

Hi,...  
Please, I’d like any Bible studies and more of your newsletters.  
Gwen Berrett  
Prison, Dayton, TN

Dear Jesus People,  
Here is my new address. Please keep sending me your newsletters.  
Sharon Brewer  
Ottawa, KS

Dear Thomas and other Jesus People...  
We were there in the 60’s and if the Jesus People movement hadn’t broken out the black Muslims, Black Panthers, S.D.S., etc. would have destroyed this country.... We serve the Lord and appreciate your work and the longevity of it. God bless you.  
Frank and Nancy Evans  
Tucson, AZ

Jesus People,  
Keep us on your mailing list. God bless you.  
Bible Believers Fellowship, Baldwin, NY

Mr. Tom Adcock,  
I got first and second newsletters. It is scriptural in edification -- building up and exhortation—stirring up and exhilaration – cheering up, to real Christians. Keep up the good work.  
Rev. Henry Palmieri  
Mechanicville, NY

Jesus People,  
Enclosed is a donation for a book you have “Assurance of Salvation” by Bernie Koerselman.  
Michael Norris  
Wesley Chapel, FL

Dear Tom Adcock,  
.... You know Mormons are not the only “cult”. Today, Methodist, Baptist, Assembly of God, Lutheran – all of them have fallen away from the truth...  
Barry Brubaker  
Kalispell, MT

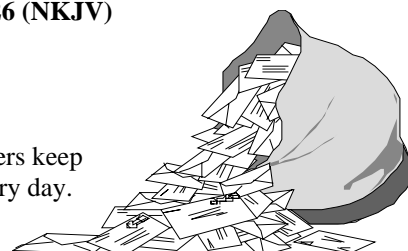
Editor: It’s true “some” churches of all denominations are completely apostate by denying basic truths, such as the Resurrection of Christ, the doctrine of Hell and other “basics”. Others have homosexual pastors, others believe Allah is the same as the Christian God. Other “evangelical” churches have taken all crosses out of the inside of their churches claiming crosses are “defeatist” and/or offensive to guests and are hindering church growth. How can these pastors escape judgment? I say put up the largest, bloodiest cross you can.

It all depends on the leader (Pastor) of the “individual church.” There are some good churches left in America, but not enough obviously to stop the ever increasing judgment of God on America. There is no temporal or eternal security except in the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

**“Whosoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God” James 4:4 (NKJV)**

**“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.” Luke 9:26 (NKJV)**

And the letters keep coming, every day.



# Is Homosexuality Genetic?

## The Gay Gene?

By Jeffrey Satinover, M.D.

[The following article is reprinted from our Jesus People Newsletter, Vol. 27 issue 1. If you want to receive our free newsletters write or email us.]

On July 15, 1993 National Public Radio (NPR) made a dramatic announcement on stations across the country: Was a team of scientists at the National Institutes of Health on the trail of a gene that causes homosexuality? Their report would be published the next day in *Science*, one of the two most prestigious scientific research journals in the world.<sup>1</sup>

The discussion that followed explained for the listening public the implications of these findings for social attitudes toward homosexuality and for public policy concerning it. *Science* was on the verge of proving what many had long argued: that homosexuality is innate, genetic and therefore unchangeable—a normal and commonplace variant of human nature. In the light of these findings, surely only the bigoted or ignorant could condemn it in any way.

Shortly after the announcement, amidst a well-orchestrated blizzard of press discussions, there ensued the watershed legal battle over "Proposition 2" in Colorado. (This popularly enacted legislation precluded making sexual orientation the basis of "privileged class" minority status, a status conferred previously only on the basis of immutable factors such as race.)

Among the many crucial issues raised by the legislation was the question as to whether homosexuality was indeed normal, innate and unchangeable. One prominent researcher testified to the court, "I am 99.5% certain that homosexuality is genetic." But this personal opinion was widely misunderstood as "homosexuality is 99.5% genetic," implying that research had demonstrated this. Certainly, that was the message promulgated by NPR's report on the recent research, and by all the discussions that followed. In a few weeks, *Newsweek* would emblazon across its cover the phrase that would stick in the public mind as the final truth about homosexuality: "Gay Gene?"

Of course, just near the end of the NPR discussion, certain necessary caveats were fleetingly added. But only an expert knew what they meant—that the research actually showed

nothing whatever in the way of what was being discussed. The vast majority of listeners would think that homosexuality had been all but conclusively proven to be "genetic." But the real question is whether or not there is such a "gay gene."

In fact, there is not, and the research being promoted as proving that there is provides no supporting evidence. How can this be? In order to understand what is really going on, one needs to understand some little-known features of the emerging study of *behavioral genetics* (much subtler than the genetics of simple, "Mendelian" traits such as eye color).

When it comes to questions of the genetics of any behavior—homosexuality included—all of the following statements are likely to be at least roughly true:

1. Such and such a behavior "is genetic",
2. There are no genes that produce the behavior;
3. The genes associated with the behavior are found on such and such a chromosome;
4. The behavior is significantly heritable;
5. The behavior is not inherited.

The scientific distinctions that make these seeming contradictions perfectly reasonable and consistent seem completely misunderstood by the media who report on them.

