

# Why Do You Wait?

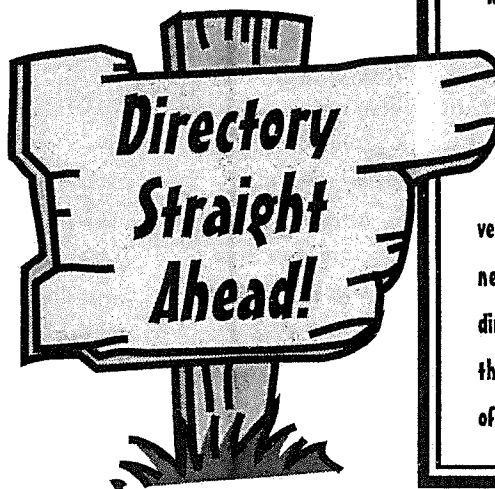
by Dr. Clay Nuttall, IBFNA Moderator

We used to sing the hymn by George Root "Why do you wait, dear brother, O why do you tarry so long?" It reminds us of the admonition of Ananias to Saul, "And now why tarriest thou?" (Acts 22:16). Obedience is something that we are to do, but we are to do it without delay. Then why do individuals and churches remain in groups and institutions when those groups have embraced apostasy?

As a result of exhaustive research relative to this church's history I have asked several questions. How did so many true believers get involved in the old Northern Baptist Convention? How did the NBC become so liberal and therefore apostate? Why did so many stay in a movement that had identified with the apostasy? Obviously a group does not become liberal overnight but it begins by accommodation to liberal doctrine. When the first signs appeared some of the faithful saints left. Others struggled to leave. In the end, some stayed even though infidels were by then firmly entrenched in leadership roles.

Looking back there were many reasons why some stayed. They had pensions to depend on. There was the fear of recrimination, such as blacklisting and hindering those who departed from getting another church. Some would rather cower than stand, but "the spirit of fear" is never becoming to the servant of God. In some cases property was owned by the convention and they wondered how they could continue without their property. Some true brethren had already accepted the human conclusion "that they could do more from the inside for the Lord." One wonders how disobedience can ever be productive for anything. Prestige is a dangerous thing particularly when coupled with dependent identification and the desire not to be misunderstood. These all, however, led to many wrong decisions.

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## 1997 IBFNA DIRECTORY

As this edition of *The Review* goes to press, your 1997 IBFNA Directory is being readied for publication. The addition of many new members, numerous changes to current member's addresses, addition of known E-mail addresses, plus the loss of Bethel's printer has caused this delay. Your copy, which we know you will find invaluable, should be in the mail very soon. In the meantime, if you need any information from the directory do not hesitate to contact the Membership & Subscriptions office at (215) 536-9200. ■

What baffled me most was the ignorance cherished by so many. Some of this may have been a deliberate desire not to know about the liberal doctrine and specifically, the doctrinal error that had come through educational institutions. Pastors and people back home in the churches were playing their "church games" and paid little attention to what was happening. If someone was brave enough to challenge departures from the Scripture, the "fearful" would chastise the "faithful" as just being trouble makers. Or they looked at those aberrations as just isolated instances to be tolerated. Even when blatant illustrations of the apostasy marked by liberal doctrine became obvious they passed it by. When the scoffers denied a literal hell, the sonship of Christ, the saving blood and the blessed hope, they received only a glance from the fearful who had decided to stay, even when the apostasy was embraced.

It was not just ignorance, but deliberate ignorance that was so offensive to God. As the educational institutions and social agencies filled with liberal doctrine, the time came when those professors and speakers were openly and brazenly displayed as a badge of honor. They gave them another name, for the cause of educational excellence, whatever in the world that may mean. Finally, identification with all kinds of religious and political error was openly accepted and the ecumenical nature of the apostate beast was fully developed—still some stayed.

