

Worldviews

APOLOGETICS RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST | SEPTEMBER 2008

STATE OF THE UNION

SHARP PLURALISTIC SHIFT IN BELIEFS AMONG CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS

With a very weighty election upon us, many people are experiencing significant consternation. Reading commentaries, listening to media reports, talking to people brings to mind various words that describe the climate—precarious, alarming, serious, somber, poignant, weighty, and momentous.

But permit me to attempt to paint an even fuller picture of concerns and offer a better perspective. Yes, our elected government can and will have a significant impact on our culture—good and bad. But our perspective is much bigger than that. Our perspective must be about the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is not going to be ushered in by the Republican or Democratic parties. Important? Yes, but not ultimate. The Church (made up of us) must wake up as to our roles, responsibilities, and callings.

Since our last *Worldviews*, the results of the largest sampling polls ever produced have been released. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life surveyed 35,000 Americans from May through August of 2007, examining religious beliefs and social-political views. The study's authors found a "stunning lack of alignment between people's beliefs or practices, and their professed faiths.

For example 78% say there are absolute standards of "right and wrong," but only 29% rely on their religious truths to delineate those standards. 52% rely on their personal experiences and common sense. There is the postmodern relativist and pluralist turn.

70%, including a majority of major Christian denominations, say "many religions can lead to eternal life." 50% say homosexuality should be accepted by society (only 64% of "evangelicals say society should discourage it). And only 57% have a certain belief in a personal God, while 27% are less certain (14% believe in an impersonal force—New Age).

Pew Forum director Luis Lugo attributes the decline of religious moral absolutes to the growing pluralism in our society as well as the media influences (image is everything). He says "rather than religious leaders and tradition setting the cultural agenda today—it's Oprah Winfrey." Exclusivism has become a bad word in today's culture.

A foundational apologetic issue and question is "What is the basis of your authority—how do you know what is true?" The survey showed that 60% of more conservative Christians affirmed the authority of the Bible while only 23% of mainline Protestants, 22% of Catholics affirm that. Surprisingly 50% of Muslims accept the Quran as absolutely true and 53% of Jews see the Old Testament as such.

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EAST MEETS WEST

In the 1960s, America experienced the British invasion most notably from the Beatles. They came singing songs with lyrics like "I want to hold your hand" and "Help, I need somebody." The Church's response to this invasion was to boycott and burn these dangerous ideas. As the Christian community was hostile toward these young musicians, the Beatles found the help they thought they needed in a Hindu guru named Maharishi.

On February 6, 2008, this spiritual leader of the most popular band of all time passed away. His ideas of transcendental meditation affected not only their music, but also have had a profound and lasting impact on the West partly because of his connection with the Beatles. He leaves a legacy of influencing our culture with Hindu beliefs and Eastern ideas. Maharishi was the head of a five million strong movement that led people to seek a higher consciousness through transcendental meditation. Whereas, the Christian worldview tells us that if we look within we will find a heart that is desperately wicked, the Hindu worldview says we look within to find the perfect spiritual state of nirvana.

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World magazine contributor Janie Cheaney wrote a piece, "Disorganized Religion" (8/16/08) wherein she affirms Pew Forum fellow John Green who summarized the findings, "Americans are deeply suspicious of institutional religion." She wrote, "In America the institutional church has become the counter-culture." But actually this is where we normally are.

There is significant evidence. In addition to Oprah, look at the popularity of *The Shack* which makes doctrinal religion part of an unholy trinity, along with politics and economics.

The Center for Progressive Christianity is now trying to institutionalize "Pluralism Sunday" (May 11) into our culture when Christian churches are supposed to invite speakers from other faiths to preach and to celebrate and honor religious diversity.

In another story (*San Francisco Chronicle* 8/13/08) a federal judge declared that the University of California can deny course credits to student applicants from Christian high schools whose textbooks declare the infallibility of the Bible and who reject evolution. The case is under appeal.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is aggressively attempting to place billboards in cities stating "Imagine No Religion." It has placed these billboards in Seattle, Atlanta, Columbus, and near the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in Denver and St. Paul. The result is a growing number of members to their organization.