For Example, in response to the "gay gene" research, the *Wall Street Journal* headlined their report (which appeared the next day), "Research Points Toward a Gay Gene."<sup>2</sup> A subheading of the *Journal* article stated, "Normal Variation"—Leaving the casual reader with the impression that the research led to this conclusion. It did not, nor could it have. The subhead alluded to nothing more than the chief researcher's personal, unsubstantiated *opinion* that homosexuality, as he put it, "is a normal variant of human behavior." Even the New York Times, in its more moderate front-page article, "Report Suggests

Homosexuality is Linked to Genes," noted that other researchers warned against over-interpreting the work, "or taking it to mean anything as simplistic as that the 'gay gene' had been found."

At the end of the *Wall Street Journal* article, at the bottom of the last paragraph on the last page deep within the paper, a prominent geneticist was quoted for his reactions to the research. He observed that "the gene...maybe involved in something other than sexual behavior. *For example, it may be that the supposed gene is only 'associated' with homosexuality, rather than a 'cause' of it.*"

This rather cryptic comment would be most difficult to understand without the needed scientific background. Yet it is the most critical distinction in the entire article; indeed, it renders the findings almost entirely worthless. Why bury and fail to explain what it means? Perhaps the motives were innocent, but in fact, the belief that homosexuality is "biological" or "genetic" causes people to develop more positive attitudes toward it. They need not have the foggiest understanding that what "biological" or "genetic" really mean in order to change their view:

105 volunteer[s]...were exposed to one of three...conditions...[T]he experimental group read a summary...emphasizing a biological component of homosexual orientation...[O]ne control group read a summary...focusing on the absence of hormonal differences between homosexual and heterosexual men. [A]nother control group w[as] not exposed to either article....As predicted, subjects in the experimental group had significant lower<sup>3</sup> scores [more positive attitudes toward homosexuals] than subjects in the control groups.<sup>4</sup>

And:

Analysis indicated that subjects who believed that homosexuals are "born that way" held significantly more positive attitudes toward homosexuals than subjects who believed that homosexuals "choose to be that way" and/or "learn to be that way."<sup>5</sup>

What was actually going on in the study the media was trumpeting? Dean Hamer and his colleagues had performed a kind of behavioral genetics study now becoming widespread—the so-called "linkage

study." Researchers identify a behavioral trait that runs in a family and then look to see whether there is a chromosomal variant in the genetic material of that family, and if that variant is more frequent in the family members who have the trait.

To the uninitiated, a positive finding ("correlation" or "association" of a genetic structure with a behavioral trait) is taken to mean that the trait "is genetic"—that is, *inherited*.

*In fact, it means absolutely nothing of the sort, and it should be emphasized that there is virtually no human trait without innumerable such correlations.* We will see shortly just how this can be so. The most important take-home messages will be these:

(1) All the research that has been done on homosexuality has been selectively trumpeted through the press in carefully crafted form in order to shape public opinion—hence public policy—in predictable ways. The research itself means almost nothing.

(2) The research projects that would *truly* mean something are scarcely being done because they would all explicitly or tacitly lead to but one end highly undesirable to activists: a method or methods for preventing homosexuality or changing it with ever-increasing efficacy; and to one conclusion: homosexuality per se is not inherited.

(3) Most of the research has been hastily and often sloppily done—but this point is a distraction. Even were it superb, the findings would still mean almost nothing.

(4) To whatever extent this research has been good enough to generate valid conclusions at all, these conclusions are precisely the opposite of what is claimed in the press.

**Before we talk about specifics, here is what serious scientists think about the recent behavior-caused-by-genes research. From *Science*, 1994:**

Time and time again, scientists have claimed that particular genes or chromosomal regions are associated with behavioral traits, only to withdraw their findings when they were not replicated. "Unfortunately," says Yale's [Dr. Joel] Gelernter, "it's hard to come up with many" findings linking specific genes to complex human behaviors that have been replicated. "...All were announced with great fanfare; all were greeted unskeptically in the popular press; all are now in disrepute."<sup>6</sup>

A scientist at Washington University School of Medicine calculated what would be required for such a replication. He:

...projected that if the trait [in question] was 50% heritable...detecting [just] one of [its] genes would require studying 175 families—that is, almost 2000 people.<sup>7</sup> Replicati[on] would require studying 781 families—another 8000 people....[E]ach additional gene (for a polygenic trait), researchers would need...the whole business again. "Suddenly you're talking about tens of thousands of people and years of work and millions of dollars."<sup>8</sup>

Nothing even remotely close to this has been done with respect to homosexuality.

Using arguable-at-best methods, two American activists recently published studies showing that if one of a pair of identical twins is homosexual, the odds that the other one is, too, are less than 50% (the study examined a few dozens of pairs). On this basis, they argue that "homosexuality is genetic." British researchers generated comparable results in a similar study. Their conclusion? The surprisingly low odds that both twins were homosexual:

...confirmed that genetic factors are insufficient explanation for the development of sexual orientation.<sup>9</sup>

Two Columbia University researchers (who have published the most comprehensive research summary on the subject to date) note the unexpectedly:

...large proportion of monozygotic twins who [did not share] homosexuality despite sharing not only their genes but also their prenatal and familial environments.<sup>10</sup> The...[50% odds]...for homosexuality among the identical twins could be entirely accounted for by the increased similarity of their developmental experiences. In our opinion, the major finding of that study is that 48 percent of identical twins who were reared together [and where at least one was homosexual] were discordant for sexual orientation.<sup>11</sup>

Two other genetics researchers (one heads one of the largest genetics departments in the country, the other is at Harvard) comment:

...recent studies seeking a genetic basis for homosexuality suggest that...we may be in for a new molecular phrenology, rather than true scientific progress and insight into behavior.