Why did they stay? I have asked that same question about the very same thing that is happening at this hour. Why do individuals and churches tarry, when groups and institutions are following the very same path that the NBC walked? Some argue that those relationships are not official, but they are indeed very real! The careful observer is asking why would churches stay when many have embraced Promise Keepers, which by any definition is ecumenical and embraces apostates. It may be ignorance, but more than likely, it is deliberate

even though Catholics, Mormons, speakers connected with the National Council of Churches, ecumenicals, and those with every doctrinal error you can think of speak at and lead these meetings.

When Luther left the Roman church he carried too much baggage away. That was true of all groups that came out of that movement. It is easy to shine a light on others, but let me try shining one on us. Many reading this are in churches that came out of that old liberal system as did ours. Most shocking is the baggage we brought out with us. While we may have held to

the fundamentals there is one thing we brought with us that will ultimately soften every church for a return to its NBC roots. (When I read our constitution, I realized that it was not only written under the NBC, but also represents a practical side of liberalism.) It is not enough to say that the Bible is our final authority and sufficiency. We need to practice that. It might shock some of us to know just how much we have been influenced by the liberals' methodology. I dare you to read your constitution and other church documents with an open Bible. What's so unbelievable is that many consider these human documents higher than the Bible, or care little what the Bible teaches on specific subjects. That in my view is a serious affront to our Heavenly Father.

The point is that many of the churches who once came out of liberalism are now returning in practice; their long time dependence on human wisdom and documents rather than the Bible is a clear highway to disaster. The bridges to liberalism have not been destroyed.

My prayer for the people and churches who have gathered with us for fellowship is that they will deal with any possible thread that would lead them back to the place where we have painfully removed ourselves from twice or more. I speak to this issue because as a fellowship we need to ensure that we do not support any position that in reality puts human thinking above God's Word. ■

**Bridges  
to  
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# WATCHMAN

## What of the Night?

*"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast or the number of his name."*

Revelation 13:16-17

by Wilson Ewin  
Compton, Quebec



The above passage has intrigued and puzzled Christians for many centuries. Interest in this was eliminated during Europe's Dark Ages, however, because most nations had fallen under the dogmatic, intolerant and coercive sway of the popes of Rome. Then came the Middle Ages. Outstanding men of God had become involved in a deadly struggle to liberate Europe from the pagan teachings of Roman Catholicism. The writings of Martin Luther, William Farel, John Knox, Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin reveal they had little time for such prophetic studies.

Author Charles Lee Feinberg, Dean of Semitics at Talbot Theological Seminary in 1961, noted this in his book, *Premillennialism or Amillennialism?* The Jewish scholar approvingly quotes Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer who stated, "In the recovery of vital truth in the Reformation, dispensational distinctions, like various other doctrines, were not emphasized" (p. 224).

But now, suddenly the actual fulfillment of prophecies given by Christ to His servant John, nineteen centuries ago, is forcing Christians to observe the reality of global events. Almost invariably, the scrutiny of these will bring the startled believer to the Word of God and chapter 13 of John's Revelation. Why? Because the passage describes two beasts that represent powerful systems destined to exercise total and merciless control over all mankind. Furthermore, the terrifying presentation is now most relevant; the stunning reality of each can be recognized at this moment and seen unfolding rapidly throughout the entire world.

Eminent Bible scholars of past years have recognized the first beast to be a political system. Arno C. Gaebelein shared this conviction with Professors Dwight Pentecost, Alva J. McClain and John F. Walvoord, former president of Dallas Theological Seminary. In 1915, Dr. Gaebelein published his book, *The Revelation*, and later wrote this:

"Out of the Roman empire there shall arise in the future a prince. This prince or chief of the fourth empire is identical with the little horn of Daniel VII..." He is further to be identified with the "king of fierce countenance" of Daniel 8:23...with the "man of sin" of II Thessalonians 2, and with the "beast out of the sea" of Revelation 13:1-10 (*The Prophet Daniel*, p. 142).

### **The Second Beast: A Religious System**

Equally clear to these same men and their successors, is the identification of the second beast. To them, it is a religious system whose leader is also the false prophet of John's Revelation. The beast is the religious complex of apostate Christendom united under a man. The Apostle John saw the beast and "he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a lion."

