

CULTS
AND
OCCULTS
MANUAL
CULTS AND OCCULTS

CHURCH OF GOD DASMARINAS WORLD MISSION PHILIPPINES

DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT

*RESEARCHED AND EDITED FOR COG DASMARINAS BY
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'Ang Dating Daan' Church of God Int'l

Cult Organization

Formerly Church of God in Christ, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth or Mga Kaanib sa Iglesia Ng Dios kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Saligan ng Katotohanan sa Bansang Pilipinas, Inc.

T.V. Program

Ang Dating Daan; Itanong Mo Kay Soriano

Founder

Mr. Eliseo F. Soriano

Brief History

- + Born from a poor family in Pasay City, Philippines, Soriano claim to be an *"exceptional, consistently receiving the highest honors... and was awarded the highest possible grade in the entire history of his grade school."**
- + Unfortunately, he did not finish his secondary schooling due to an alleged "skirmish" with his acting school directress over a topic on religion.
- + Soriano's follower took this not as a *"twist of fate but rather [an alleged] manifestation of God's work of hand bringing him to his real destiny."**
- + His parents were members of Iglesia ng Dios Kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Suhay ng Katotohanan founded in 1936 by a former Iglesia ni Cristo (1914) follower namely Nicolaz Perez.
- + Perez along with Teofila Ora left the I.N.C. fold in 1922 probably after learning that Jesus Christ was Mighty God but "not" the Almighty God and proceeded to establish the Iglesia Verdadero de Cristo.
- + It did not took long for the two former leaders of I.N.C. (1914) to develop discord among themselves.
- + This occurrence drove Perez to register his new group under the name, Iglesia ng Dios Kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Suhay ng Katotohanan.

+ Soriano's desire to read and memorize the Scripture was prompted by his membership in Perez' group at a young age of 17 years old.

+ His followers noted of his *"zealous [ness] in his religion."** His skill in "explaining" and remembering the Bible verses was noticed by the other members so that he became *"a preacher, a debater and a minister"** of the said group.

+ *He was even believed to be a "special confidante of Perez, explaining to him the teachings and the mysteries of the word of God."**

+ Unknown to many, he was said rumored to be groomed as the successor of Perez after he dies.

+ In 1975 just after Perez' death, some members were stunned when the leadership was passed on to Levita Gugulan, a woman.

+ At first, Soriano might have yielded to that decision but it did not take long before he along with a few others rebelled against Gugulan's leadership.

+ They believed that women as leaders in church are not biblically supported. It was reported that in 1976, Soriano and his allies were excommunicated by Gugulan.

+ And the following year (1977), he registered a new group namely, Iglesia ng Dios kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Saligan ng Katotohanan. Which later evolved to,

Mga Kaanib sa Iglesia ng Dios kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Saligan ng Katotohanan sa Bansang Pilipinas, Inc. (1990) and Bayan ng Katotohanan (1993).

+ Most likely because of a lawsuit filed by Gugulan's group with reference to the "name" of Soriano's newly founded organization called, Iglesia ng Dios kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Saligan ng Katotohanan which is somewhat similar with the former's group name "Iglesia ng Dios kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Suhay ng Katotohanan."

+ This episode continues to cause confrontation between the two religious groups.

Update 4-Jan-2003: Now since the highest court of the land (the Philippine Supreme Court) ruled, once in for all, in favor of Gugulan's group, the name of Soriano's church was drastically changed to: "Iglesia Ni YHWH at ni YHWSA HMSYH" (Church of YHWH and YHWSA HMSYH).

Update 4-Nov-2004: Now they prefer to be known as, Members Church of God International.

Method of Evangelization

+ He spreads his teachings through the radio waves and lately used the television and internet facilities. He is fond of vehemently opposing various religious groups by attacking their non-essential doctrines like tithing and church appellations, as well as, personalities of a number of religious leaders.

+ One effective methodology of Soriano in captivating many gullible individuals into his fold by means of philosophical debates where he normally sets it up in their home turf (i.e. *locale*).

+ It can be observed that majority of the live audiences are from the *Ang Dating Daan* group capable of yelling instead of listening intently to what the opponent speaker is saying.

+ Soriano on the other hand is a skilled heckler who tends to annoy and harass his opponent. As a result, this poor fellow who has really no idea totally whatsoever about Soriano's tactics will be prompted to either abandon the subject that he started or just leave the spiritual arena.

+ Many *Elisarians* will immediately assume that their self-styled messenger "won" the religious debate not knowing that it was just his being a skilled heckler that made him triumph.

+ A Christian apologist needs to be wary with every statement he utters because Soriano has a reputation of focusing on minor word details propelling him to neglect the whole subject of the debate. This is done by playing back a particular video taped segment recorded by an accomplice ADD camera man so the whole audience would know how the speaker allegedly "contradicts" himself.

Manner of Bible Teaching

- + To build an impression with his members and audience, Soriano parades himself as a self-styled Bible teacher who “knew” the Hebrew and Greek words of the Scripture.
- + One instance while attempting to answer a question from a caller about the belief in “many gods” he reached out an old version of *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* possibly to show off to the listeners and viewers that the Hebrew word *elohim* is a “proof” in itself of “many gods.”
- + Bible scholars like James Strong will not validate Soriano’s doctrine of polytheism just because of the word “elohim.” Indeed, a careful study will reveal that even when the plural Hebrew word “elohim” is used only one God is meant (e.g. Dt. 6:4).
- + What’s more, he does not subscribe to proper Bible hermeneutics by studying the original Hebrew & Greek languages of the Scripture including it’s geographical, historical, cultural and religious background but condemns it.
- + Mainly he is fond of building his doctrine out of *Ang Biblia* (a local translation of ASV) and some English translation rather than consulting the original languages.

Authority

- + Although ADD members claim to believe the Bible as their only source of authority, this is half-true.
- + They also believe Eliseo Soriano is the “sent one” or “sugo” the reason why he alone does the Bible explaining. In other words, an individual member could not just explain the Bible out of his own personal study.
- + This can be observed by watching his TV program, “Ang Dating Daan,” and “Itanong Mo Kay Soriano” a bible exposé program wherein he is always the main speaker concerning Bible interpretations.
- + If you try to ask them some Bible questions but they will decline and direct you instead to their founder.

Other Supplementary Materials

They publish their “Ang Dating Daan” series for old and prospective converts. They normally give these free of charge.

Unbiblical Beliefs

1. Rejects the Trinity doctrine and believe the following: Father - Almighty God and over-all Savior. Greater than the Son and the Spirit.

Son - Mighty God but not the Almighty God like His Father. He is equal to the Father as God but not greater than the Father because He was sent. Greater than the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit - part of the Father and the Son and also called God but not a Person. Aside from believing these "three Gods," he also insists that there exist "many gods" because of 1 Cor. 8:5.

2. He believes the Father who is the Living God was the overall Savior who must be given credit for all the things He has done by sending saviors during the times past (Hebrews 1:1-2).
3. Believes Jesus is a Mighty God but not the Almighty God. Does not believe that He is the only Savior of humanity. The two kinds of salvation that Jesus will do: (1) He was sent primarily to be the savior of the house of Israel (Matthew 15:24) during his humanity (Matthew 1:21) but he is just one among the sent ones to be the savior. (2) On his Second Coming, he will save the believers (members of Soriano's group). Moses was also sent by the Father to become an instrument of salvation and savior to the Israelites (Acts 7:35-37), while the Apostle Paul (Acts 13:46-47) was a savior to the Gentiles up to the ends of the earth. Timothy was to be the next savior after the apostle Paul's death.
4. Jesus the Son of the Living God also needs a savior who is his Father, the Living God as allegedly stated in Hebrews 5:7-9. They also believe that Jesus is God and man (though not fully man but just "like" man) quoting Philippians 2:6-7.
5. The meaning of the "house of God" in Psalms 127:1 during the Old Testament is "Church of God" (Iglesia ng Dios) and the name of that church is: Iglesia ng Dios kay Kristo Hesus, Haligi at Saligan ng Katotohanan (Church of God in Christ Jesus. The pillar and the ground of the truth. Philippines). They also believe that a person may be saved even though he has not heard of Soriano's teachings. He is judged by God according to his conscience. Believes not everybody can preach the Bible but must therefore be a "sent one" who is none other than the founder himself.

- ☒ It is difficult to document every doctrine that Soriano holds because they usually do not put everything into writing.
- ☒ Doctrinal teachings of Soriano may vary from worker to worker.
- ☒ According to one Filipino pastor and author, Soriano is in the process of constructing his doctrine. His beliefs are yet to be developed in the future.
- ☒ Christian pastors and leaders who are concerned about the spiritual welfare of the Filipinos must also be vigilant about this group so that they could address the spiritual hunger of a growing population because if not false teachers like Soriano will and as a result they will again be one of those "unpaid bills of the church" as one Christian author states.

Manner of Polemics

1. Church name - "If your group is the 'true church' can you cite a verse in the Bible stating the name of your church?"
2. God - "If Jesus knows everything can you cite a passage which says it is so?"
3. Holy Spirit - If the Holy Spirit is also the Alpha and the Omega can you give me a verse that says it does?

How to Start a Conversation with "Ang Dating Daan" (ADD) Member

1. Upon knowing that the person is already an ADD member, you can start by asking how long he/she has been an ADD convert and what made him/her embrace the ADD teachings.
2. You can start by conversing with that person by telling him/her that, "I happen to watch the ADD TV program one time. May I ask you something?"
3. You can ask them also about their belief in the Father and the Son emphasizing on their deity.

Things to Remember When Witnessing to an ADD Member

1. Do not witness with an ADD member unless you yourself are grounded in the orthodox faith of the Scripture.
2. Always say "you" and not "your group" to avoid him/her from thinking that you are attacking their "church."
3. Know what they believe so that the person will not think that you are ignorant of their teaching. From my many years of experience, a number of cultist tend to lend a listening ear when I tell them that I

- usually encounters inconsistencies in their groups doctrines when it does not square with the teachings of the Bible. This becomes my springboard to an open discussion.
4. Focus on one subject at a time like about "God," "salvation," and "full deity and humanity of Christ." They have the tendency to jump from one topic to another.
 5. If possible, have someone intercede for you while you discuss with them or you can pray and listen at the same time while they are talking so the Holy Spirit would move on your behalf. Always remember, you cannot convert a cultist in just one sitting but you can "plant a seed of doubt" while some Christians pours the "water" next time knowing that someday God will make that seed grow and cause that person to be saved.

Notes:* Taken from the Ang Dating Daan website.

Pentecostal Missionary CHURCH of CHRIST

(FOURTHWATCH)

(Incorporated through Securities and Exchange Commission on September 22, 1973.)

Founder:

Rev. Arsenio T. Ferriol. They call him: "Apostle Arsenio Ferriol," "God's Sent One," "Apostle in the End Time," "beloved Apostle," "Living Apostle," or "Sugong Apostol".

Former Christian Church Affiliation

Foursquare Church established by Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944).

Main Headquarter and Bible College

Marikina City, Philippines.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 257, Marikina City, Philippines 1800.

Worldwide Membership: **Estimated at 50,000 – 60,000.**

Countries and Cities Penetrated

Some of the countries and cities they have penetrated are as follows: Britain, Switzerland, Italy, France, Monaco, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, San Diego (US), Los Angeles, Seattle, Honolulu, Dallas, Guam, Saipan, and Saudi Arabia.

Source Of Authority

The Holy Bible (Old Tagalog Versions) as interpreted by Mr. Arsenio T. Ferriol. He is the infallible authority of the Bible.

Extra-Biblical Authorities

Regularly distributed, the 4th Watchers' described *The Word* magazine as follows:

1. The Word Magazine contains the teachings of the apostles of God.
2. Reading The Word Magazine is like studying the Bible itself.
3. Explanations of The Word Magazine directly comes from God through the "Apostle" Arsenio Ferriol.
4. The Word Magazine gives light, wisdom, and knowledge.
5. The Word Magazine is more important than life itself. It gives a 4th Watchers spiritual strength, doctrines, and revelation.
6. The Word Magazine was inspired by God.

TV And Radio Programs

Oras Ng Katotohanan (ONK) seen at SBN21 and NBN 4 and heard at DWWW 774 kHz.

Peculiar Beliefs And Practices

1. They believe that Rev. Arsenio T. Ferriol is God's sent living apostle for our time.
2. They believe that an end-time mystery was revealed only to their living apostle. They call that revealed mystery as the *fourth watch* citing Mark 4:11 and 13:35, they say we are now living in the *fourth watch*.
3. Since they have the living Apostle...
 - a. They belong to the one true Church, that is, the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch).
 - b. They preach the gospel that saves; the rest can preach it but they do not have a message that saves.
 - c. They have the correct and the authoritative teaching and understanding of the Scriptures. In their "authoritative" understanding of the Scriptures they teach...
 - i. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God but not a Trinity.
 - ii. The Personality of the Holy Spirit and the divinity and sinless humanity of Christ but they also teach that during

incarnation Christ took off his form of God (kenosis heresy).

- iii. Baptism by immersion is one of the prerequisites to salvation or to being born again (baptismal regenerationism error) which happens after repentance which happens after belief.
 - iv. The authorized baptism is administered only by the living Apostle or by his ordained ministers called, "mga sugo".
 - v. To remain saved, one has to keep good standing with God through various 4th Watch activities.
4. They consider "public offering" as one of the signs of a true Church. They preach in crowded streets and inside the buses while at the same time pass around envelopes or collection bag for money.

How to Start a Conversation with a PMCC (4th Watch) Member

You may jump start a conversation with a 4th Watcher by asking him/her how long has he/she has been a member of PMCC and what made him/her decide to be a committed member of the group.

Witnessing to a PMCC (4th Watch) Member

First and foremost, pray that the Lord will open a door for you to minister the true gospel to that person. Learn from following conversation.

Christian	4th Watcher
What do you think is the gospel or good news?	Well, you can find it in John 3:16.
Do you believe that just believing in Jesus can save a person?	Yes that is what the Bible says.
Then will you accept if someone preached this kind of message people can also get saved?	I do not believe that because a person must have an authority for him to be able to preached.
Who do you think has the authority?	Mr. Arsenio Ferriol is the "apostle" or "sugong apostol" for this dispensation.
Who do you think is the most important one, the being an "apostle" or his gospel message according to Galatians 1:6-9?	Of course, it must be both.
But when the Apostle Paul said, "Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned," is he giving importance to his being an "apostle" or the gospel message itself?	The gospel message?
You are right! Therefore, what is important is not really the "position" of being an apostle, a pastor and teacher, an evangelist, a prophet but rather are you preaching the same gospel, which was once delivered to the saints throughout centuries of church history that was passed down by the apostles during the early Christianity? In fact, during the time of Jesus, His apostles thought that their "ministry" is only "exclusive" for their group, "'Teacher,' said John, 'we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.' 'Do not stop him,' Jesus said. 'No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.'" The	You mean to say having "church organization" or "religion" is not that important?