While the authors interpreted their findings as evidence for a genetic basis for homosexuality, we think that the data in fact proved strong evidence for the influence of the environment.<sup>12</sup>

The author of the lead article on genes and behavior in a special issue of *Science* notes:

...the growing understanding that the interaction of genes and environment is much more complicated than the simple "violence genes" and "intelligence genes" touted in the popular press. Indeed, renewed appreciation of environmental factors is one of the chief effects of the increased belief in genetics' effects on behavior [my emphasis]. The same data that show the effects of genes also point to the enormous influence of non-genetic factors.<sup>13</sup>

The director of the Center for Developmental and Health Genetics at Pennsylvania State University comments:

Research into heritability is the best demonstration I know of the importance of the environment.

(Note the term "heritability;" we will be returning to it in detail as it lies at the heart of much confusion).

With regard to the work announced by NPR, genetics researchers from Yale, Columbia and Louisiana State Universities noted that:

Much of the discussion of this finding [of a purported gene locus homosexuality] has focused on its social and political ramifications. [But] inconsistencies...suggest that this finding should be interpreted cautiously...

The results are not consistent with any genetic model...neither of these differences

[between homosexuality in maternal versus paternal uncles or cousins] is statistically significant...small sample sizes make these data compatible with a range for...hypotheses.

[T]he...data...present no consistent support for the...results.<sup>14</sup>

By contrast to their public policy statements, the researchers responded carefully as follows:

We did not say that [the chromosome segment under study] "underlies" sexuality, only that it contributes to it in some families. Nor have we said that [it] represents a "major" gene, only that its influence is statistically detectable in the population that we studied.<sup>15</sup>

Ignoring possible flaws in the research, have the researchers actually pointed to this more modest claim with any degree of certainty? In fact, they have not—as they themselves acknowledge, but in language that will surely evade general understanding—and that will continue to be avoided by the press:

...the question of the appropriate significance level to apply to a non-Mendelian trait such as sexual orientation is problematic.<sup>16</sup>

English translation: "It is not possible to know what the findings mean, if anything, since sexual orientation cannot possibly be inherited the way eye-color is." Thus, to their fellow scientists, the researchers properly acknowledge what every serious researcher knows, but the public does not.

Complex behavioral traits are the product of multiple genetic and environmental antecedents, with 'environment' meaning not only the social environment but also such factors as the 'flux of hormones during development, whether you were lying on your right or left side in the womb and a whole parade of other things'...the relationships among genes and environment probably have a somewhat different effect on someone in Salt Lake City than if that person were growing up in New York City.<sup>17</sup>

English translation: "You're more likely to become gay growing up in Manhattan than in Utah among Mormons and Christian fundamentalists, even if everything else is the same, including genes."

Unfortunately, anyone who is so disposed can readily offer the public partial truths which are seriously misleading. This is so only in part because of an easily led or poorly educated press. The major reason is really that the ideas being cooked beyond recognition once they leave the labs are inherently complex, even if originally formulated and presented properly. There are no "lite," sound-bite versions of behavioral genetics that are not fundamentally in error in one way or another.

Nonetheless, if one grasps at least some of the basics, in simple form, it will be possible to see exactly why the current research into homosexuality means so little—and will continue to mean little even should the quality of the research methods improve—so long as it remains driven by political, rather than scientific objectives.

There are really only two major principles that need to be carefully assimilated in order to see through public relations distortions to the actual meaning of recent research. They are as follows:

1. Heritable does not mean inherited.
2. Meaningful genetics research identifies and then focuses on traits that are directly inherited. One prominent genetics research (discussing a matter unrelated to homosexuality, but equally frustrated with the bad science reporting) flatly calls the question of heritability "trivial".

### **Heritable Does Not Mean Inherited**

*Heritability* studies can be done on almost any human trait—physical, behavioral, emotional, etc.—and will show positive results. That is, almost every human characteristic you can think of is in significant measure *heritable* (thus discussing it is 'trivial'). But few human behavioral traits are directly inherited the way simple physiological traits are (e.g., eye color). *Inherited* means "determined directly by genes," with little or no way of changing the trait by choice, or by preventing it, or by modifying the environment in which the trait has emerged (or is more likely to emerge).

Here is a simple hypothetical example, but it is 100% plausible. It tracks the kinds of studies that have been done with innumerable other traits, including homosexuality. (But only in the area of homosexuality has the meaning of such studies been so badly distorted).

Suppose that for political reasons you want to demonstrate that there is a "basketball gene" that "makes" people become basketball players ("BBPs"). (Please suspend your immediate, correct understanding that the idea is absurd.) To make your case you would use the same methods as with homosexuality. These methods fall into three categories, and represent important forms of preliminary research when investigating any trait: (1) twin studies; (2) brain dissections; (3) gene "linkage" studies.

### Twin Studies

The basic idea in twin studies is to show that the more genetically similar are two people, the more likely it is that they will share the trait you are studying. So, you create a study set of pairs of people, divided into categories according to how genetically similar they are, as follows:

| <i>Pair Type</i>  | <i>Degree of similarity<br/>(% same genes)</i> |
|-------------------|--|
| Identical Twins   | 100%   |
| Fraternal Twins   | 60%  |
| Non-Twin Siblings | 50%  |
| Unrelated People  | <5%  |

The most similar are identical twins, the next most similar are fraternal twins (who are on average as different as non-twin brothers or sisters, but no more so), the least similar are unrelated people.