An NPR story (8/12/08) featured Camp Inquiry for children ages 7-16, which is a "training ground for skeptics (atheists)." The camp claims to be all about inquiry, but it is as closed minded in embracing secular humanism as it claims Christians are.

Apparently the children are not given an accurate description of Christian evidence and logic. The article reports the comments of a 14 year old camper who has "little patience with biblical accounts of the origin of life." She says, "People are like, 'Oh fossils are planted and they aren't really real.'" (Actually, it is the real fossil record that weighs in favorably on our perspective).

The atheist group, the Center for Inquiry, began this camp three years ago. Its leader Nathan Bupp says, "polls show that people who believe in reason, not God are among the fastest growing groups in America."

So again we see the need for Christians to be equipped in apologetics and engage people using reason, logic and evidences.

Another example of the culture shift is the significant growth of neopaganism or New Age witchcraft. The decline of church members, especially among our younger generation, is not just due to atheism and skepticism. Many are adopting a New Age worldview.

A *Denver Post* story (6/26/08) brings a new twist to "Give me that old time religion." It claims that neopaganism is among the country's fastest growing religions. The reporter states that "People, especially teens, are rejecting what they see as the autocracy, paternalism, sexism, homophobia, and insensitivity to the environment found in the traditional religions."

With the tradition breaking hippie movement of the 60s,

cross-pollinated by the New Age Movement of the 70s and 80s, we've seen the number of self-identified wiccans grow from 8,000 in 1990 to 134,999 in 2001. The current figures indicate an exponential growth in the past seven years to nearly 1 million practitioners.

Neopaganism is not confined to wicca. There are many expressions of occult practices, but the beliefs are interconnected. Many logically attribute the new growth corresponding to the impact of media with the success of *Harry Potter*, *Sabrina*, *Charmed*, *Buffy*, and *The Craft*.

People are lonely and feel disenfranchised, and the neopagan community too often embraces them better than the Church does. People are looking for relationships and powerful, supernatural experiences of faith. Baptist's LifeWay research found that 7 out of 10 Protestants aged 18-30, who were church members in high school, stopped attending by the age of 23. 34% of them indicated they had not returned by age 30. That means that ¼ of young people have left the church.

Many stated reasons for leaving were because church members were too judgmental, hypocritical, or insincere. Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay research and missions, said that too many churches are "holding tanks with pizza. There is no transformation taking place. People are looking for a faith that can change them and be a part of changing the world."

Conservatives and evangelicals are worrying, even panicking over the declining direction of the culture, and the loss of a moral compass in our country. But the reliance and answer isn't just in political parties. It is in the Church, being equipped

in a biblical worldview and redemptively engaging people, ideas, and culture.

Thus the very significant need for a serious focus and reestablishment of apologetics in the Church. Apologetics and evangelism are a major dimension of the great commandment to love God with all our minds, hearts, souls, and strength, and to love our neighbors (also Christ's fundamental commands to "seek first His kingdom and righteousness," and to be "salt and light in the world").

We at the Apologetics Resource Center are here to exhort and equip the Church to engage people, ideas, and institutions with the life-giving truths of God's Word. We must know the truth, defend it, advance it, and be the truth.

A new book just released may be of real benefit for parents and other Christians in our apologetic. The book is *Generation Hex* by Marla Alupoice and Dillon Burroughs. Also order our info packet on Wicca and our *Areopagus Journal* on the New Age Movement.

The Apologetics Resource Center is expanding! We hope to be in our 7500 sq. ft. Study Center by Dec. 1. We are poised to greatly expand our outreach and impact, but need your partnership. How can you help? Schedule us in your church (call to explore). Pray regularly for our growth, protection and fruitfulness. And become a financial partner. We need your kingdom investment to expand our staff and administrative costs. Now is the time!

Neopaganism is among the country's fastest growing religions.