The conviction of the above Bible scholars was summarized by John F. Walvoord in 1966. He wrote, "Chapter 13 taken as a whole...is the only passage which presents in any detail the two principal evil characters at the end of the age who form with Satan an unholy trinity...Among premillennial expositors, the trend seems to relegate the second beast to a subordinate role as

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a religious rather than a political ruler" (*The Revelation of John*, pp. 210–211).

Such a religious unity has been the aim and work of the papacy for 1000 years. Since 1965, the creation of this second beast has developed through a device called ecumenism. Now with this religious system making its appearance, the needs of true believers have never been greater. They need to be informed about the beast, the world religion; they need to resist and they need to stand as they await the coming of their Saviour.

### **The Watchman's Duty**

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark..." Suddenly the actual fulfillment of this prophecy given by Christ to His servant John nineteen centuries ago is appearing on the global stage.

Unbelievers and liberal churchmen have scoffed at any literal interpretation of the passage. It has been classified as a mere product of science fiction. But now with the advanced technology of computers and microchips, speculation has come to an end. Why? Because pilot programs are already taking place with microchips being inserted under the skin of a person's hand.

The emerging system of universal control over mankind as pictured in Revelation's chapter 13 is trumpeting a solemn message for true believers. Their rapture by Christ is much closer than many care to realize and the significance of the Lord's warning to his disciples, "Watch therefore," becomes greater with each passing day.

On the historic occasion when Christ spoke of His return, He chose the highly charged Greek word "gregorea" when urging the disciples to "Watch." It was also used by the Apostle Paul when warning the pastors at Ephesus that grievous wolves were already among them and about to attack. The same word was used by the Apostle Peter and translated "vigilant" in his warning to pastors to "resist steadfast" because their deadly enemy was seeking as a roaring lion "whom he may devour."

"Watchman, what of the night?" The appeal was again repeated to God's prophet Isaiah.

Being watchmen or sentinels was a major function of the Old Testament prophet's ministry. God began His solemn charge to Ezekiel by saying, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel..."

But where are today's watchmen at this critical moment in earth's history? The words "his blood will I require at thine hand" applied to negligent or fearful prophets before the Christian era. Equally so today, the words apply to many pastors who fail to perform the ministry of watchmen to God's people and a wicked society. Certainly the daily unfolding of global events is an alert for true watchmen to sound their trumpets with a clear message of alarm.

### **The Reality of World Government**

The cry for this is heard increasingly. Mankind is weary of violence, wars, disorder and financial woe. Many writers have warned that a sudden collapse of this world's financial structure is imminent. This will signal the end of private ownership and personal finances, and the installation of a global system.

It is emerging rapidly. Several features relating to the impact of the New World Order will increasingly affect the believer as he awaits his Saviour's call. One major thrust will be the growing influence of its political wing. Recent decades have seen the programming by secret societies for a world government increasing in momentum. Among all these, the Bilderberg Group has emerged as leader on the political field. It is known to have created the familiar Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission as satellites.

Members of the Bilderberg Society gathered this spring for a three-day session at King City, a luxurious area north of Toronto. As always, journalists and the press were barred. Nevertheless, the *Globe and Mail* did report on June 1, 1996, that Henry Kissinger, David Rockefeller, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien were among the 120 attending and that "journalists are banned from the three-day gathering, no statements or releases are issued and delegates are sworn to secrecy."

Quoting from "a huge essay posted to an Internet site known as Conspiracy Nation," the *Globe* stated, "The role of the Bilderberg group is a one-world totalitarian, socialist government and economic system." On this pivotal occasion, those attending were carefully protected by "Scores of Regional and provincial police, RCMP officers, soldiers...an Ontario Provincial Police helicopter...and unmarked police cars wait(ing) at intersections."

## **A Global Unification of Religions**

"There has to be a better way for religions to live together." So said Episcopal Bishop William Swing of the California Diocese following his recent three-month global pilgrimage. He had met with Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and "a host of leaders from the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths."