Then you identify those pairs of twins in which at least one is a BBP. It will not be difficult to show that if one such identical twin is a BBP, his brother (or his sister) more frequently will be, too, than would a non-identical twin or a non-twin sibling or a non-sibling. You would create groups of such different kinds of pairs to make the comparison in a large number of cases. (One set of identical twin pairs, one set of non-identical twin pairs, one set of non-twin siblings, and so on.)

From the "concordance rate" in each set (the percentage of pairs in each set in which either both are BBPs or both are not. Pairs in which one was and the other was not would be called "discordant for BBP") you would calculate a "heritability" rate.

(Perhaps you have an armchair guess as to how many identical twin-pairs either *both* play or *both* do not play basketball. Probably a good deal more than half, the concordance rate for homosexuality in such twin-pairs.)

You respond to the reporter from *Sports Illustrated* that, "Our research demonstrates that BBP is very strongly heritable," and you would be right. But the article that comes out that month reads something slightly different, but completely wrong. "...Recent research shows that BBP is probably inherited. A number of outside researchers examined the work and found it substantially accurate and well-performed. They cautioned against arriving at hasty conclusions, however," No one notices the difference.

### Brain Dissections

Second, your colleagues perform a series of autopsies on the brains of some dead people who appear to have been BBPs. (Old jerseys, high-top sneakers and Knicks ticket-stubs were found among their possessions, for example.) They do the same with a group of dead non-players (no sneakers, jerseys or tickets.) They report that, on average, "certain parts of the brain long thought to be involved with BBP are much larger in the group of BBPs than in the controls." Certain national renowned newspapers in the Northeast pick up on the story and editorialize, "It will be very difficult for anyone except poorly educated yokels who believe in Santa Claus, the Tooth-Fairy and God to argue that BBP is not inborn. For not only has it been proven to run in families, even the *brains* of basketball players are different."<sup>18</sup>

In a pretense of balance, some of these papers interview diehard believers in the old view—yokels who still think that one must decide to play basketball, and play it for a long time, before you really can be considered "a BBP." One of them is quoted as claiming that, "maybe if you do something long enough your brain changes as you get better at it, and that part of the brain gets bigger." (Remarkably enough, this surmise seems obvious to the old-time believer.) The reporter does not merely report the comment, however, he also hints that it is especially idiotic—typical of diehards and yokels—since everyone knows the brain does not change.

Of course, you yourself are well aware that among neuroscientists it is extremely old news that the brain indeed changes, quite dramatically, in just the way the old diehard guessed: those parts

responsible for an activity get much bigger over time (and there are definitely parts that are more utilized in BBP). You will not lie about it if asked (since you will not be), but neither will you go out of your way to confirm the truth.

### Gene "Linkage" Studies

Now for the coup de grâce. You find a couple of families of BBPs and compare them to some families of non BBPs. You have a hunch that of innumerable genes of every imaginable sort likely to be "associated" or "linked" to BBP (you never use the word "causing" because you do not need to—no one knows the difference), there are some genes on, say the X-Chromosome. After a few false starts, sure enough, you find what you are looking for: among the BBP families one particular chromosomal variant (cluster of genes) is more commonly found (though not always) than among the non-players.

Now, sympathizers at National People's Radio were long ago quietly informed of your research, since they want people to come around to certain beliefs, too. So, as soon as your work hits the press, they are on the air: "Researchers are hot on the trail of the 'Basketball Gene!' In an article to be published tomorrow in *Sports Science*..." Learned-sounding commentators pontificate in soft, accentless, perfectly articulated and faintly condescending tones about the enormous public policy implications of this superb piece of science-in-the-service-of-humankind. Two weeks later, there it is again, at a jaunty angle across the cover of the major national newsweekly: "Basketball Gene."

Now what is wrong with this scenario? It is simple: of course BBP is *heritable* ("has a non-zero *heritability*" to use the words of homosexuality researchers). That is because many physiological traits—muscle strength, speed, agility, reflex speed, height, etc.—are themselves directly *inherited*, and they make it more or less likely that one can, and will want to, and will successfully, and will therefore continue to want to, and will in fact continue to, play basketball. In short, because of intermediate *inherited* traits *associated* with BBP (none of which *are* BBP), it shows significant *heritability*. (The genetic *association*, of course, is in no way necessary or predetermined, and is highly culturally conditioned: there were no BBPs at all in, say, ancient Greece, yet the same genes were there.)

BBP also shows a strong *biological representation in the brain*, both at birth (i.e., nervous system factors contributing to reflex speed)

and especially later (e.g., the parts of the cortex that are cultivated and become responsible for the movements of basketball, as in the huge increases in finger-related brain tissue among blind people who learn Braille).

And the specific genes that run in families that are responsible for height, athleticism, etc. can surely be found and they will be statistically linked to BBP. And if one identical twin decides to play basketball, the unusually strong emotional bond between such siblings will make it even more likely that his twin will too. (The fact of their genetic identity, not their specific genes, are here influencing an outcome above and beyond the indirect contributions from any specific genes.)