1 Mormons Warned Against Internet

The Mormon Church is still one of the fastest growing churches in America due primarily to their television PR campaign and the thousands of missionaries, usually 19 to 20-year-old boys and girls, sent door to door to share their faith.

As we frequently remind Christians, cults are the largest, yet least evangelized mission field. But we are encouraged that we get calls requesting help in sharing with Mormons from a few of you.

A recent admission from the Mormon church is that the Internet is becoming a problem for their members. The official Mormon (LDS) newspaper, *The Deseret News*, (8/8/08) warned about the anti-Mormon articles on the Internet. The story said "LDS critical material can and has shaken the faith of Latter-day Saints. It has killed testimonies, and has damaged testimonies to the point of near death."

The Internet can provide an expedient and significant amount of research, but it can also provide poor, inaccurate information. It does have valuable resources if you know where to look.

2 Polygamy Legal?

The Fundamentalist Latter-day Saints Church controversy in Texas and Canada has precipitated a potential challenge to the traditional, conventional legal definition of marriage both in the Americas as well as Europe and most of the civilized countries of the world. Adding fuel to that fire is the issue of same-sex marriage challenging the existing definition of marriage.

This magnifies the importance of the ideology and theories of law of future Supreme Court positions. Will they not be pressed concerning the basis for the standard of marriage being between one man and one woman?

Is it purely historical precedent? Custom? What about religions that believe polygamy is normal? On what basis does one say it is wrong or not normal? Some states recognize homosexual marriages. Why can't Utah allow polygamy if it chooses?

If we respond that God (the Bible)

A quick search will reveal evangelical websites which are expert in Mormon evangelism/apologetics as well as scholarly articles from Christian counter-cult ministries often written by former Mormons who converted to Christianity. These well document the historical, geographical, and theological errors of Mormonism, especially its total deviation from Christianity.

Mormons, like Jehovah's Witnesses, are discouraged from using the Internet, outside their boundaries. Mormons used to be suspicious of Christians who brought out photos or articles exposing the flawed system of Mormonism, automatically calling the material, "Anti-Mormon literature" in collusion with Mormon "apostates."

Now they have to deal with the Internet that can be easily accessed by any prospect who is testing and truly examining Mormon claims and how it compares with Christianity.

Request our special Areopagus Journal on Mormonism, "The Cult Next Door," and share the truth with Mormons (2 Tim. 2:23-26).

prohibits it, then is Judaism or Christianity the basis of the rule of law? Islam, the world's second largest religion, allows for multiple marriages. The Constitution holds that people have an "inalienable right" to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of their conscience." We hear, "You can't legislate morality," but of course all legislation is someone's view of morality. So we are back to the developing issue taking place in Canada and the U.S. What is the basis for legalizing only monogamy?

Ultimately, it will be the will of the people. If an existing law is changed, the people will have to rise up and champion a Constitutional Amendment to override any presidential veto or Supreme Court interpretation. With the postmodern turn in our country, this will make a radical change in the climate of the Church toward apologetics and evangelism.

3 Lakeland "Revival" On Hold

Since our last newsletter, there has been a development that has confirmed our evaluation of what is called the four month Lakeland "Revival" in Lakeland, Florida. The 32 year old Canadian evangelist, faith healer, Todd Bentley has secluded himself since it was revealed that he and his wife (with children) are separated due at least in part to Bentley's "unhealthy relationship" (affair) with another woman who is part of the "revival."

The "revival" had attracted between 3,000-10,000 visitors per night, totaling over 300,000 attendees to the faith healing services during the four months. Since Bentley's departure, the crowds have dwindled dramatically.

The crowds were drawn by people's needs—spiritual, physical, and carnal. Bentley's flamboyant and audacious style included many claims of healing and even 20 claims of people raised from the dead. When asked to produce verifiable medical records as evidence, very few were forthcoming—none on raisings from the dead.

Bentley claimed to have had mystical trips to heaven, meeting with Paul and Jesus. But records show he actually did make a trip to jail for sexual molestation earlier in his life and is a registered sex offender. Bentley also has a self-confessed past of drug addiction, youth prison, and satanic bondage before he became a Christian.