<p>apostles thought that everybody must join their group in order for them to have authority in the name of Jesus but they were mistaken.</p>	
<p>During the time of the apostles they do not have any "church organizations" but sometimes their group was known to unbelievers as: the "Way" (Acts 24:14), the "Nazarene sect" (v. 5), and "Christians" (10:26). There is nothing wrong with organizations, movements, fellowships, ministries, or whatever you may call them in the light of the Scripture as long as you do not develop a spirit of "exclusive-ism" by telling other Christian groups to "stop because they do not belong to your organization."</p>	<p>You mean to say you accept all other Christian groups as "true"?</p>
<p>I am not encouraging ecumenism by accepting other religions and beliefs which are far from the orthodox Christianity. I am simply referring to other Christian denominations that have the same essential Biblical teachings as mine. Moreover, if that group is preaching a different gospel (cf. Galatians 1:6-9) other than the one "entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3) all throughout the church history, then it is the responsibility of a true believer to expose their false teachings.</p>	<p>What can you say about "living apostles" for today? We as a 4th Watch member believe that "Apostol." Arsenio Ferriol is the "living apostle" for today.</p>
<p>I believe the title of being an "apostle" is limited only to Paul and the Twelve Disciples of Jesus Christ. If you will read Ephesians 2:19-21 it says, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord." You will notice that it says, "built on the foundation of the apostles." How many times do you think should one lay a foundation?</p>	<p>Once?</p>
<p>Exactly. The apostle Paul said, "By the grace of God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one could lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Co. 3:10-11; 2:2).</p>	<p>Don't you believe that the church today needs "living apostles"?</p>

<p>You will notice that the foundation has already been laid (past tense). We already have knowledge about Jesus Christ whom the apostles preach. This is why we have to read Eph. 4:11-13 in the light of Eph. 2:19-21. Now concerning "evangelists," and "pastors and teachers," these are continuing ministry for every believer called for this specific task. And they are also "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (4:11-13)</p>	
<p>Christian: If you're referring to those who are in the line of the 12 Disciples and the Apostle Paul then I would say the door is closed because they have already laid the foundation. If you will study Acts 1:21-26, Peter gave the criteria for choosing a believer to replace Judas as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. One who have been with the disciples the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among them, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from them; b. One who became a witness with them of Christ's resurrection <p>In addition, since there are two men who are qualified "Barsabbas" and "Matthias" the disciples had to seek God and cast lots where the lot fell to the latter.</p> <p>With this kind of criterion, the apostle Paul had to justify that he has the rights of an apostle by saying, "Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?..." (1 Co. 9:1, see also Mark 12:12) [note: PMCC members only quotes verse 2 in referring this verse to A.T. Ferriol]</p> <p>My question to you would be, had Mr. Arsenio Ferriol been with the apostles the whole time Jesus was with them? In other words, did he saw Jesus? Did he witness with the apostles His resurrection?</p>	<p>No. But Paul has not been with Jesus physically and did not witness His resurrection. Don't you think that can also happen with "Apostol" Arsenio Ferriol?</p>

<p>The apostle Paul already knew all about it during his time that there have been false apostles in the Corinthian church trying to equal themselves with the genuine ones like them, "And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Co. 11:12-13) In fact, after many of the original apostles died may self-appointed "apostles" have rose up trying to deceive the body of Christ. John wrote about this in the book of Revelation, "I know you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles and are not, and have found them false." (2:2)</p>	<p>Are you saying Mr. Arsenio Ferriol is a false-apostle?</p>
<p>In the light of the Scripture, I would say, "Yes, he is."</p>	<p>Then what about other people in the New Testament who were called apostles?</p>
<p>The word "apostle" in the New Testament koine Greek is "apostolos" which could mean, "a delegate," "an ambassador," "a commissioner," "messenger," "he that is sent." (see, Strong's Concordance). In the New Testament, this Greek word could refer to the apostles chosen and sent out by Christ, of whom Paul was one. In addition, it could also refer to a Christian sent from one church to another (see, Phil. 2:25) where Epaphroditus is called "your messenger [Gk. apostolos]" by Paul sent to care for him. (see also, 2 Co. 8:23) If a certain church denomination or fellowship sent their representative to another Christian church then they can be called apostle in the original sense of the word. This is also why Jesus Christ is also called an apostle (Heb. 3:1) since He is the One sent by the Father to die for your sins and mine. Would you like to know the real Jesus of the Bible?</p>	

Peculiar Beliefs and Practices of the 4th Watchers

The Living Apostle

⊕ While shepherding in his former church (Four Square), Rev. Arsenio T. Ferriol claims to have been given the "Apostleship" from God which at first he just ignored.

⊕ He likens his Apostleship to that of Apostle Paul, in fact, in the *Brief History of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)* we are told how an accident played a very significant role in this belief that of his,

⊕ The Pentecostal Missionary CHURCH of CHRIST (4th Watch) begun when Bro. Arsenio T. Ferriol, then a pastor, received an apostolic calling in his life.

⊕ At first, he wasn't able to fully comprehend his divine calling. It overwhelmed Him. So he retreated in the ordinary routine of local church shepherding and working in his growing livestock business in Marikina City, Philippines.

⊕ At first, his plans seemed to work out just fine for him and his ministry. But God had other plans for His servant. God wanted Him to speak the Gospel.

⊕ One fateful day just at the break of dawn, God once more moved in his servant's life. This time in a manner that would forever impress upon Bro. Arsenio that God had indeed called him to be His messenger.

⊕ Bro. Arsenio's truck overturned violently in the highway. He was pinned and dragged by the vehicle for several meters before it finally stopped. The tragic accident cost nearly his life. At the hospital, while in deep pain and emotional anguish, Bro. Arsenio vowed to heed God's calling.

⊕ Since then, God has never failed to demonstrate to him his apostolic calling. In 1972, the Pentecostal Missionary CHURCH of CHRIST (4th Watch) was founded in the Philippines.

⊕ From a handful of faithful believers under his anointed leadership, the PMCC (4th Watch) grew and increased both in stature and membership in the Philippines and across the globe.

(Brief History of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch), Available online. Last accessed: 4 September 2005.)

Because of this claim Rev. Ferriol and the 4th Watch may have just fulfilled 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, *"But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. ¹³For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* We need to pray for them and try to reach them out because according to verse 15b, their "end shall be according to their works."



The 4th Watch

They say that one of the principal attestations of Rev. Ferriol's divinely appointed office is a mystery on the *last days* that God revealed only to him. They even say that this mystery was never even revealed to the early Apostles, 4th Watch Pastor Osie Quillao wrote,

"Ang ika-apat na pagpupuyat ay isang hiwaga. Ito'y hindi ipapaalam sa hindi Niya apostol (*Efeso 3:3-5*). Ang sabi ng Dios kay Daniel, ang pagkaalam ng pagkakilala ng panahon ay doon sa daratnan ng katapusan ng panahon (*Daniel 12:4*). Kahit ang mga apostol sa unang Iglesia ay hindi nakaalam, sapagkat ang pagkakilala ng mga panahon at mga bahagi ng kapanahunan ay ipaaalam lang sa sugo ng Dios na dinatnan ng kawakasan ng panahon, ang ika-apat na pagpupuyat. Kagaya rin nang ipaalam ang hiwaga ng Cristo nang panahong dumating ang Cristo." (*The Word*, Vol. 9, Issn. 67, 1998, p. 27).

[Translation: The fourth watch is a mystery. This will not be revealed by God to those who are not his Apostles (*Ephesians 3:3-5*). God told Daniel that the revelation to know the season will be given by only to those who will be in the end of time (*Daniel 12:4*). **Not even the apostles of the first Church knew, because the revelation of season and its division will be made known to the apostle of God in the end of time**, the fourth watch. Just like when the mystery about Christ was revealed only when Christ came. (Emphasis mine)]

As an apostle of Jesus Christ, Bro. Arsenio T. Ferriol received a revelation that clearly defines where we are now in God's timetable prior to the second coming of Christ. **This is the doctrine that clearly sets apart the PMCC (4th Watch)**. But this is not the only defining mark of the church. Bro. Arsenio T. Ferriol has also espoused the significance of the perfection of the saints, the complete operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church, the work of global evangelization as well as other essential doctrines and practices of the early apostolic church. (Emphasis mine, *Brief History of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)*, Available online. Last accessed: 4 September 2005.)

One True Church?

For having the living apostle, they claim that the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) is the one true Church. Do they say they are the only true Church? Please take note that most of them will be quick to deny they are saying this. But when you ask them to name one or two other true churches aside from PMCC churches they cannot even identify just one. Once again *The Word* magazine,

Sa pagkatawag sa mga apostol, doon nakabatay ang pagkatawag ng mga pinangaralan. Kaya sila ay mayroong iisang pagkatawag, tinawag sa pamamagitan ng mga Apostol na tinawag ni Cristo (*Efeso 4:4*). Ang hindi dadaan sa paraang ito ng Dios ay hindi tinawag ng Dios at kung hindi tinawag ay maliwanag na hindi katawan ng Panginoon. Ang aral ng iba ay aanib na lamang daw. Hindi makakaanib ang tatawagin dahil ang mga sangkap ng Iglesia ay tinawag muna. Kung hindi apostol ang kanilang kasamahan ang nangaral ay hindi Dios ang tumawag sa kanila. (*The Word*, Vol. 9, Issue No. 68, 1988, p.27).

[Translation: In the calling of the apostles lies the calling of those who were taught. That is why they have one calling, called through the Apostles who were called by Christ (Ephesians 4:4). And those who were not called in the same manner are clearly not the body of the Lord. Others teach that they will simply become part. **They cannot become part if they are not called because those who are part of the Church will be called first. If they are not taught with the apostle, they were not called by God.** (Emphasis mine.)]

Kenosis Heresy

⊕ They believe that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. They also believe in humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as in the Personality of the Holy Spirit. However, they seem to be espousing the heresy of kenosis.

⊕ What then is the form of Christ before He has taken the form of man? In *Philippians 2:6* it is stated that He took off the form of God. And when he took the form of man He was born of Mary and Joseph. (*The Word*, Vol.9. No. 65, p.13).

⊕ Kenosis theory came out of the Reformation period. One of those who taught this theory was a Lutheran named *Gottfried Thomasius*. This theory suggests that part or all of the divine attributes of Christ were taken off, given up, or emptied at the incarnation.

⊕ This theory must be rejected for its inconsistent with Colossians 2:9 which says, "*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*"

Baptismal Regenerationist

⊕ Baptism by immersion is one of PMCC (4th Watch) prerequisites to salvation. To be born again you must believe, repent, and undergo 4th Watch water baptism.

⊕ New converts must be baptized either by Rev. Ferriol or one of the 4th Watch pastors ("mga sugo"). They claim only they can confer valid water baptism.

Ang sabi ng kasulatan ay iisang pagtawag - tinawag sa pamamagitan ng mga apostol. (*Roma 1:5-6*), iisang pananampalataya - aral ng mga apostol (*Roma 18:8; Gawa 2:42*), iisang bautismo - bautismo ng mga Apostol." (The Word, Vol. 9, Issue No. 68, 1988, p.27).

[Translation: The scripture says one calling - called through the apostles (*Romans 1:5-6*), one faith - teachings of the apostles (*Romans 18:8; Acts 2:42*), one baptism - baptism of the Apostles.]

⊕ In order to be genuinely saved, they say that man must enter into this eternal covenant or agreement with God and he must remain in good standing with God through various 4th Watch activities. This way he maintains his salvation.

⊕ Their teaching about the way man can be saved is very much unlike the Gospel of the Apostle Paul.

⊕ To Apostle Paul it's not water baptism that saves rather, it is the preaching of the cross, "**For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.**" ¹⁸**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**" 1 Corinthians 1:17-18.

Public Offering As A Sign of the True Church

⊕ It's not wrong to ask for financial help. It is also not wrong to give out of a generous heart. The problem is peddling God's Word for a profit. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God"* (2 Corinthians 2:17, NIV).

⊕ But why do the 4th Watchers preach and collect money in the streets and in the buses? The answer lies in their concept of the true Church. They believe that public offering is one of the signs of a true Church,

⊕ 4th Watcher Pastor Dodoy Ferriol wrote,

Kaya nga, napakaliwanag na tanda ng tunay na mangangaral ang "Public Offering." Sapagkat ang mga tunay na mangangaral ay may pagkasugong gaya ni Cristo. (The Word, Vol. 9, Issn. 94, 1998, p. 26)

[Translation: Therefore, it is clear that the sign of the true preacher is the "Public Offering." Because the true preachers have apostolic calling like that of Christ.] Ang "public offering" ay tanda ng tunay na Iglesia, dahil ang unang Iglesia sa pangunguna ng mga apostol ay gumaya kay Cristo. Nangaral sa mga palengke. Si Pablo ay araw-araw nasa palengke at nangangaral. (Gawa 17:17). (Ibid., p. 27)

[Translation: The *"public offering"* is a sign of the true Church, because the first Church as they were led by the apostles followed Christ. They taught in market places. Even Paul was found preaching daily in market places (*Acts 17:17*).]

⊕ Clearly they are confusing "public offering" with "public proclamation" of the Gospel. They read their assumptions into Acts 17:17. Assuming that since the early apostles preached the Gospel in public places it follows that they also collected money.

⊕ But that's not true, even Dodoy Ferriol admitted that Acts 17:17 does not really say Paul collected money while preaching in public, they just presupposed it. Again, *The Word* magazine,

Ayon naman sa iba, si Pablo raw ay hindi nagpa-offering. Samantalang sa katotohanan, si Apostol Pablo kahit sa palengke ay nagpa-offering. Kung hindi natin masusumpungan sa Gawa 17:17, hindi nangangahulugang ito ay hindi niya ginawa. Sapagkat ang Biblia ay hindi lamang binubuo ng iisang talata, kundi mga talata.

[Translation: Other say that Paul did not collect money. But the truth is, Paul was in market places collecting public offerings. If we can't find that in Acts 17:17, it doesn't follow that he did not do this. Because the Bible is not composed of one verse but of many verses.]