The basic problem is this: BBP is "influenced" (made more or less an easy and enjoyable thing to do) by the presence or absence of other associated traits. For BBP we can readily guess what they are and so immediately see that the "genetic" component of BBP has nothing to do with the game itself but with these associated (facilitating) traits. What are these traits? Height, athleticism, bone structure, reflexes, muscle refresh rate, and so on. So evident are the specifics of this association that no serious researcher will waste his time looking into the genetics of BBP proper; he will concentrate on the obvious intermediate traits—height, athleticism and so on.

The same is true for homosexuality, except (a) the more important, intermediate traits with which it is associated are mostly unknown and suspected ones are harder to confirm, and (b) the research agenda is being distorted by the political requirement that no such associated traits be discovered and that homosexuality be falsely presented as directly inherited.

### Meaningful Genetics Research Identifies and Focuses on Traits That Are Directly Inherited

Research into merely *heritable* traits is useful only in generating hypotheses about what the directly inherited traits might be. Here is what this means: Let us imagine that it was not immediately evident to us that the heritable aspects of BBP were intermediate traits such as height. A good researcher would not be at all tempted to conclude from the studies we described that BBP itself was inherited. He would conclude however that, indeed, there must be some inherited traits that facilitate



BBP, and it would be those as-yet-unknown traits that were producing the "non-zero heritability" results. If he could identify the traits correctly, *he would find that the heritability results, when he redirected his genetics research, would increase dramatically.*

In other words, studying the genetics of BBP is really a crude way of unwittingly studying the genetics of height and athleticism, etc. If he selects his population on the basis of the indirect trait (BBP), when it is other traits that are really inherited, the researcher's results will be "fuzzed up" by the inevitable proportion of BBPs who lack these traits, or have them in lesser degree (e.g., a small number of shortish BBPs). But if he correctly identifies the traits in question, his next round of studies will "divide the herd" more efficiently, corralling his subjects not by BBP (or "sexual orientation"), but by height. Of course, there will be more BBPs among the tall subjects than among the short, but that is incidental. He will seek out other tall people who are not BBPs, and in his new study, the heritability factor (height) will be even more concentrated.

How might he guess at what the most important traits are, and then try to confirm his guess, so he could investigate the genetics of these traits? Very simply: he looks, does the best he can to name what he sees, and tries not to run afoul of the currently fashionable taboos enforced by the thought-police! He will probably have no trouble studying height, but he might run into difficulties should he suspect that athleticism (or even height) has a racial association. (More people of Nordic stock, being taller, become basketball players than do people of Appenzeller Swiss stock, being short. Perhaps other such groupings might occur to a researcher.)

In the case of homosexuality, the *inherited* traits that are more common among homosexuals (and that produce "non-zero heritability" in studies) might include such qualities as greater than average tendency to anxiety, shyness, sensitivity, intelligence, aesthetic abilities and so on. (Of course, these traits may themselves be further reducible to a variety of mutually influencing, associated genetic and non-genetic factors.) The brain changes that are more prevalent among homosexuals, the tendency of homosexuality to run in families (and to vary with degree of genetic similarity within families) and the presence of associated chromosomal markings are all certainly due to as yet unresearched and therefore not-yet-identified intermediate traits. There is *no* evidence that homosexuality itself is inherited.

Like height and BBP, these traits—intelligence, say, or anxiety—are surely widely distributed in the population at large and densely present therefore in groups that are properly selected to have them. If researchers had divided their populations by shyness or aesthetic sensibility, and ignored the homosexual/non-homosexual division, they might well have found even strong chromosomal linkages as well as brain changes and twin concordance rates.

## Conclusion

Here, then is a final summary, in the form of a dialogue.

***Isn't homosexuality heritable?***

Yes, significantly.

***So it is inherited?***

No, it is not.

***I'm confused. Isn't there a "genetic component" to homosexuality?***

Yes, but "component" is just a loose way of indicating genetic associations and linkages. This will not make sense unless you understand what, and how little, "linkage" and "association" really means.

***What about all the evidence that shows that homosexuality "is genetic"?***

There is not any, and none of the research itself claims there is; only the press and, sadly, certain researchers do—when speaking in sound bites to the public.

***But isn't homosexuality "biologically in the brain"?***

Of course it is. So is just about everything else. I'll bet people who pray regularly have certain enlarged portions of their brains!

***So doesn't that mean that homosexuality is "innate"?***

No more than prayer is. The brain changes with use or nonuse as much as muscles do—a good deal more, in fact. We just do not usually see it happening.

***But doesn't homosexuality run in families?***

Yes.

***So you get it from your parents, right?***

You get viruses from your parents, too, and some bad habits. Not everything that is familial is innate or genetic.

***But it just seems to make sense. From the people I know there's a type—it's got to be inherited—that runs in families and a lot of these people are gay, right?***

That is what associated traits are—but what exactly is the associated trait—or traits—you are detecting? If there is one thing the research confirms, it is that it is not "gayness" itself. That is why these traits are sometimes in evidence at a very early age, long before sexuality is shaped.

***So what are these traits?***

An important question, indeed. Science is being seriously obstructed in its effort to answer that questions. If we were allowed—encouraged—to answer it, we would soon develop better ideas on what homosexuality is and how to change, or better, prevent it. We would know who was at greater risk for becoming homosexual and what environments—family or societal—foster it. As one prominent gay activist researcher implied, all genetic things being equal, it is a whole lot easier to become "gay" in New York than in Utah. So who do you think would benefit most from *that* kind of research?