Bentley was a free lance evangelist with no real denominational oversight. Pentecostal leaders are now beginning to see the need for reforms in certain parts of their community.

Lee Grady, editor of popular *Charisma* magazine, who originally took a cautious posture on Lakeland, later began to speak out more strongly. Now Grady says, "True revival will be accompanied by brokenness, humility, reverence and repentance—not the arrogance, showmanship and empty hope that often was on display at Lakeland."



ISLAM

There continues to be important news on the nature of Islam and what's at stake in the future. Most people do not realize that there is an internal war or jihad within Islam over who ultimately speaks for Islam.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with 1.3 billion adherents. Islam intrinsically seeks to rule the world. This is true of those who are termed "radicals," and to some extent, moderates (who are the large majority of Muslims).

Moderate Muslims (progressives?) are increasingly more aggressive in their attempts to reinterpret their faith to be relevant in the 21st century, and at the same time the traditionalists (radicals) are very determined to hold fast to their 1400 years of tradition.

Both believe that they uphold the true "spirit of Islam" and declare "the other" as misguided in their interpretation of their

"divine revelation." So the result is confusion and jihad, within and without Islam.

For example, some Muslim countries practice honor-killings on family members who do things like convert to Christianity or commit adultery. Other countries do not allow honor-killings. Some countries see women wearing a head scarf as the desirable social norm while others require it and enforce it by law.

Now some may point to the various (at least hundreds) of different Christian denominations and say "You've got the

same problem; you interpret the same authority differently."

Well, yes and no. The only similarity is that there are differing traditions in interpretation of our authority—the Bible, which precipitate denominations within Christianity. We too have groups which the "fundamental," traditional Christian churches agree are pseudo-Christian cults—those whose extra-Biblical traditions depart from the essential defining doctrines of our faith. And yes, Christians want to see the world converted to Christianity.

But the major differences between Islam and Christianity in this area are that (1) we do not believe that Christianity is a governmental theocracy and (2) that our doctrines do not allow for the killing of violators of our beliefs (except in the case that the overwhelming majority of Christians endorse the government exercising capital punishment for murder).

Recent news stories are bearing testimony to the inner conflict within Islam and the growing impact it is having both in Muslim countries, and in Europe and the Americas. In England (and the U.S.), one of the strategies is to gain dominance through sheer immigration, Muslim population growth, and slowly accommodating and then transitioning the law and government to reflect the Islamic Sharia law (legal system). A British media group, The Sun, recently infiltrated and recorded a rally in East London featuring a Muslim fundamentalist lawyer/leader, Anjem Choudary.

In the rally, marking 9/11, Choudary bragged that "it may be by pure conversion that Britain will become an Islamic state. We may never need to conquer it from the outside." He went on to say that through large Muslim family births, Britain was adding 500 Muslims each day. "He whipped them into a frenzy with a speech calling for Sharia law (a Muslim theocracy) under which criminals and adulterers are stoned or have limbs amputated."

Another British documentary just released reveals a group of Muslim women meeting in one of Britain's most influential mosques, calling on Muslims to kill homosexuals and adulterers. The women meeting in the London Central Mosque described Britain as "evil and vile."

The surprise to the uninformed is that this mosque is one of the most respected centers for "moderate" Islam. The reporters also found DVD's preaching intolerance on sale in the mosque bookstore.

One of the Islamic reform groups is the Sufis. Their Muslim distinctive is a much more relational, mystical, in some cases New Age oriented approach to God. One such leader, Abdullahi Ahmed an-Naim is a self described "Muslim heretic," and most Muslims would agree.

Years ago, Naim was jailed along with his mentor for 18 months in Sudan after which the mentor was executed for heresy. Naim is currently a law professor at Emory University's law school.

Naim is an outspoken representative and advocate of separation between church or religion and state, yet like Christians, believes that religion (Sharia law) still should have an influence on shaping the laws. Naim rightly points out that there is currently no such thing as a true Islamic State.