⊕ Remember it was Dodoy Ferriol who used Acts 17:17 to justify public offering but take note of how he refuted himself. What are those other verses? They cite Psalms 68:18. Again 4th Watcher Pastor Dodoy Ferriol,

Kaya ang hula ayon sa Awit 68:18, na sumampa sa mataas at tumanggap ng mga kaloob sa gitna ng mga tao ay uri ng ministeryo. Sapagkat ang pagtanggap ng kaloob ay uri ng gawa ni Cristo. Kanyang pinapalaya ang mga bihag, at tatanggap sila ng mga kaloob sa gitna ng mga tao. At kung paanong Siya'y sasampa sa itaas. Siya'y magpapalaya ng bihag. (Ibid., p. 24)

[Translation: That's why the prophecy according to Acts 68:18, that he ascended and received gifts from men is a type of ministry. Because to receive an offering is a type of Christ's ministry. He sets captives free, and they receive offering in the midst of the people. And how He ascended. He also sets captives free.]

But Psalm 68:18 does not say anything about public offering either, does it? They are so bent on justifying their public offering they twist more scriptures to their gain. This time it's 4th Watcher, Norvie Gavino, he wrote,

Ang mga handog na ito ay ipinagkakaloob sa mga alagad ni Cristo ay hahayo upang mangaral ng Salita ng Dios, ngunit wala silang baon... (Lucas 10:3-4). Ang kanilang kakainin ay mangagaling sa mga taong kanilang napangaralan sa bawat bayan na kanilang pupuntahan (Lucas 10:8). (Ibid., p.22)

[Translation: These offerings are given to the disciples of Christ as they are sent to preach the Word of God, but they had nothing... (Luke 10:3-4). Their food comes from those who receive their message in every city they go to (Luke 10:8).]

By the way 2 Corinthians 2:17a is translated differently in the KJV, "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God." As you can see, both both translations are violated by PMCC (4th Watch). Let me

explain. They violate the NIV translation because they peddle the word of God for profit. They violate the KJV translation because they corrupt the word of God just to rationalize their peddling.

Luke 10:3-4 does not mention anything about money. In fact, the disciples were not told to bring money-purse,

3"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. 4Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way." (Luke 10:3-4)

They were not told to bring any money-purse. Ironically, the rare occasions we see PMCC (4th Watch) peddling the word of God for profit without money-purse is when they preach in buses and ask us to put money inside brown envelopes instead.

⊕ Did the early disciples collect money from the public and then use their collection money to buy food? No! They were invited to houses and there they are fed.

⊕ No money was involved, remember they were told to not bring money-purses. Remember also that they were not told to eat from house to house, *"And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire.*

⊕ *Go not from house to house,"* (Luke 10:7) in stark contrast, the PMCC (4th Watch) spares no man in the public.

Ang pagtanggap ng kaloob sa lahat ng tao ay tanda ng tunay na mangangaral o mananampalataya. Ito rin ay tanda ng tunay na Iglesia. (The Word, Vol. 9, Issn. 94, 1998, p.24)

[Translation: Receiving **gifts from all men** is a sign of a true preacher or believer. This is also the sign of the true Church. (Emphasis mine.)]

⊕ Finally, since they believe that *public offering* is a sign of the true Church what do you suppose they think of non-PMCC (4th Watch) churches who does not preach and collect money in the streets?

⊕ Again Dodoy Ferriol,

Sa ngayon, maraming nagsasabing sila'y mga Cristiano, ngunit nililibak ang "public offering". Pwede kayang sabihin na tunay silang mga alagad, samantalang sa halip na tumulad sa mga mananampalataya noon ay lumilibak ngayon sa pagkakaloob? (The Word, Vol. 9, Issn. 64, 1998, p.26)

[Translation: Today many claim to be Christians, but make ridicule "public offering." Can they be called true disciples when instead of imitating the early believers they even ridicule [our] offering?]

Kaya ang grupo o kalipunan na ayaw magpa-offering ay hindi tunay na Iglesia ni Cristo. (*Ibid.*, p.27)

[Translation: Therefore the group or assembly that rejects public offering is not true Church of Christ.]

Iglesia Ni Cristo (1914)

Cult Organization

Iglesia Ni Cristo (1914)

Founder: Mr. Felix Manalo Ysagun a.k.a. "Felix Ysagun Manalo" or "Ka Felix" (May 10, 1886-April 12, 1963)

President Executive Minister: Eraño G. Manalo (1925-present)

Main Headquarter: Quezon City, Philippines

Philippine Membership: Baptized Converts - 6,224 (1997); 7,933 (1998); 13,247 (1999)

INC Population in the Philippines: [Not an exact figure.

Source:Adherents.com]

1974-79: 500,000 - 1,400,000

1984: 1,000,000

1996: 1,680,000

1998: 858,000

1999: 3,000,000

Source of Authority

1. Teachings and prophetic interpretations of Felix Y. Manalo.
2. The Holy Bible (any text version except those that doesn't support their theology)
3. Pasugo (first published 1939) or God's Message Magazine - contains doctrines and commentaries written by the INC ministers.
4. INC executive minister, authorities and local ministers.

Countries Penetrated (66)

1. Africa - 8
2. Central America - 4
3. North America - (a) Canada - 6 (b) U.S.A. - 39
4. South America - 2
5. Caribbean - 1

6. Asia - 23
7. Australia & Oceania - 11
8. Europe - 15

Unbiblical Beliefs:

1. Vehemently oppose the Biblical revelation of the Triune God.
2. Believes in the absolute oneness of God the Creator in the Person of the Father.
3. Believes the Son as the literal Word (which has no pre-existence) who became man. He was given power by the Father to do supernatural miracles. He is not God.
4. Believes in an impersonal Holy Spirit, a power sent by the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is not God but one of the spirits sent by God.
5. Believes the Father (Creator) and Son (creature) must be worshipped. The Son must be worshipped because the Father says so.
6. Believes a person must hear the "gospel" from authorized INC messengers and INC ministers. They are the only ones who have God's Holy Spirit in order for them to understand the Bible.
7. Believes the official name of the church is "Iglesia ni Cristo" while other names are not.
8. Believes a person must be a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), be water baptized, follow the church rules (must avoid the eating of "dinuguan," avoid joining labor unions, avoid court sessions, do block voting, be under compulsory church attendance, practice giving to the church) and perform his good deeds as an INC member in order for him to be saved.
9. Believes Felix Y. Manalo is the fulfillment of Isaiah 43:5-7; 46:11, and Rev. 7:2-3 prophecies.
10. They also believe in "soul sleep," a belief that at death, the souls dies. There is no consciousness. (A belief of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church - Ellen G. White).

How to Start a Conversation with an Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) Member

First, you can place a Christian tract on top of his working table or hand it to him personally. If he/she is a zealous I.N.C., he/she will be the one to open up the door of conversation.

Methods of Witnessing to an INC Member

1. Pray that the Lord will open a door for a spiritual conversation between the both of you.
2. Suggest a topic for both of you to discuss preferably on essential teachings (e.g. deity of Jesus Christ, Salvation, Authority, etc.). Do not dwell on peripheral issues such as the eating of "dinuguan", tithes, manner of clothing, etc. for these cannot contribute to a person's salvation.
3. Always bear in mind that when an INC says "God" what he has in mind is always the "Father." Therefore do not ever say to him, "I will prove to you that Jesus is God" because you have just said, "I will prove that Jesus is the Father." Rather say, **"I believe the Scripture not only tell us that Jesus has the nature of 'man' but also has the nature of 'God' as well. Could we check that out?"**
4. Always say, "The INC authorities said..." rather than "You said..." to avoid offending the person you're talking to. This will also prevent him from building more walls against the gospel.
5. Whenever the INC member quote a passage supporting their set of beliefs do not just jump to another passage to prove your point. Rather, explain first the context of the passage he just quoted before proceeding onto another supporting verse--do this only when you feel that he has fully understood your explanation. Remember **"the Scripture supports each other and does not contradict one another."**
6. Always throw a set of question so that he could think it over. Like this example below:

Christian: Who are you expecting to come during the last day? Is it the Father or the Son?

INC: The Son (If he says "the Father" then you can point out Rev. 1:7 and ask him, "Who is the One coming with the clouds that was "pierced?" Surely it doesn't mean the "Father" for according to the INC's doctrine, He is "Spirit" in John 4:23)

Christian: *Now Who is the One speaking in Rev. 1:8 about Him being "the Alpha and the Omega... who is who was and who is to come, the Almighty?"*

INC: *Well the One speaking is the Father, of course.*

Christian: *But wait, haven't you told me awhile ago that in verse 7 the One coming with the clouds is the Son. Then why did you understand verse 8 as the Father talking since it says very clearly "who is to come, the Almighty?"*

7. You can also ask him, *"Are you willing to go to hell just because of someone else's false teachings? Surely you won't get the INC ministers to be your advocate when you face God on the day of judgment. Can you?"* And if he says "Of course not!" Then you can say, *"That's right! Even I do not depend on someone's else's preaching, rather I investigate and study it myself."*
8. Before parting ways, ask permission if you can pray for him. If not, then lift him up in prayer during your private moments with God.

Things to Remember Before Witnessing to an INC Member

1. Be sure to know his theology first before embarking on witnessing. Know why he believes what he believes.
2. Study every Scripture passage that they misquote and twist in order to explain that Jesus Christ was only human.
3. Be very familiar with your Bible so that there will be no idle moments for him to interrupt what you're saying.
4. Be alert on every explanation he presents so that you will have something to use against the INC's false doctrines.
5. Do not forget to share him the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Metro Manila Christian Church (MMCC)

[Date: Wed, 24 Oct 2001]

May I request for information regarding MCC (Metro Manila Christian Church) its history, doctrine, practices, origin, etc.

Thank you and God bless.

From: "Ronald C" (xxxxxxr1@edsamail.com.ph)

Answer

Brief History of The Metro Manila Christian Church (MMCC)

- The International Church of Christ (ICoC), also known as the **Boston Movement or the Boston Church of Christ** originated from Gainesville, Florida.
- It was there that a young student named Kip McKean was personally disciplined and trained by Chuck Lucas, a campus minister of the Crossroads Church of Christ at the University of Florida using the principles in Robert E. Coleman's **"Master Plan of Evangelism."**
- Lucas was terminated by Crossroads CoC leaders due to 'recurring sins in his life' and the movement was taken over by his protégé, Kip McKean.
- In April 1977, McKean and Roger Lamb were both terminated from their position as campus ministers in Charleston, Illinois by the Memorial Church of Christ of Houston, Texas due to reports of unbiblical practices like the following: "...confession of sins, peer pressure to conform to human judgmental standards and intimidation. ... The judgment of humans that mature knowledge must be gained before one is allowed to be baptized. ...elitism." [1]
- After his termination, he and his wife Elena McKean found a Church of Christ in a suburb of Lexington, Boston Massachusetts named Lexington Church of Christ, later named the Boston Church of Christ, in June 1979 and began to established an aggressive evangelism and discipleship program that resulted to an increase number of church attendance from 30 to 1000 members in just a couple of years.

Growth And Expansion

- The Boston Movement or the Boston Church of Christ were planted and established in the key cities of the world, namely London (1981), Chicago 1982), New York City (1983), Toronto and Providence (1985), Johannesburg, Paris and Stockholm (1986), Mexico City, Hong Kong, Bombay and Cairo (1987-88). In 1989, Kip & Elena McKean and Preston & Sandie Shepherd which comprised 28 members of the Boston Movement from five (5) U.S. ICoC churches penetrated the Philippines.
- After much planning and discussion in a prominent hotel in Manila they targeted the major universities of the country like U.P. and as a result established the Metro Manila Christian Church (MMCC), then followed the Metro Cebu Christian Church (MCCC) in 1990, Baguio Christian Church in 1992, Metro Davao Christian Church (MDCC) in 1994, Batangas Christian Church, Daanbantayan Christian Church, Laoag Christian Church, Cagayan de Oro Christian Church and Metro Olongapo Christian Church (MOCC) in 1995, Negros City Christian Church and General Santos City in 1996, Zamboanga Christian Church in 1997.

The Boston Church of Christ: "The Only True Church?"

- The Boston Movement (aka MMCC) has a vision to convert the Philippines and the whole world into their own exclusive movement. Kip McKean has this to say, "True churches [ICoC] are now established in 53 of the 216 nations of the world." [2] Baird, an ICoC elder, admitted that, "If you walk away from the church [i.e. ICoC] you're leaving Jesus, and you absolutely lose your salvation." [3]
- In the Philippines, they are creating many innovative ways in luring prospective converts into their fold. In fact, one Christian friend told me of one MMCC member who wants to invite him in a concert sponsored by their movement of course.

The growths of the Boston Church of Christ in the Philippines are as follows:

1989.....28
1990.....317
1991.....741
1992.....920
1993.....1,135
1994.....1,831
1995.....2,141

It's hard to get an exact number of the Boston Movement population today in the Philippines due to lack of available resources.

Personal Experience with the MMCCs

- I have talked to a number of MMCC leaders, asking them questions, observing their behaviors towards one another, how they worship, how they meet and "study" the Bible which is actually not the Bible but the prepared lectures of Kip McKean, how they invite people, etc.
- These young people are really that serious in their Christian life. However, theirs is a Christianity of works rather than grace.
- One former MMCC member who is now an active Christian herself in one of the U-Belt churches said that it was hard for her to adjust from what she did before and in what she's doing right now.
- Before, she used to spend the night, even past midnight doing MMCC style discipleship and she felt condemned in the inside by thinking, "How come I'm no longer active in the Lord."
- Before I used to exert all my effort in doing things for Him but now it is as if I've grown cold."
- It took us many months to pray and minister to her by explaining that discipleship, evangelism, prayer, Bible study, and all those stuffs must be done not because you are force to but these things must be done because of your love for Jesus that compels you to do it.
- This is just one of the dilemmas of an MMCC member once he/she becomes born-again.
- The MMCC churches are fond of "love-bombing" by hugging one another, kissing each other cheek-to-cheek and feels dismayed to see that born-again Christians does not show their affection towards one another.