The *San Francisco Chronicle* published this statement by Bishop Swing on June 20, 1996:

"At the end of these journeys I am convinced that the time is ripe for a global initiative to call the world's religions together in a serious exploration of cooperation...San Francisco was the place where the charter of the United Nations was signed over 50 years ago. Now San Francisco may well be the place where the charter of the United Religions is signed."

The recent article in the *Chronicle* began by announcing that "Sixty religious leaders from around the world will gather at the Fairmont Hotel next week as plans take shape for a possible 'United Religions' headquarters at the Presidio." The same luxurious Fairmont Hotel atop San Francisco's famed Nob Hill was where a "Global Foundation USA" met in September, 1995. Details of what transpired are given in a book listed at the close of this article.

More than 400 world leaders attended and "overseeing the entirety of this summit" was Foundation President Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union. "Humanist of the year" Ted Turner said, "Now with the Cold War behind us, this Forum's job is to help chart the way for humanity." Speaking to the approving delegates that included former President George

Bush, Canada's Brian Mulroney and Capetown's Desmond Tutu, Gorbachev said:

"We have to, I believe, gear consumption more to people's cultural and spiritual needs. Also, through culture and education and within the framework of laws we shall have to address the problem of controlling the world's population." And all the Marxist delegates there understood the coded message of each word.

Listings of the Bilderberg Group's Steering Committee Members and those of the Advisory Group, contain the names of many heads of international corporations, banks, financial institutions and foundations. In its report of the 60 religious leaders, the *San Francisco Chronicle* states the Episcopal Bishop Swing, "said the spiritual leaders will meet with corporate leaders and representatives from major foundations and institutions." The secrecy of steps being taken for a world system of control is now failing; marks of this are showing in the sand.

Speaking of the proposed United Religions as "an agency that can counteract seemingly intractable religious hostilities breaking out around the world," Bishop Swing made the following implicit and highly significant statement:

"If this initiative is to become a reality, the whole world must get on board."

How is this to be accomplished? Perhaps this is why the spokesman for the 60 religious leaders informed the *Chronicle* the meeting, "is not open to the public."

## **Watching Israel**

Events throughout the Middle East are proceeding at a dizzying pace and there in center stage for all the world to see, God is displaying His nation Israel. Beginning with the creation of the Jewish State in 1948, the entire globe has witnessed the fulfillment of Ezekiel, chapter 37. God's prophet saw Israel as a field of dry bones but then, "shaking and the bones came together, bone to his bone...and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

God said to Ezekiel, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel." His chosen de-

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scendants of Abraham fell into this hopeless condition through disobedience nearly 3400 years ago. A summary of the story was published in the *Jewish Press* on July 12, 1996. Written by an Orthodox Rabbi Sholom Klass, the article appeared under the title, "An Open Letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

Rabbi Sholom wrote in part, "For all these reasons God said, 'How long will this people despise me?' (Num. 13:32). Finally, after nearly 2000 years of exile and tragedies such as the Holocaust and pogroms throughout the world, the Holy One Blessed Be He decided to help Israel... Netanyahu in Hebrew means 'God gave him' the power to rule over the land... We urge you, Mr. Netanyahu, BE STRONG! DON'T BE AFRAID OF OTHER LEADERS AND GOD WILL HELP YOU TO STOP THE EROSION OF OUR HOLY LAND."

Israel, together with its leaders, will need the courage of Moses, Joshua, David and Daniel as devastating events soon begin to fall throughout the Middle East. The horrifying series of these is shown in Ezekiel, chapter 38 and Zechariah, chapter 14. They must literally take place as described; they are no longer presented in the symbolic language of a field covered with dry

bones but as the graphic reality of a mass annihilation of Israel's attackers.

And week by week, the Jewish press, secular publications and correspondents are revealing a scene of global players taking their place on stage for the impending drama. A more elaborate presentation of this current article was published in April of this year. Entitled, *Under the New World Order*, the 124-page book devotes 44 pages to photos as vital documentation.