He argues that the Quran does not mandate or prescribe a Sharia form of government; it only speaks of a community of Islamic life. He argues that one will not find any reference to an Islamic State or state enforcement of Sharia law before the mid-20th century. Naim concludes, "This is the struggle of our time, coming up with a modern interpretation of Sharia that is true to Islamic principles, but also to democratic values."

Turkey is moving in that direction. The BBC News published a story earlier this year noting that "the country's powerful Department of Religious Affairs has commissioned a team of theologians at Ankara University to carry out a fundamental revision of the Hadith, the second most sacred text in Islam after the Quran."

Their scholars point out that the Hadith has often had a negative influence on society in that a significant number of the sayings were never actually uttered by Muhammad. They were invented hundreds of years later by those attempting to attribute their political aims to the Prophet Muhammad.

Muhammad died before enough "revelations" were given to cover all areas of life. So the Muslim community (ummah) added the reported sayings and actions of Muhammad, allegedly

given by his followers as collected in the Hadith. One of the problems with this is that there are numerous and widely varying collections of Hadiths.

This is one reason why there are so many divisions within Islam and why it is important for us and our leaders to understand Islam. But the most important task is for us to learn to share with Muslims. It doesn't matter whether they are moderates or fundamentalists; they both are leading people to hell. The mission field is now in our land as well as "over there."

Order our Areopagus Journal, "The Cross and the Crescent" today so you may "always be ready to give an answer."



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Prosperity Message Hits Troubled Waters

Why is it that every time one reads the media headlines about Christian ministries having problems, it invariably involves those in the prosperity gospel? Perhaps because no where else besides the prosperity gospel are more people's lives and money at risk. Not to mention the gospel! Those of us who research and keep abreast of such issues have for many years, seen the devastating effects that sometimes result from prosperity teaching. There are so many of these kinds of ministries that it's hard to keep up with them.

Just in the last year public awareness has increased. For instance, Bishop Earl Paulk's church in Atlanta is now being pastored by Paulk's nephew. At least, he was believed to be his nephew. It turns out that he is actually Paulk's illegitimate son. Investigations reveal that Bishop Paulk was involved in adulterous affairs with women in his own church, and apparently, his brother's wife.

Oral Roberts University's (ORU) trust and reputation has had a set back. About a year ago tension built when some ORU professors brought a wrongful termination suit against the institution. They charged Richard Roberts, president and son of founder Oral Roberts, and his board member wife, Lindsay, with mispending school funds for personal gain. This is among many other accusations which have resulted in the Roberts (all of them) stepping down from their previous positions. According to *Christianity Today*, Hobby Lobby heir, Mart Green donated \$70 million towards ORU to try and redeem it from scandal and debt. Ted Haggard and Kenneth Copeland are among ORU's high-profile alumni.

We all remember that Haggard himself stepped down from his church in Colorado and his position as president of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), when "it was discovered that he was involved in an extra-marital, immoral homosexual relationship."

Kenneth Copeland has long been seen as one of the most influential teachers of the "health and wealth" gospel. He is just one of six televangelists that has been targeted for investigation for financial abuse by Senator Charles Grassley and the Senate Finance Committee. Others include: Paula and Randy White's Without Walls International Church, Benny Hinn Ministries, Joyce Meyer Ministries, Eddie Long's New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, and Creflo Dollar's World Changers Church International. All of these have been in the public eye before due to their over emphasis of the prosperity message. Three of these have made some efforts to comply with the Grassley investigation with the exception of Copeland, Creflo Dollar, and Eddie Long.

According to a recent Associated Press article, many of Copeland's relatives and friends have businesses connected to Copeland's church. These include a brother-in-law with a lucrative deal to broker Copeland's television time, as well as their son who acquired church-owned land for his ranching business and saw it more than quadruple in value. It was also found that board members were paid a total of hundreds of thousands of dollars for speaking at church events.