- That former MMCC young professional is now being used by the Lord in inviting her MMCC friends to attend a Christian fellowship in her church. And yes, she is more effective in reaching out to them because she knows the heart of being an MMCC.
- Once an MMCC member gets saved, you have to deal all those condemnations that were spoken on that person when he/she decided to leave the movement.
- The Boston Movement founder, Kip McKean, wrote that "to leave the family of God, the true church [ICoC], is to leave God."
- You also have to uproot every false teaching and start to build from the basics.
- This young girl who was a former MMCC member turned Christian has to undergo a series of meeting with us just for her to understand that water baptism is not essential for a person to be saved but must be done only out of your obedience to Christ.
- Even the Apostle Paul did not regard water baptism as essential for he said, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel..." (1 Cor. 1:17, NIV) An apostle to the Gentiles like Paul surely would not ignore water baptism if such was "essential" to salvation.
- But what he taught was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (past tense) - you and your household." (Acts 16:31, NIV)

A Spiritual Discernment Ministry to Help Churches and Ministries to Share the Gospel with the Cultists

If you know of someone who is in a cult group and you need advice and help on how to effectively share the gospel to that person, then call or inform the ministry. I can also give you some free tracts and articles on how to evangelize the cultist in gentleness and respect. The Bereans: Apologetics Research Ministry (Acts 17:11) was formed to help church leaders, lay members, and individual Christians on cult awareness and in reaching the cultist, as well as, new agers for Christ. We also conduct Cult Aware Seminar for interested churches and ministries.

Bibliography:

- [1] Delbert Burkhart, Elder, *Letter to Heritage Church of Christ*, dated April 14, 1977. As quoted by Stephen F. Cannon in his article "The Boston Church of Christ: Has Mind Control Come to Beantown?" (*Personal Freedom Outreach*, Vol. 9, No. 2, April 1 - June 1989), 5.
- [2] *"The World in One Generation,"* August 14-16, 1994, 34.
- [3] *"The Cost of Discipleship,"* adapted from *Christianity Today*, September 1, 1997, 65.
- [4] *UpsideDown*, Issue 11, August 1994.
- [5] Baptismal Regeneration proponents may argue that water baptism was still done in addition to "believing" (v. 33). But a closer study of verse 34 reveals that the joy of the jailer came not because of believing "and water baptism" but by believing in God alone for his salvation, "he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God-he and his whole family" (Acts 16:34, NIV).

THE SHEPHERD'S MESSAGE

(SHEPHERD'S INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH)

Formerly: *The Shepherd's Voice*

Founded: *Angeles City, Philippines (1987)*

Pastor: *Dr. Joey Guerrero*

- It's just sad knowing how a seemingly good intention can produce such a bad result. According to Dr. Joey Guerrero, pastor of the *Shepherd's Independent Baptist Church (SIBC)*,
- "The Shepherd's Voice's belief on the Doctrine of God stemmed out of our desire to stop the exodus of the so-called Trinitarians to the fold of the Oneness groups." [1]
- It may be granted that the SIBC's doctrine about God sincerely came out of the earnest desire to stop the advances of Modalist Monarchian in the Philippines, this, however, does not clear their conscience from the guilt of producing an equally dangerous heresy--Tritheism.

Tritheism Defined.

- The term "tritheism" came from the combination of the Greek words "tri," which obviously stands for "three," and "theism" which means the "belief in a personal God or gods."
- In Trinitarian Heterodoxy, Tritheism is the heretic teaching that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three separate and distinct Gods.
- It comes in at least two forms: (1) the belief that the Father's essence (Gk. *ousia*) is not only distinct and separate but is also ontologically greater than that of the Son or the Holy Spirit; (2) the belief that all three (distinct *ousia*) are ontologically at par with each other.
- However, regardless of how these variants of tritheism make out the quality of each Person's divinity, tritheism per se is marked out by the belief that there are three separate and distinct Divinities, dividing thus, the substance of the one true God (Deut 6:4).

What Biblical Trinity?

- What is SIBC's "Biblical Trinity"? What do they mean by "Paganistic Tritheism"? Could it be that what SIBC calls "Biblical Trinity" is actually Tritheism? Could it be that what they mean by Paganistic Tritheism is that version of Tritheism that treats the Son subordinate? In order to "*prove all things and hold fast to that which is good* (1 Thes. 5:21) we need to get past these labels and find out what SIBC really mean by them.
- Dr. Guerrero believes that the Gospel should be advanced by using TV, Radio and Print, calling them "Tri-media," they produce TV and Radio programs entitled, *The Shepherd's Voice* and since the show was aired, they get SMS or TEXT messages as feedback from the Filipino viewers.[2]
- When a Modalist texter told them that phrase "I am the God" (probably taken from Gen. 26: 24; Matt. 22:32; Mk 12:26 or Acts 7:32) implies Modalism or "Oneness," and "not holy two, or holy three," the SIBC replied, "You quoted it wrong. Ex. 3: 16 The LORD God of your fathers the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, The LORD God means Jehovah-Elohim.
- More than one.TRINITY. Oneness is a Devil's doctrine."[3]
- It is not really difficult to find out what they mean with "more than one" in their answer. It is obvious that "more than one" refers to the compound Hebrew name, *Jehovah-Elohim*.
- And they know too well that *Elohim* is a plural noun. And as shown above, while they are impeaching "Oneness as a devil's doctrine" they are also defending what the texter criticized as "holy three."
- But "holy three" what? Three Persons OF the one God or three persons AS three Gods?
- When another texter (who might have been either a unitarian or a modalist) criticized the usual Trinitarian symbol "1+1+1 = 1," the SIBC replied,
- "*Equals 1? Mahina talaga ang utak mo no? Sabi ko na nga ba, di nakaka-intindi. Di ganyan ang turo namin.*"[4]

[**Translation:** Equals 1? Are you dumb? Just as I thought, you don't really understand, that is not what we are teaching.]

One what? Three what?

- Can it be denied that they are teaching "1+1+1 = 3"? Can it be denied that since the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God, to the SIBC, there are 3 Gods?
- Now this is not to say $1+1+1 = 1$ is a correct mathematical equation, obviously it's not. But to the historic and biblical Trinitarian, it actually means "there are three distinct Persons in one Godhead." (See also *Insights on the Triunity of God*.) In the book, *The Holy Spirit in the Gospels*, p.19, Loraine Boettner said,

- Much of the opposition to the doctrine of the Trinity has arisen because of a misunderstanding of what it really is.

- We do not assert that one God is three Gods, nor that one person is three persons, nor that three Gods are one God. God is not three in the same sense in which He is one. To assert that He is would, indeed, make the doctrine what the Unitarians are ever fond of declaring it to be, mathematical absurdity. We assert rather that within the one Divine "substance" or "essence" there are three mutually related yet distinct centers of knowledge, consciousness, love and will. "Substance" or "essence" is that which the different members of the Godhead have in common, that in which the attributes and powers of Deity inhere; "person" is that in which they differ.
- Yet while there are three centers of knowledge, consciousness, love and will, each of the Persons possesses *in toto* the one indivisible, incorporeal substance of Deity in which the attributes and powers inhere, and therefore possesses the same infinite knowledge, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.
- They work together or cooperate with such perfect harmony and unity that we are justified in saying that the Triune God works with one mind and one will.

- What the one knows, the others know; what the one desires, the others desire: and what the one wills, the others will. Independence and self-existence are not attributes of the individual persons, but of the Triune God; hence there are not three independent wills, but three dependent wills, if we may so speak, each of which is exercised for the honour and glory and happiness of the other two.
- When another texter challenged them about the scripture which says, "Beside me there is no God," (found in Isa. 44:6, 8; 45:5, 21 and Hos. 13:4) they replied,
- *"Do you know who is talking there? It's God the Son. He is the only God the Son, no other else. But there is also God the Father and God the H.Ghost."*[5]
- In effect, they read these scriptures as saying that there is no other *God the Son* beside *God the Son* who was speaking. And then added that beside *God the Son*, is also *God the Father* and *God the Holy Ghost*, who are of course, not other *God the Sons*.
- It is true, there is only one Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:5; 1 Cor. 8:6), it is true that there is only one begotten Son of God (Jn. 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; Heb 11:17; 1 Jn. 4:9), but, is that what the context of those passages is really telling us?

"Beside me there is no God."

- Let's take Isa. 44:6 for instance. It says, *"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."* It doesn't say, "I am God the Son."
- It doesn't say, "Beside me there is no other God the Son." To think so is to add to the word of God (cf. Deut 4:2).
- But if we must remain faithful to the scriptures we should not go beyond what is written (cf. 1 Cor. 4:6).
- The text simply tells us that Yahweh, the King and Redeemer of Israel, is the first and the last, that beside Yahweh there is no other God.
- And as we jump to v.8, we read, *"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."*

Now if tritheism is true, why did Yahweh ask, "Is there A GOD beside me?" If there really are three separate Gods, don't you think Yahweh who was speaking here just denied the existence of Gods separate from Him by answering His own question--"Yea, there is no God; I know not any"? Don't you think that if God the Son is separate from the Father, the Father would be beside the Son?

- On the other hand, this does not pose a problem to a genuine Trinitarian, because the plurality in the Trinitarian faith is confined within the Godhead.
- The Son is not a separate God, the Holy Spirit is not a separate God, they are one not only in their harmonious relationship, they are also numerically one in substance.
- And so the Son is not a separate God beside the Father, the Holy Spirit is not a separate God beside the Father, and the Son is not a separate God beside the Holy Spirit.

The term coined for mutual indwelling of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit is called perichoresis also called consubstantiation. As the Lord Jesus himself puts it in Jn. 10:38b, "The Father is in me, and I in him." And in Jn. 10:30, "I and my Father are one."

SIBC's Statement of Faith.

- Having gone through the ambiguity of their labels we should now be able see how misleading their *Statement of Faith* can be to the uninitiated,
- "We believe in the TRINITY (1 John 5:7). One means Unity. It is not referring to a number nor to a position. **They are** God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.
- All of the Three are supreme. We accept the Hebrew rendering of God as ELOAH in the singular, and ELOHIM in the plural. We are Biblical Trinitarians. We reject the ONENESS and the **PAGANISTIC** TRI-THEISM beliefs."^[6] (Emphasis added.)
- They say they believe in the "Trinity" (or "three in one"), they also say that the "one" there pertains to unity. But while we don't deny the **harmony** (syn., unity) of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit with one another, the "unity of the Godhead" in the historical and biblical confessions of Christianity is the *unity of essence* (Gk., *ousia*) or the *oneness of being*.

- Meaning to say, in the historic and biblical Christianity, there is only one Supreme Being (one *ousia*) called God, in three distinct Persons.
- These Persons are not three united Gods, they are three distinct Persons who are not only in unity (or harmony with each other) but also in unity of substance.

Historic and biblical Trinitarian confession is not what we read in their *Statement of Faith*, instead we learn that to them there is a unity among the three [Gods]: Father, Son and Holy Ghost, even saying that "All of the Three are supreme," which is to say that all the three [Gods] are ontologically equal.

We are yet to find a confession that there is **only one God in three Persons** or **three Persons in the only one God** in any of what they published so far in the internet. Instead what we do find is a confession that goes along this line: "*That there is one God the Father, as there is one God the Son, as there is one God the Holy Spirit, and these three [Gods] are equal and one [not in number but] in unity.*"

- So whenever we hear them tell us that they reject the "PAGANISTIC TRI-THEISM," let's remember that they are actually rejecting the other version of tritheism that ontologically subordinates the Son and the Holy Spirit--not tritheism in general.

SIBC's Rejection of Monotheism.

- Dr. Guerrero, also called *the Shepherd*, seems so sure that his version of Tritheism (which he calls "Biblical Trinity") is not Monotheism, when a certain John Mark asked him what the Lord Jesus meant when he cried, "My God, My God why has thou forsaken me," he said,

May problema nga dito kung ang paniniwala ng isang tao sa Doctrine of God ay Monotheism. Totoo nga naman. Kung isa lang ang Dios at tumawag si Cristo na Dios ang Ama, kung ganon, hindi Dios si Cristo dahil, isa lang ang Dios. Pero kung Biblical Trinitarian ang isang tao, walang problema sa kanya ito sapagkat nanininiwala sya na may God the Father, God the Son at God the Holy ghost.

Tatlo yan pagdating SA BILANG ngunit may UNITY sila o kaya ONE MIND AYON SA 1 John 5:7 KJV, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." Nang tumawag si Cristo na Dios sa Ama, ang God the Father ang tinutukoy nya. Walang conflict dahil s'ya naman ang Dios-Anak. Katunayan, ang Ama din ay tumawag sa kanya na Dios sa Hebrews 1:8, " But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." Sa Monotheist, di pwede ito. Pero sa mga Trinitarians, di masama na magtawagan sila ng Dios dahil lahat sila ay eternal. Tatlo yan na makikita natin sa Langit pag tayo ay umuwi na. [7]

[Translation: There really is a problem if man believes that the Doctrine of God is Monotheism. Really. If there is only one God and Christ called the Father, God, it goes to say that Christ is not God, because [Monotheism teaches] there is only one God. But if man is a Biblical Trinitarian [referring to his version of Tritheism], he's got no problem, because he believes that there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy ghost. That's three IN NUMBER but they have UNITY or they HAVE ONE MIND ACCORDING TO 1 John 5:7 KJV, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." When Christ called God, he was referring to God the Father. There's no conflict because [he is not God the Father rather] he is God the Son. In fact, the Father even called Him, God in Hebrews 1:8, "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." To a Monotheist, it cannot be. But for the Trinitarians [referring to his version of tritheism], there is nothing wrong when they call each other God because they are all eternal. Three [Gods] is what we will find in Heaven when we return home.

- Could it be that Dr. Guerrero and SIBC are only guilty of imprecise thinking but not really guilty of tritheistic intent?

You be the judge. But as far as their writings are concerned to The Bereans: Apologetics Research Ministries, they are guilty not only of imprecise thinking, but by twisting the historic and biblical Doctrine of the Trinity [See the Athanasian Creed [447-484AD] in Refuting the Arians: Common Objections Against the Deity of Christ] while advancing their tritheistic intent. And what further seals our findings is that we have yet to see any explicit confession from Dr. Guerrero or any of the writers from SIBC saying there is essentially only one God.

- Surprisingly, Dr. Guerrero and the SIBC seems to be unaware of this confusion, they complained,

“The Shepherd’s Voice has fortified its belief about the Trinity, so that when believed, there is no way an Oneness doctrine can gain control. The Oneness people did not like it. That’s understood. But when a fellow Trinitarian shows animosity against it in the open, that’s horrible if not unforgivable.”[8]

- It’s just amazing how Dr. Guerrero and the SIBC couldn’t figure out why their *“fellow Trinitarians show animosity against their teachings.”*

Calling All Brother Baptists.

- And so we call upon our brothers in the Baptist churches, especially those who included *Shepherd’s Independent Baptist Church* in the list as among their ranks,

Other Beliefs and Practices.