The Robinsdale, Minnesota-based Religion Analysis Service, reviewed the book. The President, Dr. William A. BeVier, wrote this and said in part:

"Overall the book is a well-written analysis of the times in which we are living and what the Bible tells us to expect in the future. Unless a person continually keeps up with world happenings as they involve Roman Catholicism and Israel—with a biblical perspective—they may not be aware that the things in Ewin's book are going on. The author provides information and comfort all true Christians need to have."

Denver Colorado's *Bold Truth* magazine commented, "An excellent and timely book..." "A MUST reading! One cannot over-emphasize the great importance of this book. Order from Ewin Publications, P.O. Box 180, Norton, VT 05907, \$6.85 postpaid." ■

Several regional **IBFNA meetings** have been slated for 1996-97. By this publication date, two have been held. One was held in Massachusetts at Grace Baptist Church. Jeff Bailey was host pastor. A second meeting was held in Iowa. Mr. David Norris organized this meeting in Ankeny which sixty attended.

Three spring meetings are scheduled in the following locations:

April 14, 1997 Kansas City, Kansas Rev. Bob Houchin, host pastor (913) 299-4774 Stony Point Baptist Church	April 21 & 22, 1997 Brook Park, Ohio Rev. Al Richards, host pastor (216) 433-1035 Mid Brook Baptist Church	April 24, 1997 Lasalle, Illinois Rev. Lloyd Streeter (815) 223-1333 First Baptist Church
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If you would like to host a regional meeting in your area, contact Dr. Clay Huttall at (219) 759-5200 or FAX him at (219) 759-6824 for information. ■

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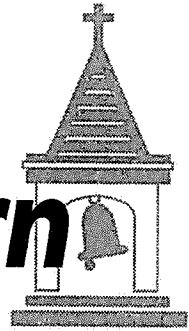
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# PERSPECTIVES

## NEW Church Is Born



A new "church" was being born in a city where I was recently speaking. This group chose the name "Quality Life Center."

Before the Life Center held its first service on September 29, 1996, they had placed a series of advertisements in the local newspaper. One ad listed the top ten reasons people don't go to church. Some of the reasons were:

- #10 *Forgot to prepare a tasty pasta salad dish for after-church festivities*
- #7 *Dittoheads keep claiming Rush is the messiah*
- #6 *Still a bit hazy on that Holy Trinity trigonometry equation*
- #1 *Don't need to leave home to achieve that complete feeling of guilt*

On the day prior to their first service, a half-page advertisement declared, "At the Quality Life Center you can enjoy upbeat contemporary music, be free from guilt and you will be accepted without being judged. Come and laugh, think and be yourself."

The pastor, Pat Hadley, told a reporter, "I feel that we are almost a reformation calling people back. In a hundred years I should not be able to recognize the church." Hadley related that Quality Life Center was patterned after Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, Illinois, whose senior pastor is Bill Hybels.

Quality Life Center is but one example of the type of "churches" being established today. These are actually "entertainment centers" with a lot of emotion, but little doctrine. Big-beat contemporary music dominates the services with several promptings of "give God a hand" tossed in for good measure.

Paul's advice to Timothy was, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2). The need for doing this is revealed in the next verse: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears" (4:3).

It is apparent from the publicity provided that this Quality Life Center has a goal of giving people what they want instead of what they need, to draw a crowd. It is only the Word of God that changes lives and homes—not little religious quips or "Christian" rock and roll music!

Thank God for those pastors and churches that are determined to continue "holding fast the faithful word" (Titus 1:9) as well as to be "stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). ■

PERSPECTIVES

is written by  
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American Council of Christian Churches  
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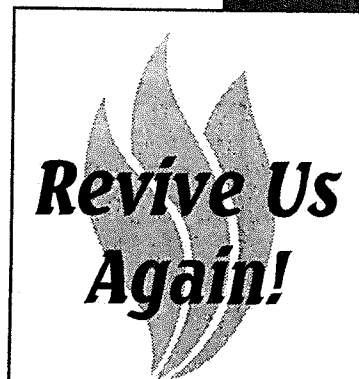
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