***Well, what traits do you guess are "associated" as you put it, with homosexuality?***

May I speculate, perhaps wildly? That is how scientific hypotheses are first generated. The important thing is not to avoid ideas that prove wrong, just not to cling to them if they do.

***Okay, go ahead, speculate.***

Intelligence, anxiety, sensitivity, aesthetic abilities, taste. You know all the stereotypes.

***But where do these traits come from? Aren't they inherited?***

We do not know yet. Some may be. Or rather, we do not know how much is inherited, and which elements are direct and which merely further associated and linked with other yet more fundamental traits. But you are getting the picture. That is how the research ought to proceed. It is not necessarily that the traits that facilitate homosexuality are themselves bad; perhaps many are gifts. Athleticism is a generally good thing, and we think highly of people who satisfy their athletic impulses as, say, outstanding BBPs. Not so the fellow who merely becomes a thug.

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***Endnotes:***

<sup>1</sup> D.H. Hammer et al, "A Linkage Between DNA Markers on the X-chromosome and Male Sexual Orientation," *Science* (1993), 261, no. 5119, pp. 321-27.

<sup>2</sup> "Research Points Toward A Gay Gene," *Wall Street Journal*, 16 July 1993.

<sup>3</sup> A lower score on this scale means a less negative attitude toward homosexuality.

<sup>4</sup> Piskur and Degelman, "Attitudes Toward Homosexuals," *Psychological Reports* 71 (1992); my emphasis, pp. 1219-25 (part 2 of 3). See also K.E. Ernulf, "Cross-National Analysis."

<sup>5</sup> K.E. Ernulf, S.M. Innala, and F.L. Whitman, "Biological Explanation, Psychological Explanation, and Tolerance of Homosexuals: A Cross-National Analysis of Beliefs and Attitudes," *Psychological Reports* 65 (1989), pp. 1003-10 (1 of 3).

<sup>6</sup> Mann, C., "Genes and Behavior," *Science* 264:1687 (1994).

<sup>7</sup> None of the studies of the genetics of homosexuality (all of which are initial; none are replicatory) have come even remotely close to studying this many subjects.

<sup>8</sup> Mann, C., *op.cit.* p. 1688.

<sup>9</sup> King, M and McDonald, E., "Homosexuals who are twins: a study of 46 probands," *British Journal of Psychiatry* 160:407-409 (1992)

<sup>10</sup> Byne, W. and Parson, B., "Human sexual orientation: the biologic theories reappraised," *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 50, 3:230 (1993).

<sup>11</sup> Quoted by Horgan, J., *Scientific American: Eugenics Revisited*. June 1993, p. 123.

<sup>12</sup> Billings, P. and Beckwith, J. *Technology Review*, July, 1993, p. 60.

<sup>13</sup> Mann, C. *op. cit.* pp. 1686-1689.

<sup>14</sup> Risch, N., Squires-Wheeler, E., and Bronya, J.B.K., "Make Sexual Orientation and Genetic Evidence," *Science* 262 (1993), pp. 2063-65.

<sup>15</sup> Hamer, D.H., et al. Response to Risch, N. et al. *ibid.* p. 2065

<sup>16</sup> Hamer, D.H., et al. Response to Risch, N. et al. *loc cit.*

<sup>17</sup> Mann, C., *op. cit.* p. 1687

<sup>18</sup> Readers may recall Simon LeVay's much touted discovery that the certain parts of the brains of (supposedly) homosexual men were larger than among (supposedly) heterosexual men. But even if the research is valid—its quality has been strongly criticized—the

discovery of brain differences per se is on a par with the discovery that athletes have bigger muscles than non-athletes. For though a genetic tendency toward larger muscles may make it easier to—and therefore more likely that one will—become an athlete, becoming an athlete will certainly give one bigger muscles.

When this particular critique was raised, the press quickly took its accustomed potshot at the usual "poorly educated and easily led" religious groups for the suggestions' politically incorrect implications: "Some religious fundamentalists even suggested that homosexual activity somehow could have caused the structural differences [that LeVay claimed to have discovered]."

But as the editor of *Nature*—an equally prestigious publication—wrote, commenting on the LeVay research: "Plainly, the neural correlates of genetically determined gender are plastic at a sufficiently early stage....Plastic structures in the hypothalamus allowing the consequences of early sexual arousal to be made permanent might suit [those who claim an environmental origin to homosexuality] well." This editor is not, to anyone's knowledge, a religious fundamentalist.

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## **BOTH SIDES NOW!**

### **10 WAYS TO GET OUT OF THE GAY LIFE, IF YOU WANT OUT**

**BY CHARLENE E. COTHRAN, VENUS MAGAZINE PUBLISHER**

OVER THE PAST 29 YEARS OF MY LIFE I have been an aggressive, creative and strategic supporter of gay and lesbian issues. I've organized and participated in countless marches and various lobbying efforts in the fight for equal treatment of gay men and lesbians. I have kept current on the issues and made financial contributions to those organizations doing work about which I was most passionate.

As the publisher of a 13 year old periodical which targets Black gays and lesbians, I have had the opportunity to publicly address thousands, influencing closeted people to 'come out' and stand up for themselves, which is particularly difficult in the African-American community.

But now, I must come out of the closet again. I have recently experienced the power of change that came over me once I completely surrendered to the teachings of Jesus Christ. As a believer of the word of God, I fully accept and have always known that same-sex relationships are not what God intended for us.