Their other beliefs include the following:

1. Salvation that is preceded by Repentance, Faith and the Calling upon the name of the Lord.[9] To them this is salvation that is not by works.[10]
2. They believe that the *King James Version* of the Holy Bible, 1611 is the inspired and the preserved word of God for the English-speaking people. (Along this line, they also believe in the *Textus Receptus* and the *Masoretic* texts.)[11]
3. They also promote the Old Testament Tithing as per Malachi 3, so much as to include it in their Statement of Faith.[12] While they say they believe that Tithing is not for salvation, they teach that “only the saved can give tithes.” To them those who are not tithing are selfish and cursed in the sight of God.[13]
4. They seem reject membership salvation that most cultsof Christianity embrace. They also reject official name doctrine –the teaching that the only true Church has an official name.[14]
5. They also believe that Hell is located at the center of the earth and that it is scientifically verifiable as the earth's molten core.[15]

Notes:

- [1] *Thoughts On Apologetics*,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.org/shep5.html> (last accessed: 30 May 2005).
- [2] Fortunately for us, they published some of those messages in their official website, <http://www.shepherdsmessage.org>. (Their old website when this article was published online was <http://www.shepherdsmessage.com>.)
- [3] *Text Messages Nov. 2003*, Question #4,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.com/TextMsgs/112003-a.htm>.
(This came from their old website.)
- [4] *Text Messages Sep. 2003*, Question #23,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.org/text7.html> (last accessed 30 May 2005).
- [5] *Sep, 2003*, Question #33,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.org/text7.html> (last accessed: 30 May 2005).
- [6] *Statement of Faith*, Article 1,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.org/statement.html> (last accessed: 30 May 2005).
- [7] *A Televiewer's View*,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.org/shep6.html> (last accessed: 30 May 2005).
- [8] *Thoughts*.
- [9] *Statement*, Article 8.
- [10] *Text Messages*, Oct, 2003, Question #9,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.com/TextMsgs/102003-a.htm>.
(This came from their old website.)
- [11] *Statement*, Article 6.
- [12] *Statement*, Article 9.
- [13] *The Doctrine of Tithes*,
<http://www.shepherdsmessage.org/doc4ba.html> (last accessed: 30 May 2005).
- [14] *Ang Doktrina ng "Local Church"*,

Ako Yaong Ako Nga (Exodus 3:14-15)

ni DES (Una sa Tatlong Bahagi)

[Ito ay patotoo ni kapatid na DES, kung paano sya napalaya sa dati niyang paniniwala sa grupong tatawagin nating Ako Nga (AKO).]

Paalala At Pasintabi

Ang lahat ng naisulat dito ay buhat sa karanasan sa grupong Ako Nga (AKO) partikular lamang noong taong 1979-1982. Hindi ko layon na siraan ang grupo kundi ipakita sa mga tao ang katotohanan sa kabila ng kasinungalingan. Gusto ko rin ipakita na maaari tayong maihahon sa ganitong paniniwala kung tayo lamang ay sasampalataya sa TUNAY na Salita Ng Diyos. Ang mga pangalan ng tao ay sa sadyang inilihim upang pangalagaan ang kanilang pagkatao.

Panimula

- o Edad 14 pa lang ako noon nang magsimulang maghanap sa Diyos (1979). Ako ang pangalawang anak sa aming pamilya at tanging lalake.
- o Katoliko Kandado ang aming pamilya pero bukas ang aming paniniwala sa mga bagay ng Diyos.
- o Una kong narinig ang salita ng Diyos sa mga Sabadista nang sila ay magkaroon ng DVBS [1] sa aming lugar.
- o Halos isang buwan kaming nag-aral ng salita ng Diyos at pagtapos noon ay binigyan kami ng Bibliya.
- o First time kong magkaroon ng Bibliya kaya't tuwang-tuwa ako noon. Naging aktibo ako sa pag-dalo hanggang sa ako ay magpatala na upang magpabautismo.
- o Sa hindi inaasahang pagkakataon ay hindi ako pinayagan ng aking itay na maging kaanib ng grupo na ito. Masama ang aking loob pero sinunod ko pa rin ang aking itay.

Pagsanib

- o Taong 1979 nang ako ay sumama sa AKO. Ginamit si **Ate B.** na mahikayat ako sa pamamagitan ng panggagamot niya sa isang babaeng nakukulam.
- o Binigyan niya ako ng orasyon ("4 na M") [2] tapos sabi niya isipin ko daw kung ano ang gusto ko at ito ang mangyayari.

- Tulad halimbawa kung gusto kong isipin na kutsilyo o itak at tsaka ko itataga sa nakukulam--yung mangkukulam daw ang masasaktan.
- Sa madaling salita, nakasama agad ako sa grupo dahil sa aking interest. May "ALAY" kaming tinatawag noon, kada ika-6 nang GABI.
- Yun bale ang parang mumunting misa na kung saan kami ay nagdarasal ng mga Latin at naglo-*LORD's supper*.

Pagka-Alam Sa Pangalan

- Dumating ang panahon ang mga magulang ko naman at mga kapatid ang nahikayat ko gayon din ang aking mga kamag-anak.
- Edad 14 pa lang ako noon pero matindi na rin ang "apoy" sa akin na nag-udyok na magpatuloy sa paghahanap.
- Matapos ang 1 taon, natanggap ko ang PANGALAN na sinabi sa *Lord's Prayer* na "*Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy NAME...*"
- Katulad din sa paniniwala ng mga Jehovah's Witness partikular ang dating grupo sa pangalan na ito.
- Marami na rin akong nalamang mga orasyon na kung saan ay sinasaulo ko at dinadasal ang iba sa oras ng pangangailangan.
- Nanggagamot na rin ako sa amin--nanghihilot, nagtatawas, nagpapalayas ng mga masasamang espiritu tulad ng sa dwende, lamang-lupa, etc.
- Ako at ang aking kapatid na babae ay nakilala na rin sa amin lugar kaya lalung marami ang napunta sa bahay pero wala kaming sinisingil na kahit isang kusing.

Aralan SA MIA-Road

- May aralan kami noon sa *MIA Road* (tapat ng LTO ngayon sa Pasay). Tuwing linggo ang aralan at laking hirap din ang nangyari sa amin tuwing kami'y dadalo sa aralan.
- Ang bahay namin noon ay sa *TRAMO*, para maka-attend lang kami ay nilalakad namin yon mula sa aming bahay hanggang sa *MIA Road*.
- Laki kasi kami sa hirap kaya kahit pampasahe ay hirap namin na makuha. Masaya naman ang aming paglalakad kahit na naiinitan at pinagpapawisan basta ang mahalaga sa amin ay ang makarinig ng aral at makapag-ALAY (hango sa Roma 12).

- Si *Mang A.* ang pinakamataas na pinuno ng grupo, samantalang si *Mang P.* naman ang pangalawang pinuno.
- Silang dalawa ang naging pundasyon ng aral ng AKO. Magkaklase sila sa "*Agnus Dei*" ito yung parang pinag-aralan nila na tungkol sa mga bagay spiritual.
- Ito lang ang nalalaman ko sa *background* nila pero nang lumaon ay nalaman ko rin na pinsan pala ni *Nardong Putik* si *Mang A.* at marami na siyang nalalamang mga orasyon noong panahon pa lamang ng giyera (WW2).
- Naalala ko pa nga si *Mang A.* nang minsan na magbida siya sa Tagaytay tungkol sa mga nangyari sa kanya noong panahon ng hapon. Marami daw siyang naligtasan na mga engkwentro (*with matching MURA*).

Si Mang A.

- Si *Mang A.* ay isang malaking lalaki, siguro ang taas niya ay malapit na sa 6 na talampakan.
- Malakas ang "dating" niya sa mga tao, matindi ang personalidad niya-- madaling makapagkumbinsi ng mga tao.
- Nalaman ko rin na marami pala siyang anak. Isa sa mga anak niya ay si *Boy-*isang *trying hard* na tumutulad sa tatay niya. Maraming tao ang naaasar sa kanya dahil sa kayabangan.
- Marami pa siyang mga kapatid na sumama rin sa Tagaytay at halos lahat sila ay may kani-kaniyang negosyo.
- Mayroong gumagawa ng mga alahas at medalyon, mayroong nagtitinda, at mayroong nagpapaupa ng bahay.

Si Mang P.

- Si *Mang P.* ang pumapangalawa kay *Mang A.* Kabaliktaran naman ang kanyang personalidad kay *Mang A.* Siya ay malumanay na tao, mabait, at higit sa lahat, mayaman.
- Siya bale ang isa sa mga sumusuporta sa aming gawain. Maraming siyang negosyo sa Maynila at sa probinsya nila sa Iloilo.
- Siya rin ang may-ari ng lugar na pinagdarausan ng aralan sa MIA Road. Libre ang aralan na iyon at libre rin ang miryenda, katwiran nila dapat daw ipamahagi ang salita ng Diyos na libre. *Sounds familiar?*

Pangitain

- May isa pang anak na dalaga (pa noon) si *Mang A.*, ang pangalan niya ay si **D.**
- Siya bale ang nagturo ng lugar na yon sa Tagaytay sa pamamagitan ng "pangitain" o "*vision*".
- May tinatawag kaming isang kaloob na makakita ng mga mangyayari sa hinaharap yung nga ang "third eye".
- Siya ang nakakita kung ano ang mangyayari sa hinaharap (Marso 26, 1982). Magkakaroon daw ng matinding paglindol, ang buong Maynila daw ay lulubog sa tubig at tanging ang lugar lang na yon sa Tagaytay ang matitira at maliligtas ang mga taong nandoon.
- Pero bago pa yon, marami nang mga artikulong naisulat sa mga pahayagan sa Estados Unidos na kung saan hinulaan din na lulubog ang *San Francisco* sanhi ng isang napakalakas na lindol.
- Tapos may mga naglabasan din na *planetary alignment* na magaganap "daw" at ito ang magiging dahilan ng malakas na paglindol. Siguro dito nila binase ang hula nila na magaganap na malakas na lindol noong March 26.
- Nagsimula ang pangitain na iyon, taong 1978 yata, at noong taon din na yon nagsimulang magtayo ng mga bahayan sa Iruhin St, Tagaytay City.
- Sa pagsali ko sa kanila noong 1979, naririnig ko na ang usapan sa aralan sa *MIA Road* ang tungkol dito pero hindi ko pa maintindihan hanggang sa sinabi na sa akin ni *Ate B.* na may mangyayari nga sa taong 1982.
- Pero malayo pa ang panahon na yon kaya hindi pa sila masyadong abala na pag-usapan yon. Patuloy ang aralan sa *MIA Road*, nagdaan ang maraming buwan at mga araw.

Pagtatayo Ng Bahay

- Taong 1980 nang magtayo ng bahay doon sina *Ate B.* at ang kanyang pamilya.
- Ang mga bahay na natayo sa lugar na yon sa Tagaytay ay parang mga kabute na nagsulputan nang taong yan.
- Pero may sinusunod na yari ang bawat, dugtong-dugtong kasi ang pagkayari kaya ang dingding ng isa ay pwede rin na maging ding-ding ng isa.
- Isang kubeta sa isang bahay, bahala na kayong maghati-hati kung gusto na magkaroon ng mga kwarto.
-

- Kung malaki ang pamilya mga 2 *units* ang pwedeng upahan mo. Ang alam ko ng mga panahon na yon ay libre ang pagtatayo pero ang mga materyales at ang *labor* sa yo ang gastos.
- Sa tantya ko, ang isang bahay (1 *unit*) ay 4 x 5 metro kuwadro ang laki. Mayroong din mga bahay na naitayo sa gilid ng bangin, hindi na sinunod ang yari ng mga ito sa ibang mga *units*.
- Papasyal-pasyal lang ang pamilya ni Ate B. doon sa Tagaytay simula nang nagka-bahay sila.
- Nagtayo din ng tindahan at maliit na bakery doon sina Ate B. May mga aralan na ginaganap sa Tagaytay tuwing Linggo at paminsan-minsan ay nakakasama ako at ang aking kapatid (1980).
- Uso pa doon ang kantahan pagtapos ng aralan kaya ang kapatid kong babae ay laging napapakanta.

Pag-Aantay

- Tuloy ang aralan sa Maynila at sa Tagaytay. Patuloy din ang pag-iipon namin ng mga orasyon at kung anu-anong mga panalangin.
- Ang kaligtasan na pinangangaral namin ay tungkol sa Pangalan at ang pagkilala sa sarili. Naging basihan namin ang 1 Cor. 11:31, "Kung ating kikilalanin ang ating sarili, tayo'y hindi hahatulan..."
- Sa panahon ngayon, nakita ko na mali pala ang pagkagamit nila ng talatang ito.
- Dapat daw kilalanin si AKO na nasa bawat tao, yung inner man o yung *EGO*. Kaya nga sa Latin ang palagi naming sinusulat sa mga dingding ng mga miyembro bilang palatandaan ay "*EGO SUM QUI SUM*".

Pagtigil Sa Pag-Aaral At Pagtira Sa Tagaytay

- Panahon ng Disyembre 1981 nang ako ay magpasyang itigil ang aking pag-aaral at umakyat na sa Tagaytay. *Third-year high school* ako noon nang ako ay umakyat.
- Matapos ang bakasyon nung kapaskuhan, hindi na ako nagpatuloy sa pag-aaral. Pero nang bandang March, 81 pinasya ko na bumalik sa pag-asang papasa pa kahit sa ibang mga *subjects*.
- Mataas naman kasi ang marka ko noon sa klase kaya naipasa ko maliban sa *Geometry* at *Statistics*. Pagkatapos noon tutal doon na ako sa Tagaytay tumira, nagpaalam ako sa mga magulang ko at sabi ko mag-aaral na lang uli ako kapag hindi nangyari ang inaasahan namin.

- Nagtrabaho ako sa Tagaytay bilang isang panadero at nakitira ako kina Ate B. Doon na rin ako natutong magmasa ng tinapay.
- Sweldo ko yata noon 90 Pesos kada linggo, tapos binabaan sa 75 Pesos kada linggo na lang, libre lahat.

Mga Libro At Orasyon

Nang mga panahon na yon bukod sa pagmamasa, patuloy pa rin ako sa pag-iipon ng mga libro.

Marami kaming mga libro na ginagawa tulad ng Combate Spiritual, 28 Famillares, Tarot, El Nino, La Nina, Atardar, atbp.

May ginawa pa nga akong panyo noon na 7 Virgines ng Atardar. Dinadasalan ko gabi-gabi upang magkabisa.

Hindi ko na alam kung saan napalagay yon, marami kasing humihiram noon eh lalu na sa amin kapag may mga taong may sakit. Ewan ko, masyado silang bilib doon.