Records show Copeland's church spent \$28 million on salaries in 2006. \$13.3 million went to administrative staff. Former employees tell CBS News that Copeland has about 500 people on staff. Copeland said his ministry takes in about \$100 million a year in revenue, which leaves a lot of cash unaccounted for. Copeland has yet to provide Senate investigators with any financial details. Instead, he has launched a website called "Believers Stand United" (www.believersstandunited.com) to address concerns about the Grassley investigation. He argues that churches have constitutional rights to protect them against such investigations.

However, according to *World* magazine, donor advocates say that such ministries are defending their own rights at the expense of donors. Also, if these ministries were more self-policing instead of self-defending such investigations by Grassley would likely be unnecessary.

Scriptural warnings about the misuse of money seem to go unheeded by this camp. Paul warned that "the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pain" (1 Tim. 6:10).

By Clete Hux

The time we spent that year concentrating on apologetics speaking was preparation not just for everyday college life, but for her work in the U.K...she is actually teaching classes in the public schools. One is "Is there a God" and another is "Christianity compared to other major religions from a Christian perspective." Can your office email anything to her that may help? Can you just put her on your prayer list? She is in Wales. Any help or encouragement you can offer I am sure she will appreciate.

Birmingham, AL

Thank you so much for your newsletter and for *Areopagus Journal*. We learn much from these. Our son who is working for the Navy at the Pentagon wants to receive this. He's read these at our home over the years.

Arlington, VA

I received your newsletter this past week and I really enjoyed the articles and new format. I greatly appreciate your resources and I assure you that they are passed around and read by many inmates. Inmates read probably more than any other collective group in society and what we have to read depends on what people send our way. Thank you for sending good things. I noticed you have various information packs. I could really use some information, especially scriptural support for the Trinity. I find that the doctrine of the Trinity is greatly attacked here in prison by many groups (including) the Jehovah's Witnesses and the various sects. Thank you again for helping those of us who most would consider worthless or at least "the least of His".

Washington State Prison

Please send my husband a subscription to *Areopagus Journal*. His heartbeat has been apologetics for the thirty-five years he's been a Christian. This is a gift for him.

Loudon, NH

Which Candidate—Which Issues?

When elections come, the media invariably brings to public attention the role of religion in public policy. The usual focus is on abortion and occasionally same-sex marriage. But actually the implications and applications are in the realm of war, economics, foreign policy, welfare—just about any political issue.

One of the primary functions of apologetics is education and application of a Biblical worldview in culture, as well as demonstrating the error and weakness of any other worldview.

It is ironic that the majority of Americans are not active church goers, but the presidential and vice presidential candidates are church members and want to have some identity with their church.

Obama has had to rationalize and distance himself in the political sphere from his radical pastor, Jeremiah Wright. We know where Palin stands—definitely pro-life, while McCain acquiesces to a pro-life position.

On the Democratic side, vice-presidential candidate Joseph Biden and Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi are both professing, practicing Roman Catholics. Both Pelosi and Biden appeared separately on NBC's *Meet the Press* and, according to Catholic authorities, both made inaccurate statements and hold wrong positions regarding the Roman Catholic view of abortion.

When questioned by Tom Brokaw regarding Biden's view of when life begins, being a Roman Catholic and with respect to Catholic Cardinal Egan's response to Pelosi's critical statements, Biden responded, "Look, I know when it begins for me, but it is a personal and private issue...For me to impose that judgment on everyone else seems inappropriate in a pluralistic society."

Cardinal Egan's response to both Biden and Pelosi's position was the same as any evangelical, "Anyone who dares to defend that they may be legitimately killed because another human chooses to do so, or for any other equally ridiculous reason should not be providing leadership in a civilized democracy worthy of the name."

Other bishops and Archbishops have criticized Pelosi's, Biden's, and therefore Obama's position as "flawed moral reasoning, confusing the difference between faith and natural law which is the logical, rational, non-sectarian study of human life and ethics."