I don't expect that this message will be widely received, quite the contrary. But, I do know that there is someone, possibly reading this very article, who is tired and unhappy living this way. Someone, in your heart of hearts, is searching for a way out, but you just can't seem to break free on your own. I am speaking to my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters who want real peace; the kind you've heard about, sung about, read about. It is simpler than you think to acquire it and there is no condemnation once you've entered it.

Although I have lived as a lesbian for my entire adult life, it is without a doubt my soul's purpose to use my gifts to LOVINGLY share the truth about how we got here: how we came to be gay or lesbian, how we came to enjoy our 'lifestyle' and how we came to believe that this was OK with God. [Romans 1:21-28]

Many argue that each individual should determine for themselves what God intends for him or her. This would indicate that we each have a separate set of biblical rules to live by. This is untrue. If you are ready for change and willing to open yourself to the truth, God's love can bring your current belief system in line with His Word. Jesus will cleanse and forgive all confessed sin from a willing heart. Homosexuality is only one of them. It is no greater sin than any of the others, but it is sin.

By now you're asking, 'Has she lost her mind? My answer is NO. I didn't lose it, I gave it away! In fact, I traded it in for a new one! [Romans 12:1-2]

#### **ONE TUESDAY MORNING**

I WAS MINDING my own business one fine New Jersey morning when I received a call from a local pastor, the Rev. Vanessa M. Livingston. I had never spoken to her previously. She was calling to add a statement to an article about her gospel groups in another paper we own called the Kitchen Table News.

I don't remember how we got on the subject of salvation but she could not have known how much I had been struggling with trying to reckon my spiritual upbringing with my lesbian lifestyle.

My stiff-necked resistance to the truth arose in me as she ministered. I honestly figured that if I simply mentioned the 'L' word that she'd drop the phone, anoint it with oil and that would be the last I'd hear from her. But that's not what happened. The pastor prophetically confirmed what I've known for years, 'one day you will come out of that world and bring many gay and lesbian souls out with you.' She asked if today was the day that I would choose but I said no. I felt the power of conviction upon me as she spoke but I resisted and hardened my heart against the truth as I had done many times before. I was not willing to hear her or give up my all to God, especially knowing that I had a confirmed speaking engagement scheduled the following week at the Schomberg Center during New York City Gay Pride.

#### **HAVE MERCY**

AS I BLURTED out that I was a proud card-carrying lesbian, the pastor reminded me that God's mercy allowed me to survive my experiences as He developed my gifts, all as a part of His plan to lead others to Him, others who will not perhaps hear her or other ministers who have not LIVED this experience.

She could not have had a clue about my encounters with the mercies of God. Mercy had indeed covered me during those dark 1993 days when my good friend Venus Landin, for whom this magazine is named, was shot and killed. I recalled how I went with her to her ex-lover's home to recover her things, how the woman had built a fire using Venus' precious journals as fuel, how she burned her clothes and how the flames and debris had fallen out of the fireplace's box and were ablaze along the carpet.

I remember the look on the woman's face and in her eyes. I know in my heart that she had intended to murder Venus that night but she did not expect me to arrive with her. There, I stood at the very gates of hell. Given her

state of mind, there was no reason for the woman not to have killed us both, then turn the gun on herself as she did Venus a week later. When I received the call that they were both found dead, I knew instantly that mercy had covered me, but why?

### I YIELD

THE SPIRIT OF God spoke directly into my soul and said you will choose this day who you will serve and if you make the wrong choice, I will allow you to drift so far away from me that you will never hear my voice again.

I gave God my heart and soul in the parking lot of the mall, right there in my car. A river of tears flowed as Jesus washed me and forgave me and redeemed me for His work. I intend to be just as 'out' about my transformation as I was about my lesbian life. I have given every gift I have back to God, including VENUS Magazine. The target audience will remain the same but the mission has been renewed. Our new mission is to encourage, educate and assist those in the life who want change but can't find a way out. My brother, my sister, please follow me out of this.

**1. Establish and accept for yourself that God's Word is true AS-IS.** Do not allow gay theology to divorce the Old Testament from the New or the written words of the Apostles from the spoken words of Jesus Christ. This is a good trick, but it's no longer working because God is preparing to bring millions of gays and lesbians back to His feet. He has already chosen many of us for this specific purpose and He is waiting for YOU to accept His call.

**2. Seek the truth within the scriptures about homosexuality and it will be revealed to you as you read and pray.** Know that we were NOT born this way. This myth was fashioned by the gay establishment as a basis for changing laws in favor of gay rights. Again it works for their purposes, but it is biblically UNTRUE. There is no way that anyone, without an agenda, can come away from the Bible with an endorsement by God of the gay lifestyle. Gay theology starts with an agenda ['Let's make the Bible say gay is O.K.'] in order to arrive at its conclusions, but it is a lie.

**3. Do not resist God's call on your life.** Get alone with God and let Him minister the truth directly to you. That conviction you feel is a gift to keep you near the cross. If you keep resisting Him and hardening your heart, He will eventually stop calling you. You can then have a great time fulfilling all the fantasies of the flesh without feeling a thing, but what awaits you at the end of such a life?

**4. Know with certainty that You are loved by God exactly where you are and that your experiences are**

**of great value for kingdom work.** I have BEEN tired, but the enemy kept my mind trapped for years by convincing me that I could not be of any real use to God having lived as an openly gay publisher, but that was a lie.