Nagtataka ako sa sarili ko kung paano ko nagawa ang napakaraming libro sa pamamagitan lamang ng sulat kamay.

Hindi pa uso ang computers noong panahon na yon kaya ang gamit namin ay sulat kamay--minsan gumagamit kami ng mga stencil para mas mapadali ang pag-gawa namin.

Ang sabi ni Mang A. yon daw ang bale ibibigay namin sa susunod na henerasyon kung sakaling maliligtas kami sa pag-gunaw.

Kaya yon ang naging inspirasyon namin sa pagsusulat bukod sa gusto rin naming matuto ng maraming mga lihim.

Payo ng matanda (Mang A.) kapag magsusulat daw kami ay dapat na may tirik ng kandila at magdarasal daw muna kami, ewan ko kung anong dahilan--siguro para mas lalung maging mabisa.

Nakakatawang isipin na sa kabila ng kaseryosohan naming gumawa ng mga libro, maraming kasama namin ang mga kumukuha ng mga libro ng walang paalam.

Yung iba kasi ginagawa nila yon para mahigitan nila ang iba sa dami ng librong nagawa.

Mahirap kasi makakuha ng mga kopya, dapat may kadikit ka na "mataas ang aral" para makakuha ka ng mga gusto mong libro. Kung wala kang kadikit pasensya na lang at aabutin ka ng siyam siyam sa paggawa mo ng libro.

May tinatawag kaming libro na "BIHIS." Hango ito sa Efeso 6:11 na sinabing magbihis ng buong kagayakan.

Ang galing talaga nilang mag-interpret ano? Ang galing magbaliktad ng salita ng Diyos. Mga salitang Latin ito na sinasambit namin para magkaroon daw kami ng BIHIS na ito na kung titignan daw sa spiritual realm ay makikitang para kaming isang hari.

May setro, korona, sinturon, panyapak, kalasag, atbp. Panlaban daw ito sa mga masasamang espiritu na aali-aligid sa atin. Isang kabaligtaran sa sinasabi ng Bibliya na Salita ng Diyos ang ating armas laban sa mga masasamang espiritu.

The Religion of Islam

What is Islam?

"Islam" is an Arabic word which means "deliverance," "surrender," "submission," [1] or "subjugation." This word comes from the same root as the Arabic word "salam", which means "peace." The word "Muslim," on the other hand, means "one who submits to the will of God, regardless of their race, nationality or ethnic background." [2] Hence to the Muslims, "Islam" means "submission to the will of God".

These definitions, in my opinion, are misleading for even in a Christian's point of view, his faith in God can be called Islam, furthermore, he can also be called a Muslim for he also submits to God. So we are compelled to redefine the meaning of Muslim (or Moslem) as,

A person who is a believer or a follower of Islam as relating to or derived from Muhammad and his teachings in the Qur'an and its traditions.

Muslims don't like to be called "Muhammedans" or "Muhammadans" for to them it means you think that they worship Muhammad.

Founder

The founder is Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (AD 570-AD 632) who was "unlettered" and was orphaned at the age of six. [3] His mother's name was Amina. He died at 632 AD at the age of 63 with 12 wives which includes Aisha, his wife of 9 years of age and the wife of his adopted son Zaid. [1]

Brief History

The Kalima. One night around AD 610 while Muhammad (at the age of 40 [4]) was on the Mt. Hira [5] he claimed to have heard a voice of the angel Gabriel commanding him to "read" or to "recite" (96:1-6). He alleged that he received a divine command to proclaim the "Kalima," [5] that is, "there is no god except Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

But for many years starting at beginning of his "prophetic" mission, he was met by a heavy business boycott and religious persecutions from polytheists

whose income was coming from the visiting pilgrims who worship at the many idols in the Ka'aba in Makkah. [5]

The Hijrah. When the people of the City of Madina (which is north of Makkah, also known as the "City of the Prophet" or formerly City of Yathrib) invited Muhammad to live in their city, the Quraysh tribe in Makkah planned to kill him.

Informed of the scheme, Muhammad and some of his followers hid in the cave of Mt. Thaur. They hid there for 3 nights before proceeding to Madina (or Medina). [5] They proceeded only after having been guaranteed of housing, food and tribal protection as refugees. [1] Muhammad alleged that Allah gave them the command to emigrate, that was in AD 622. [4]

At AD 630, Muhammad with 10,000 men took Makkah unopposed and destroyed the idols there. [5]

Muhammad died in Madina at AD 632 "at the age of 63" [4]. His parents were Abdallah and Amina of then poor Hashimite clan belonging to the tribe of Koreish. or ("Quraish" or "Quraysh") Like all men, he understood himself to be under sin and asked Allah for forgiveness (2:268; 3:133; 4:106; 5:95; 33:38; 40:56; 47:21).

Source of Authority

The Qur'an.

Also called Al-Qur'an which literally means, " the reading," or "the recitation". It is believed to be the "final and complete divine revelation superseding all the rest." It is allegedly the pure words of Allah, "pure" in the sense that it is "without admixture of human thought or content." [6] It is not written in prose but in a memorable poetic form. [1] According to Muhammad the angel Gabriel (also known to them as the Holy Spirit) dictated all the words to him and consequently being the Word of Allah it is Divine and without contradiction (4:82). However, as we find out in history, it was only after the death of Muhammad, when the third caliph Uthman ibn Affan [there were secessions of calips they were: (a)Abu Bakr as Siddiq, (b) 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab, (c) 'Uthman Ibn Affan (c) 'All Ibn Abi Talib] [7] put up a final draft of the different transmissions among Muhammad's followers.

The Qur'an is supposed to be memorized by every Muslim in the Arabic tongue regardless of nationality. This is despite the Majority of Muslims are non-Arabic speaking, for example, the Indonesian Muslims compose 90% of the total Muslim Population. Interpretation is not allowed on the early stages of memorization, criticism is also prohibited among the Muslims. [1] The Qur'an was allegedly revealed in Arabic to Muhammad, over a period of twenty-three years. [4] But despite the Muslim claims of association with the previous Judeo-Christian revelations, the Qur'an contradicts the revelations which preceded it. For example, it speaks of animal sacrifices among Christians (22:34, Yusuf Ali); it also speaks of Jews calling Ezra as the Son of God (9:30); it also speaks of Jesus teaching even up to his old age (5:110, Shakir's). There are also silly stories as well, like the talking ants (27:18-19), the talking Hoopoe bird (27:20-28). There are historical inconsistencies as well, for example, the existence of Samaritan ("Samiri") (BC 870) in the time of Moses (20:85-88, 95); the foretelling of the Gospel to Moses (7:155-157); Mary as the sister of Aaron (19:27-28, 66:12); Pharaoh in the time of Babel (28:8, 38; 40:36-37).

The Sunna and the Hadith.

Belief in the Sunna (or Sunnah) and the Hadith is undeniably part of the Islamic faith. It is the second authority for Muslims. The Sunna is the *practice and example of Muhammad; it is the way Muhammad lived his life*. The Hadith is *either the narration about the life of Muhammad or of things that he did, said, approved (even tacit or silent approvals), his physical appearance or traits*, which is in contrast the Sunna which is about his life. [8] The Hadith encompasses approximately 20,000 sayings of Muhammad that were passed on by word of mouth [1] (although some conservatively estimated at 10,000 [4]). The Arabic word Hadith literally means "Tradition." The plural of Hadith is called Ahadith, in Arabic [9].

The Hadith contains incredible stories about Muhammad, stories like the time when he spat into a dry well and then it watered 1,400 men (Al-Bara). Or the water which flowed from the finger nails of Muhammad (Abdullah). Or the time when the moon was cut in halves (Ibn Masud and Abdullah). It also contains stories about the bewitching of Muhammad (Aisha). His teaching about the mortgaging of sons and wives (Jabir bin 'Abdullah); his order to beat a man who drunk wine (Abu Huraira). His command to kill those who

leaves Islam (Ali); the assurance of Paradise for those who dies fighting for Islam (Abu Huraira). These examples can be found in Sahih Bukhari.

There are six generally accepted Sunnite Ahadith and these are called "Al-Kutubu's-Sitta" in English, "The Six Books." [9]

1. Al-Bukhari (AD 870) [10]
2. Muslim (AD 875) [11]
3. Abu Dawud (AD 888) [12]
4. Al-Tirmidhi (AD 892)
5. Al-Nasa'i (AD 915)
6. Ibn Madja (AD 886)

The most important Hadith collection for Shi'ites, on the other hand, is called "Al-Kafi fi usuli'd-din." [9]

The Hadith can be classified four fold according to authority, these are: (1) "Qudsi" - Divine; a revelation from Allah; relayed with the words of the Muhammad; (2) "Marfu" - elevated; a narration from Muhammad, e.g. I heard the prophet saying ...; (3) "Mauquf"- stopped: a narration from a companion only, e.g., we were commanded to ...; (4) "Maqtu" - severed: a narration from a successor. [8]

It can also be classified four fold according to reliability: (1) "Sahih" which is sound or acceptable; (2) Hasan which is good and the source is known; (3) "Da'if" which is "weak," and; (4) "Maudu" which is fabricated or forged. [8]

The previous revelations. They also believe in the Psalms of David (17:55; 21:105 "Zabur") and the Torah (2:53; 3:3, 93; 5:44, 46, 48, 68; 6:154; 21:48; 10:94; 11:110; 12:111; 21:105; 28:49; 32:23; 41:45; "Taurat") which is among Israel's greatest books and the Gospel (5:46, 68; 10:94; 12:111; 21:105 "Injeel"). Which is altogether called the Scripture (2:85, 113, 136, 213; 3:3, 84, 187; 4:47, 136; 4:164; 5:48, 68, 77; 12:111; 16:43; 21:105; 23:49; 29:46; 37:117-118; 40:53-54; 42:13; 46:12; "Al-Kitab"). However the Muslims in general believe that the Bible the Christians have now has been tampered reasoning that previous Scriptures were meant only for a limited period of time appealing to 2:79; 3:79; 4:46; 6:91; and 5:15-16. [7]

Major Beliefs In Orthodox Islam

Allah,

Literally, "the God," or "the one and only true God." The Muslims, like the Jews and the Christians, believe that there is absolutely only one sovereign God (35:8). Through the course of time Allah has been regarded as the name of this deity (5:75-76) but in contrast to Christianity, Muslims believe that Allah is the author of both good and evil. [5] Allah can also be deceptive (14:4).

Why are the Arab Christians call God as "Allah?" The answer is simple, "it just so happened that it is the closest equivalent for "God" in Arabic. [13]

To the Muslims the sole governor of the universe is incomprehensible, he is everything and he is nothing. Many Muslims believe that there are genuine Christians (2:146; 3:23, 113, 119; 4:199; 5:82) but they also believe that many Christians are "infidels" (4:171; 5:73; 116) who worship 3 gods which is a "shirk" or an unforgivable sin (4:48, 116) in Islam. Another important contrast is how Christians regard God as their Father in Heaven and how the Muslims regard Allah as their Master, making them mere slaves of the "great" Allah and lastly, the Muslims believe that Allah does not beget and hence he has no son (5:18; 9:29,30). [1]

The Holy Spirit, the Angels, the Jinns and Satan.

The Muslims believe in the angels (good creatures) and the "jinns" (evil creatures that lure men away from submission to Allah) that can propagate their kinds. [5] They also believe in the existence of Shaytan or Iblis (Satan) [5]. They also deny the Deity of the Holy Spirit ("Ruhul-qudus") believing Him to be a created spirit at the level of angels and demons that were created out of nothing. They regard the Holy Spirit (16:102) as the angel Gabriel (19:17).

To them Gabriel is entrusted with divine revelations; Michael in charge of rain and the growth of the plants; Israfil who blows the horn at the time of thunder-bolting and the resurrection; and the Angel of Death, the Keeper of the mountains and Malik the keeper of Hell. And many more others. [7]

The Biblical Messengers.

They also believe in the biblical prophets ("rasul") or messengers (4: 165) which includes "Isa" (or "Eesa," coming from the Syriac "Yeshu") [5] or Jesus, the son of Mary. (4:171; 9:30; 33:40), Noah, Abraham, Moses and David.

To them the first rasul was Noah (4: 163) and the last was Muhammad (33:40). To them the best (33:7) of the messengers is Muhammad then Abraham, Moses, Noah, and Jesus, son of Mary [7] Most of them though, on the basis of the accounts found in the Qur'an, believe that Jesus is the Word of God, the Spirit from God, the Messiah, a sinless living person who is now in heaven (43:61) who will return to judge those who are in the earth (3:45, 49; 4:158)

Isa is called the "Word of God" (3:45, "Kalimatullah") and the "spirit from Him" (4:171, "Ruhunminhu," cf. 58:22). They also believe Isa performed miracles only by Allah's leave (2:87, 253; 5:110). But they deny the incarnation of Isa (1 John 2:22-23; 4:2-3), they also deny the crucifixion and death of the Christ ("al-Maseeh") on the cross (4:157-159) believing that Allah never leaves his prophets to perish, they also deny that Jesus (the son of Mary) is not the Son of God ("ibn Allah"). They also believe in many unbiblical miracles as well including his speech during infancy, the making of a bird out of clay. There are biblical miracles as well as healing the sick, and curing the blind and reviving the dead. (3:49) [3] They believe in the virgin birth of Isa (3:59) and thus regard Mary (Maryam) as one of the purest women in the women of all creation (3:42-47). [4]

The Afterlife and Fate.

They believe also in the life after death (14:27; 55:56-57; 52:20), in the resurrection and in the Judgment Day. They believe in the existence of hell and the punishment in it (18:29; 33: 64-6). They believe in the reward to be found the Garden or Paradise (65-11; 16:32) for Muslim based on his good works. To them a Savior is not required. In this religion, salvation is a matter of doing good works, or about the "record and the scales" (6:160; 17:13-14; 23: 102-4; 84:7-12; 99:7-8) [7] of good and bad deeds. Most of them believe that even non-Muslims who have done good will be rewarded (4:199; 11:115; 99:7-8) though the decision belongs solely to Allah (2:62). [3]

Christians along with the Jews are called "the People of the Book (Ahl al-Kitab), since the original Torah and Gospel were also divinely revealed and they shared in the prophetic tradition" [4] (5:69).

Muslims also believe that they have the free will yet they also believe in fate whether good or bad calling it a Divine Decree. [7]

They have a different picture of Paradise which they also called the Garden. It is claimed that "huris" or "houris" or beautiful or exquisite virgins (36:56; 37:40-49; 44:51-55; 52:17-20; 55:56-58, 70; 55:72; 78:33) and rivers of wine (37:45-48; 47:15) and vineyards (78:31) and wealth (56:7-40; 76:13-21) and young and handsome servant boys (52:24; 56:17; 76:19) await the pious Muslims.