All legislation is based on someone's view of morality. Ask the "pro-choice" advocate what is the basis or ground for their determination? We have Biblical revelation which is consistent with natural law and logic. The "fetus" is alive, and it is human...period. Every human is obviously at various stages of development. The eighth month pre-born baby isn't as developed as the 18 year old, but it is still human life.

So we are very concerned with the reasoning process and moral basis of anyone who would not be able to think and decide rationally about this. Pro-abortionists (choice) do have a moral presupposition that human life must not begin at conception. And they must, to be consistent, hold that an underdeveloped human being does not have the right to live or the same rights of a fully developed human being.

This is the role of apologetics—to expose the weakness of the non-Christian worldview and to advance the Biblical worldview to impact and guide the culture.

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Maharishi's teachings on meditation and yoga have captured the American mind to the point that many don't even see it as an issue. Some of his ideas have even found their way into the Church. Many within the Church have no problem with the practices of yoga and meditation, and they try to teach these practices from a Christian perspective. But as one prominent Hindu guru has stated: "It's hypocrisy of the highest order. I don't understand how anyone can teach yoga from a Christian background. It is an indisputable fact that yoga has its origins in the East and in Hinduism." Decades later it is clear that with the British invasion we also got an Eastern invasion. Whether it is yoga or self help books or the Gospel of Oprah, the teaching of Hinduism is all around us. The answer is not to burn down the local yoga school, but to engage and help Christians understand the pagan ideas of Hinduism and how they are to be contrasted with a Christian worldview. Stretching is great, but the answers to life are not to be found within ourselves, but in the God who calls and redeems.

In this increasingly global world, it is hard to tell if we have exported the West to the East or if the East has come to roost in the West. Although capitalism in its highest form, from Starbucks to McDonalds, has been sent east, the

worldview of the East is on the hearts and minds of many in the West. The Beatles once asked this country and the world for help. They knew they needed somebody, but not just anybody answered their call. A Hindu guru answered their call and became their guide—will the West ever be the same?

By Brandon Robbins
Staff Apologist

Apologetics Resource Center Produces Books

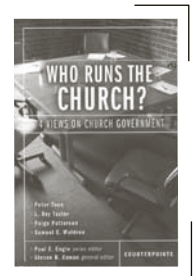
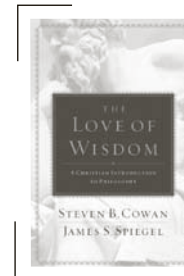
Publications by ARC staff cover spectrum of critical topics

ARC *Areopagus Journal* editor, Steve Cowan has recently completed another book, co-authored by James Spiegel. The book, *The Love of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy* is published by Broadman-Holman, and will be used as a textbook and for laymen who value a reasoned approach to understand existence, meaning, knowledge, truth, justice, beauty, mind, and language.

Steve was contributor and editor of two earlier books in Zondervan's *Counterpoint Series: Five Views on Apologetics*, and *Who Runs the Church? Four Views on Church Government*.

ARC director, Craig Branch is a contributing author to *Preserving Evangelical Unity Amidst Doctrinal Diversity*, published by Wipf and Stock Publishers. Craig's chapter is titled "Unity and Purity in the Church," wherein he sets forth the positive and necessary goals of apologetics, clarifying the essentials and non-essentials, and the importance of sound doctrine, which includes humility, patience, and the overarching principle of unity amidst diversity.

Craig's previous book is *Thieves of Innocence* by Harvest House, now reprinted as *Public Schools—the Sorcerer's New Apprentice?* Steve, Craig, Keith Gibson, and Clete Hux also contributed numerous articles in the upcoming *Baker's Encyclopedia on Cults and World Religions*.



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Because of lack of space, a large portion of our library is in boxes. Other needs go unmet and our potential to impact our world is stifled. Would you prayerfully consider helping us expand the capabilities of the Apologetics Resource Center? We need your help to train and equip people to be salt and light in our families, our neighborhoods, our places of business and in the world. Would you partner with us to be a beacon of truth?

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5184 Caldwell Mill Road
Suite 204, PMB # 323
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