**5. Say Yes.** That's really all it takes to accept the truth which is accepting Jesus Christ. Pray this prayer of repentance with me now. "Lord, I'm coming to you because I believe your Word and I need your help. I can't change myself, I've tried. Please forgive me for every thing I've done that did not glorify you. I believe that you ARE the Word, I believe that Jesus IS your son, I believe that He DIED for my sins, and BECAUSE I believe this, I AM NOW SAVED BY YOUR GRACE. Thank you for saving me! Amen." [A prayer for all sinners.]

**6. Make your salvation real.** Keeping the good news of your personal salvation a secret is another trick the enemy uses to buy time as he tries to pull you back to your former life. We must believe with our hearts AND confess with our mouths. You need to 'out' yourself by immediately sharing your testimony with SOMEONE about how the Lord has revealed the truth directly to you; about the level of joy and peace you now have which you could not reach without full repentance; about the welcomed change this brings in your life, and all the wonderful things He has done for you. [Romans 10:9]

**7. Experience paradise NOW!** Consult God first, then go ahead and live your life! Welcome new friendships, start that new venture, expand your experiences, obtain nice things, just don't put them before God. Enjoy your life to a new degree, without the burden of sin AND with the confidence of ALL of God's promises on your side! It is totally possible to live for God in this present age and enjoy yourself immensely. When I say live for God I mean totally 'sold out' for God. But you cannot be 'sold out' for God and live a gay/lesbian lifestyle at the same time. [Titus 2:11-12]

It is possible to have a BETTER time than you did in the clubs, in the parks, BETTER than all those secret encounters with folks whose names you've long forgotten, BETTER than your long-term relationship, BETTER than all your priceless possessions, BETTER than money! Most of us have experienced some of this AND WE WERE STILL MISERABLE. But thanks to God's mercy and saving grace we don't have to wait years and years to get to heaven to experience paradise. The earth is the Lord's, the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein. Enjoy God's earth, now. [Psalms 24:1]

**8. Walk Carefully or 'circumspectly' as the scriptures describe.** This is about being careful to keep your spirit clean and fresh. Prayer, along with reading and hearing

the Word AND seeking ways to apply it to your daily life is the way to STAY saved and delivered from any sinful habit.

Isn't it interesting that we sometimes give our garments of clothing more care than we give our very souls. When we put on an outfit, we're so careful not to lean against anything that might soil it. We protect it while we're eating so as not to get a spot on it. We sit in such a way to prevent it from wrinkling. Treat your soul's salvation with at least this much care. [Ephesians 5:15-16]

**9. Have fellowship with believers.** We know that the church has largely failed gays and lesbians by not being a welcoming place for those who have sought spiritual change. The invitation to 'come as you are' seems to be extended to everyone but us. However, God has people everywhere who are open, real and willing to walk out with you. Ask the Lord to lead you to a loving, caring, Bible-believing fellowship where you can be nurtured, be blessed, grow AND be a blessing. [Hebrews 10:25]

**10. Stay in touch.** We'd love to hear from you! If this article has helped you, please let us know. Also, if you'd like to share YOUR testimony with VENUS readers, email us at [editor@venusmagazine.org](mailto:editor@venusmagazine.org) or write CHARLENE E. COTHRAN MINISTRIES, BOX 353378, PALM COAST, FL 32135

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## Hypocrisy

G. Campbell Morgan said we Christians are not to catch the spirit of the age but to condemn it, and, so far as we may, correct it. But churches are filled with worldlings. They sit in the choirs, teach classes, hold offices. They are affiliated with all the unfruitful works of darkness and never reprove them. If their hypocrisy is pointed out, they adopt the hush-hush policy by misusing the admonition, "Judge not that ye be not judged," only another device of the devil to shut our mouths while the church continues to become more worldly. We have long since ceased being disturbed by these sensitive souls who howl when the sword of the Spirit opens the puss-pockets of iniquity.

## Judgment, America's

Wheresoever the carcass is, there will the vultures be gathered together" (Matt. 24:28). Never in the history of the earth has there been such a crop of slain carcasses from the ravages of drugs and liquor, crime, and sex diseases.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Herod ordered the slaughter of boy babies. We cringe at that. Today boy and girl babies are murdered before birth in figures that run into millions, but the average individual never even raises an eyebrow.

Ruth Graham said that if God does not punish America in judgment He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah. American pride boasts that destruction won't happen here, but history is one long record of nations that made that same boast, and now we see only the Pyramids, the Parthenon, and the Colosseum.

Unless there is soon a genuine turning to God in America we may end up in the biggest buzzard roost of all time.

Excerpts from: **Vance Havner**, *The Vance Havner Notebook*. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids MI

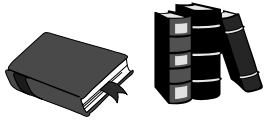


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**CHEAP GRACE** is the deadly enemy of our church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?

Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, the love of God taught as the Christian "conception" of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins. The Church which holds the correct doctrine of grace has, it is supposed, *ipso facto* a part in that grace. In such a Church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the Incarnation of the Word of God.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**. *The Cost of Discipleship*; The Macmillan Co., NY 1967. p. 45-46 Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor who "stood up" against Hitler and was executed for his courage!



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We simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as the steeple of the church. We are recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew, in Latin and in Greek...at the kind of place where cynics talk smut and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what He died about. And that is where churchmen ought to be, and what churchmen should be about.

The harvest is truly plentiful, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38