Dietary Regulations.

They are not allowed to eat pork or pork products or meat of animals who died before being slaughtered or meat of carnivorous animals. Muslims are allowed only to eat clean food which they call "Halal" in comparison with the "Kosher" of the Jews. They are also not allowed to drink blood or wine or any illegal drugs. [3]

Polygamy.

Muslims are allowed to have at most four wives on the condition that he can equally provide for them (4:3-34), though Muhammad himself had 12 wives (after the age of 50?) which includes the 9 year-old Aesha. [14]

The Five Pillars of Islam

- **The first pillar is the belief ("Iman") and the declaration ("Shahadah" i.e., "witness") of faith (called the "Kalima"):** "There is no god except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." ("La ilaha ila Allah; Muhammadur-rasul Allah.").
- **The second pillar is a religious five times a day prayer ("Salat" or "Salah")** facing Makkah: These five times are during the dawn (Fajr), immediately after noon (Dhuhr), mid-afternoon ('Asr), sunset (Maghrib), and early night (Isha'). Friday is the day of public worship for Muslims.

Prayers are led by any learned person who knows the Qur'an and is chosen by the congregation. He (or she, if the congregation is all women) is called the **imam**. Ritual cleanliness and ablution are required before prayer, as are clean clothes and location, and the removal of shoes. Special is the Friday noon prayer, called Jum'ah. It, too, is obligatory and is to be done in a mosque, in congregation. It is accompanied by a sermon (Khutbah), and it replaces the normal Dhuhr prayer. They are said in Arabic, the language of the revelation, though personal supplications (Du'ah) can be offered in one's own language. Worshippers face the Qiblah, the direction of the Ka'bah in the city of Makkah. [4]

- **The third pillar is the daily dawn-to-sunset fasting ("Sawm" or "Saum")** during the entire month of Ramadan. (Except the very old and the insane.) Those who are sick, elderly, or on a journey, and women who are menstruating, pregnant, or nursing are permitted to break the fast, but must make up an equal number of days later in the year. For the physically unable, they must feed a needy person for each day missed. Children begin to fast (and to observe the prayers) from puberty, although many is said to start earlier. [4]
- **The fourth pillar is the giving of "Zakat" (9:103)** or alms-tax which is 2.5% of a Muslim's total savings [5] provided that this capital reaches a certain minimum amount that which is not consumed by its owner [4]. This is also said to be given to the poor or to the Islamic Movement. [5]
- **The fifth pillar is the pilgrimage (called "Hajj")** to Makkah, Saudi Arabia at least once in their lifetime, that is, if they can afford it financially and physically [3]. To them this is the ultimate form of worship. [4]

Islamic Sects

The Sunnites. They make up the majority of all Muslims (85-90%). They are traditionalists deriving their name in the word "Sunnah" that is, "the deeds and the words of the prophets." (Major doctrinal distinction:) To them the "imams" are mere leaders of the Friday prayer service. [6]

The Shi'ites. They are most populous in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and parts of Africa. They are also called the "sect of Ali" (the son-in-law-nephew of Muhammad). The breakaway happened when Muhammad died and an election was made to replace him as caliph. (Major doctrinal distinction:) To them "imams" are "divinely appointed and divinely guided leaders." They believe in charismatic leaders like the "ayatollah's" than the "book". [6] They are called "Shia", and they follow the sayings and the views of Muhammad's son-in-law Ali, as the rightful successor of Muhammad. [3]

Other Islamic School of Thoughts:

Kharijites. "The earliest faction to split away from mainstream Islam was that of the Kharijites. Their name derives from an Arabic verb meaning "to throw out," and denotes their revolutionary commitment to ridding Islam of apostate elements, such as the Umayyads. While they do not fully emerge until after Uthman's death, it is clear from early Kharijite sermons that their movement began to crystalize during the rule of Uthman whom they accused of introducing "innovation" into Islam." [20]

The Suffis. They are called "tasawwuf" in Arabic. They are the mystical Muslims which started in the 8th or the 9th century. The movement is esoteric and monistic. They are the inner, mystical, or psycho-spiritual dimension of Islam. [15] It is an "Islamic belief and practice in which Muslims seek to find the truth of divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God. It consists of a variety of mystical paths that are designed to ascertain the nature of man and God and to facilitate the experience of the presence of divine love and wisdom in the world." [16]

The Dervishes. They are those who belong to a division of the Sufi Sect. "Dervish" is an Arabic word "door sill," as in standing at or having crossed the threshold of enlightenment. It means "someone seriously dedicated to their spiritual unfoldment [sic] through the way of the Sufi." [19] They have a ritual dance characterized by the right hand facing the heaven while the left hand is facing the earth while spinning which represents the planets revolving around God.

The Muatazilites. Influenced by the Greek-Byzantine thoughts and philosophy, [1] Mutazilla "is a rational school of theology in Islam. It was first connected with the names of Wasil ibn Ata (d. 748) and Amr ibn Ubayd (d. 761), who taught in the city of Basra, Iraq." [18]

The Ahmadiyyat. They are the messianic sect of Islam. The Ahmadiyya Movement was established in 1889 by Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) in a small and remote village, Qadian, in the Punjab, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days, the Awaited One of the world community of religions (The Mahdi and Messiah). [17]

Other sects or schools as follows: the **Aisawijins** who extoll Isa and his miracles in the Qur'an [1] **The Indonesian Islam** (The most populated, 90% of all Muslim in the World) which are mixed with Animism. [1] And the **Wahhabis, the Islamilis, the Zaidis, the Fatimids, the Nizari, the Alawis, the Druze and the Bahai and the Qur'an-Only Movement** initiated by Dr. Rashad Khalifa, among many others.

Manner of Polemics

The Bible has been tampered with but not the Qur'an. They often allege the lack of extant manuscripts supporting the Bible, they will also allege contradictions therein by quoting sometimes atheistic sources or by misinterpreting passages, they will also misrepresent Christian doctrines or confuse Christian doctrines with heretic ones, particularly the Trinity and the Atonement. Most of them are really sincerely convinced that they are pointing the weaknesses of the Bible but sadly some of them are aware that there are already refutations to what they would like allege for Islam is a religion that permits its followers to bend the truth to achieve its goals.

Qur'an is the Last and Final Testament. They will point to how the Qur'an was perfectly preserved, its eloquence and beauty, its prophecy about the vast Muslim expansion they now enjoy. They will also allege that it has scientifically tested statements.

Paul was a Messenger of Satan who greatly influenced Christianity. They will allege that Paul infiltrated Christianity and transformed it to what it is now--having a teaching that is contrary to the "Islamic" teachings of Christ.

Muhammad was prophesied in the Bible. They will point Ahmed-sound-a-likes or to ancient Biblical words that have similar meaning to the name of Muhammad, no matter how absurd it is. They will point you to Isaiah 42:10-11, Solomon 5:16, Deuteronomy 18:15-18; 33:2, and John 14:16; 15:26; 16:7, among others.

Jesus, the son of Mary was not crucified. The detail of their allegation here varies, some of them appeal to Substitution Theory, some of them believes in the Swoon Theory. But one thing is for sure, to them Christ did not suffer in the hands of the Jews by believing that Allah does not allow his prophets to suffer, much less die in the hands of unbelievers.

Hinduism or Brahmanism.

- The basic thought behind Hindu religion is to obtain release from evil, from this whole evil world.
 - This escape from the evils and sins of this life can only be secured when a man's soul has been fully perfected and purified.
 - At this point Hinduism brings in the caste system by which soul is perfected.
 - This process of soul perfection begins in the lowest caste (Sudra).
 - Upon death, transmigration takes place -- that is, the soul is reborn into a person in a higher caste.
 - If an individual faithfully carries out the duties connected with his caste, his soul gradually will rise after many rebirths to the status of the Brahmin.
 - As part of the process of reincarnation, Hindu believes in the sacredness of life.
 - Men and animals are part of the same stream of life. Not only do souls pass from caste to caste, from Sudra to Brahmin, but at times they may be reincarnated in the form of some animal.
 - Hinduism reveres all animal life and the people are vegetarians.
- To sum up the essentials of Hinduism, this religion may be said to present the following ideas:

- a. belief in the evil nature of this world,*
- b. transmigration of the soul through successive lives,*
- c. purification by accepting the caste duties of each life,*
- d. reverence for all animal life, especially cow,*
- e. retreat from the evils of worldly affairs into mystical meditation.*

(See Hebrews 9:27; Exodus 20:4)

Buddhism.

- Gautama, later called Buddha was born 563 BC in the northern India as a son of a king belonging to the warrior caste.
- When he renounced his rank, wealth and family to seek answers to his many questions about life and afterlife, he lived as a hermit for seven years practicing the most extreme forms of self-denial and even torture.
- Gautama came to view that life consists of sorrow and the only way to escape this is by way of unselfishness and service.
- Reincarnation and other theories except the caste system were taken from Hinduism. In this sense, his faith attempt to reform and simplify the Indian religion.
- Buddhism (Buddha means enlightened one) emphasizes moral conduct of this world. Only by right conduct can the soul escape from the world and find peace (Nirvana).
- Right living consists of rules which forbid such sins as murder, thievery, impure thoughts, false language, covetousness, and anger.
- Buddha was a simple and humble teacher who claimed no supernatural powers but left behind him beautiful and noble rules for right conduct among men.

Oneness Pentecostalism

Brief History

- The roots of Oneness Pentecostalism can be traced in the North American Pentecostal movement during the early 1900s.
- During a camp meeting in Arroyo Seco, California in the late 1913 or early 1914 conducted by the Assemblies of God (AG), one minister by the name of John G. Scheppe revealed that during his night of meditation it was revealed to him that baptism must be done "in the name of Jesus only" and not "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
- Several AG ministers including R.E McAlister, Frank J. Ewart, Glenn A. Cook, and Garfield T. Haywood, began teaching this "new issue."
- While this "baptismal formula" began as a friendly debate it developed into a fierce controversy over the nature of Godhead.
- This "new issue" made a rift between the AG movement that prompted J. Roswell Flower to oppose Oneness theology and baptismal formula in their Third General Council in 1915.
- In their Fourth General Council in 1916, the AG ministers adopted a "Statement of Fundamental Truths" that forcefully maintained the Trinity doctrine, that banned the 156 of the 585 AG ministers.

Formation of Oneness Organizations

1. General Assembly of Apostolic Assemblies (GAAA) was formed in January 3, 1916 by Howard A. Goss, H.G. Rodgers, and D.C. O. Opperman.
2. GAAA merged in January 1918 with Pentecostals Assemblies of the World
3. (PAW) composed generally of black fellowship that begun in Los Angeles, adopting PAW's name and charter. PAW produced two offshoots composed mostly of white pastors due to racial tensions in the early 1920's which are the following:
 - a. Emmanuel Church in Jesus Christ (ECJC), based in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana, and a loose-knit group from St. Louis area, later merged in 1927 to the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ (ACJC).

- b. Pentecostal Ministerials Alliance (PMA) was formed 1925 in Jackson, Tennessee later change its name in 1932 to Pentecostal Church, Inc. (PCI).
- 4. ACJC and PAW merged in November 1931 forming Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ (PAJC)
- 5. Racial tension rocked PAJC which prompted several ministers to revived PAW as a separate organization in 1937.
- 6. PCI and the remaining PAJC ministers composed mostly of whites merged as the United Pentecostal Church (UPC). Beginning with 1,800 ministers and >900 churches, it has become the largest and, through aggressive evangelism and publishing efforts, most influential Oneness organization. Presently called United Pentecostal Church, International (UPCI), adding the word "International" in 1972. They are at present the most dominant Oneness organization in the world.

Oneness Organizations in the Philippines

- 1. United Pentecostal Church, International
- 2. Endtime Message Ministry or "Branhamites" (William Marrion Branham)
- 3. Jesus Miracle Crusade, International Ministries (Wilde E. Almeda)
- 4. Jesus the Name Above Every Name (Apollo C. Quiboloy)
- 5. Jesus To God Be the Glory or "Friends Again" (Louie R. Santos)
- 6. and many other smaller "Oneness Pentecostal" groups

Source of Authority: The Bible

Unbiblical Beliefs

- 1. Does not agree with biblical revelation of the Triune God .
- 2. Jesus Christ is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (there is no distinction).
 - a. Jesus Christ manifestation as Father is God.
 - b. Jesus Christ manifestation as Son is man.
- 3. Believes a person must speak in tongues as an initial evidence of the Holy
- 4. Spirit in him.
- 5. Believes that a person is saved through water baptism.

How to Start a Conversation with a Oneness Pentecostal

1. You can ask the oneness member if he/she is already sure of heaven. If that person responded "yes" then ask again "how was he/she saved?" If the answer includes "water baptism" then you can ask that person his/her scriptural "support" regarding his/her contention. And you can start from there gently and lovingly correct his/her understanding about the verse.
2. You can ask him, "I heard that oneness people does not believe the Trinity doctrine. I just would like to know why is that so?"

Things to Remember Before Witnessing to a "Oneness" Person

1. Ask the Lord's guidance that He will be the One to pierce the great darkness in the person's mind so that he/she may see the light of the gospel.
2. Learn to listen first why that person got converted to a "oneness" congregation. Most if not all have been converted to the "oneness camp" because of some form of "healing" that occurred in their life.
3. Understand his scriptural "proofs" so that it would be easy for you to explain those things that he does not really understands.
4. Do not be personal by attacking their lifestyles but rather exposing the errors of their doctrinal teachings.
5. If that person got saved, plant him/her immediately in your church before someone else robs the precious seed.

Seventh-Day Adventists

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM

- Seventh-Day Adventism sprang from the “Great second advent awakening” which shook the religious world just before the middle of the nineteenth century, when a reemphasis about the second advent of Jesus Christ was rampant in Britain and on the continent of Europe.
- Before long, many of the Old World views of prophetic interpretation crossed the Atlantic and penetrated American theological circles.[1]
- Following the chronology of Archbishop Ussher, and interpreting the 2300 days of Daniel as 2300 years, many Bible students of various denominations concluded that Christ would come back about the year 1843.
- Of this studious number was one **William Miller**, a Baptist Minister and resident of Lower Hampton, New York.[2] Miller yearned for the return of Christ, and devoted himself to an intense study of Bible prophesy to find out when this will be. Unfortunately, he did not consult capable Bible scholars.
- In 1831 he announced he had discovered the time for Christ Second Coming. He declared confidently that it would take place in 1843. (Later he said in 1844).[3]
- But before Miller died in 1849 he declared, *“we expected the personal coming of Christ at that time; and now to contend that we were not mistaken is dishonest. We should never be ashamed frankly to confess our errors. I have no confidence in any of the theories that grew out of the movement.”* Miller was a sincere, godly Christian to the end of his life.[4]
- One of the theories that grew out of the movement was started by an Adventist named Hiram Edson. On October 23, 1844, the day after the scheduled return of Christ.[5]
- The group headed by Hiram Edson in Western, New York proclaimed the doctrine of the sanctuary “as embracing a special or final ministry of Christ in the Holy of Holies in the heavenly sanctuary,” thus giving a new meaning to the message.(italics his).[6]
- The chief expounder of this idea of a heavenly sanctuary was Mrs. Ellen G. White, who with her husband James, had helped Miller set his dates.
- She taught that in this heavenly sanctuary Christ went to do his “Investigative Judgment” before coming to earth.

- Mrs. White was a woman of poor education but she became the real founder of the Seventh-Day Adventist Movement. She claimed to received visions and teachings by revelation. She was their acknowledge teacher and prophetess.[7]
- Adventist work began in the Philippines with the arrival of Mr. L.V. Finster. Work began slowly, but by 1911 the first SDA baptisms were held. The first Filipino Adventist ministers were ordained in 1916.[8]

ANSWERS TO SDA QUESTIONS

The preceding paragraph will deal mainly with the SDA's doctrinal teachings primarily on the Sabbath.

A. Was the Sabbath instituted at Creation?

Not only the Seventh-Day Adventists and the Armstrong cultists, but also some Evangelical Christians answer "yes," because of Genesis 2:3, "...God blessed the seventh day and made it holy , because of it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." According to this interpretation, the Sabbath is therefore an eternal moral law of God which has **always** been in effect for all men, and not merely part of the Old Covenant made with Israel. But Nehemiah said that the Sabbath was revealed by God to Israel after the Exodus from Egypt. "You came down on Mount Sinai... You made known to them your holy Sabbath and gave them commands... through your servant Moses" (Nehemiah 9:13-,14).

If God made the Sabbath known to them at that time, then obviously it had not been binding on them before. Thus we conclude it had not been instituted as a law previously.

Then why is the seventh day given special mention in Genesis 2? No doubt in anticipation. That is, : **when Moses wrote** about the creation he explained the reason (God's rest) why the seventh day was selected afterwards to be Israel's day of rest. In the same way of anticipation or looking ahead, Eve was called "the mother of all living" before she had any children (Gen.3:20), and Judas was mentioned as Christ betrayer long before the betrayal (Mark 3:19)-because the readers already knew about those events. Similarly, Moses' readers already knew about the institution of the Sabbath. Thus the mention of the seventh day in Genesis does not show the Sabbath was instituted **then**, but merely shows **why** it was instituted later.

The first **command** in the Bible to keep the Sabbath is in Exodus 16:22-26, given to Israel at Mt. Sinai and repeated shortly afterwards in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8ff)

B. But Christians must obey the Ten Commandments, mustn't we?

We should do all that God commands us, of course. But the Ten Commandments are part of the Old Covenant made between God and Israel. Notice the introduction to them:

"And God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt...'" (Exodus 20:1,2).

"Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today" (Deuteronomy 5:1). (The Ten Commandments begin at verse 6).

It is misleading to quote the Ten Commandments but leave off the introduction which tells for whom they were intended.

"When they are read in their context (Exodus 19-24), the Ten Commandments are seen to inseparably connected with the Old Covenant, while we are now under the New Covenant of Grace." (J.O. Sanders)

On the other hand, we must recognize that the Ten Commandments and the Old Testament do contain many principles of behavior pleasing or not pleasing to God. These unchanging standards are repeated in the New Testament. Examples of these "moral laws" are found in Matthew 5, where Jesus quotes from the Ten Commandments, and then applies them to Christian behavior. Such laws are **always** in effect. But the Old Covenant itself, as a code or agreement, has passed away. (Hebrews 8:13)

C. But the Sabbath is called "perpetual" (KJV, RSV) and said to last "forever," why?

God said,

"God said, the Israelites are to observe the Sabbath... for the generations to come as a **lasting** covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites **forever...**" (Exodus 31:16,17).

Therefore, how could it ever cease?

*It could cease in the same way that several other practices related to Old Covenant worship ceased though they were called perpetual and said to be forever: e.g. the burnt offerings (Exodus 29:42); incense (20:8); ceremonial washings (30:21); and the Passover feast (12:14). These verses seem to mean that the practices were to be observed forever **as long as the covenant endured**, for they were part of the covenant. But now the entire covenant has been replaced by something better, as the book of Hebrews makes plain.*

D. But Christ Himself kept the Sabbath as His regular custom (Lk. 4:16). Shouldn't we follow His example?

He was born and lived “under the law,” the Old Covenant (Galatians 4:4). The Old Covenant did not end until His death and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. So during His life it was still in effect, and he observed all its requirements, not just the Sabbath.

E. But why did Paul regularly go to the synagogue on the Sabbath, after the New Covenant began?

*He went there in order to preach to the Jews who gathered there every Sabbath. That was a natural opportunity to have an audience to evangelize. Also, in the early decades of the church either Saturday or Sunday (or both) were observed as times of worship. That was because there was a period of overlapping of the two covenants, since it took time for the earliest Christians, most of whom were Jews, to realize the significance of God's plan. Thus the Jerusalem church continued **provided they did not trust in circumcision and law observance for salvation** (Galatians 5:2-4). There were many Jews in Jerusalem who had received Jesus as Messiah but still were “zealous for the law” and Jewish customs (Acts 21:17-25). Years after the church began, the writer to the Hebrews said that the Old Covenant was “obsolete and aging” and would “soon disappear” (8:13). So, although the New Covenant began with the events at Calvary and Pentecost, God allowed the ceremonial practices of the Law to continue for a period on a voluntary basis (Romans 14:1-3, 13). The disciples were warned, however, not to rely on them for eternal life (Acts 15:10, 11 and many other passages).*

Paul himself not only kept the Sabbath often, but also made a Jewish vow, sought to arrive at Jerusalem in time for the feast of Pentecost, and also ceremonially purified himself and assisted some men who were under a vow (Acts 18:18; 20-26; 21:23-26). Why did he observe this Mosaic ordinances? He explains reason in I Corinthians 9:20-22.

“To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law, I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law... I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

Thus his keeping the Sabbath is not necessarily an example or precedent for us.

In fact, he wrote in Colossians 2:14, 16, 17 that Christ

“canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us...; he took it away, nailing it to the cross... Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink,

or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath Day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come...”

Paul clearly states here that because the Old Covenant with its legal demands has ended (at the cross), we are not obligated to keep the Sabbath.

The seventh day cults insist that “Sabbath” in this passage does not mean weekly Sabbath but only the monthly and annual feasts which were also rest-days or Sabbaths. But it is obvious that “festival” refers to the yearly feasts, “new moon” to monthly observances, and “Sabbath” to the weekly rest day. Compare Numbers 28, which mentions various offerings: daily, weekly, monthly and annual. There is not one bit of evidence to indicate that “Sabbath” in Colossians 2:16 means anything different from what it means everywhere else in the New Testament: the rest day, kept on the seventh day. And Paul says here that it has been set aside as a legal obligation.

F. But didn't Emperor Constantine or a pope begin the practice?

No. Sometimes Seventh-Day Adventists say a pope changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

*But which pope? when? why? There is no evidence. It is true that Constantine in AD 321 passed laws restricting work on Sundays. But his official proclamations were merely a **recognition of the practice of the church up to that time**. His “Sunday laws” do not prove that till then Sunday had not been observed, any more than the Council of Nicea's declaring the deity of Christ (AD 325) proves that till then the church did not believe that doctrine! Constantine did not **originate** Sunday keeping, but merely acknowledge the fact that Sunday was the day Christians had observed all along.*

G. Why do Christians observe the Lord's Day?

*The SDA ask us, “Please give chapter and verse where the Christian Church is **commanded** to keep the first day of the week, or the Lord's Day.” We quickly answer, there is none.” In turn we ask them, “Please cite chapter and verse where the Christian church is **commanded** to observe the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath.” In honesty they must acknowledge, “There is none.” We further ask, “Where in the New Testament is the Christian church **associated** with the Sabbath?” The simple answer is, “Nowhere.” And finally, “Where in the New Testament is the Christian Church associated with the **first day, or the Lord's Day**? In many places as follows.*

The main distinction of the **first day** is that on this day the Lord Jesus rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1).

The word **Sabbath** implies a “cessation of.” God ceased His work of creation and rested on the Sabbath. Christ finished His work of redemption (“It is finished”) and rested on the Sabbath. Christ truly perfected the law in His perfect sacrifice, His finished work of redemption, and His Sabbath rest.

*For the Christian, Saturday or the Sabbath is the day of the dead Christ resting in the tomb; Sunday is the day of the living Christ, alive forever more. **The Sabbath commemorates the end of the old creation; the Lord's Day, the beginning of the new creation.***

Not only was the first day of the week the day Jesus was resurrected. In addition:

1. It was the day when Jesus first appeared to His disciples with a commission to evangelize (John 20:19-23).
2. On Sunday the first gospel sermon was preached about Christ's death and resurrection (Acts 2:1; Pentecost was always on Sunday)
3. On that day the first converts were baptized and gathered into a Christian church (Acts 2:41).
4. On Sunday the disciples at Troas gathered together to break bread (take the Lord's Supper), and Paul preached to them (Acts 20:7).
5. On the first day of the week the Corinthian believers were to lay aside their gifts for the Lord's work (I Cor. 16:2).

For SDA's to claim that Sunday is a pagan day because pagan worshiped the sun on that day is as illogical as for us to claim that Saturday is a pagan day because pagans worshiped Saturn on that day![9]

**All Scriptures taken from the The HOLY BIBLE,
International Bible Society. Used by permission.**

Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)

Cult Organization: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (a.k.a. Mormonism)

Founder: Mr. Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844)

Current President: Gordon B. Hinckley (1910-present)

World Headquarters: Salt Lake City, Utah.

Philippines Office: No. 4 Comet Street, Bel-Air Village, Makati City

Worldwide Membership Since 1998

Membership – 10,354,241

Total Increase over 1997 – 375,963 converts

Converts per Missionary Ratio – 5:1

Mormon Missionaries – 57,853 scattered in 192 nations

Baptized Converts – 299,134

Membership in the Philippines:

[Source: Adherents.com]

1980: 41, 802

1984: 76,000 to 100,000

1990: 237,000 to 240,000

1999: 389,000

Sources Of Authority

1. The Bible (preferably King James Version)
2. The Book of Mormon (present edition)
3. Doctrine and Covenants (formerly Book of Commandments)
4. Pearl of Great Price (1982 ed.)
5. General Authorities and Continual Revelation. Types of Revelation: Prophecy, Visions, Inspired Speeches, The Gift and Power of God to Translate, which was only possessed by Joseph Smith.

Other Supplementary Materials

1. Ensign magazine -- contains teachings and speeches of Mormon authorities
2. Liahona magazine -- the word means "compass" or "director" in the Book of Mormon contains letter from the first presidency, youth and children articles, and others.
3. Melchizedek Priesthood Personal Study Guide -- an annual study guide for every Mormon member.

Unbiblical Beliefs

1. Redefined the word Trinity as relating to purpose and not to their nature. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost have three distinct bodies and therefore are three gods who are perfect in knowledge, power, and glory. The Holy Spirit currently has only a spirit-body. Believes God the Father (a.k.a. Elohim) has literal flesh and bones.
2. Joseph Smith taught that because the Hebrew word for "God," (Elohim), is a plural noun, this proves there are many gods.
3. Teaches that the image and likeness of God in man also proves that God is a man.
4. Believes that there are many Gods in the Heavens where spirit-children are born. Each God has his own wife or wives given to him during his mortal state. Each God, through his wife or wives, produces numerous sons and daughter. Then if their Heavenly inheritance becomes too small to accommodate his spirit-children, he organizes a new world along with his sons. He now sends his spirit son and daughter to dwell in flesh and bones. They will inhabit the earth and multiply physically. Each inhabitant is required to reverence, adore, and worship their own personal father in the heaven where they formerly inhabited.
5. Believes Jesus personal name is "Jehovah" which was begotten by his Father "Elohim" through sexual union with Mary.
6. Believes Lucifer is the spirit-brother of Jesus Christ.
7. Believes there are distinction between the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Holy Ghost -- is a spirit-child, born of Heavenly Parents, and has the shape of a man. He can only be in one location at a time and is one of three Gods in the Godhead.
 - b. The Holy Spirit -- is a divine eminence or influence. Can be felt by Mormons universally and bears witness to the truths of Mormonism.
8. Beliefs About Christ Atonement and Salvation:

- a. There are two effects of Christ's atonement
- b. All humankind will be resurrected
- c. It sets one on the road to exaltation (or godhood)
- d. Christ's atonement took place in the garden of Gethsemane where his sweat great drops of blood.
- e. Christ atonement was only for Adam's transgression.
- f. Salvation: Individual salvation begins with the atonement; but is completed through human works.
 - i. Some sins cannot be covered by Christ's atonement; people must atone for these sins themselves.
 - ii. Baptism is a necessary human work and can be applied, by proxy, to the deceased.
- g. There are three degrees of heaven:
 - i. The Celestial Kingdom - located on earth after its renewal, is prepared for the righteous, those who have been faithful in keeping the whole commandments and have been cleansed of all their sins.
 - ii. The Telestial Kingdom -- will be located on some other planet other than the earth.
 - iii. The Terrestrial Kingdom -- This kingdom will be found on still another earth. The wicked people will be in this degree.

Methods of Witnessing to the Mormons

1. Do not witness to a Mormon member or Mormon missionaries unless you yourselves are properly grounded and equip because you may end up being their convert.
2. Set a time and a place so that no one could distract all four of you. Four composes the two Mormon missionaries (or member), including one Christian to pray and intercede while the other shares the gospel.
3. Once the Mormon missionaries ask if you would want to open or close a prayer, always say "yes" so that you could pray an evangelistic kind of prayer.
4. Since they will usually start by showing you some pictures to visualize their prophet Joseph Smith, prepare to ask some questions pertaining to your discussions which will make them think and be challenge to research and study the Bible alone by their own. One example I can give you is written in their pamphlet Study Guide One entitled, "The Plan of Our Heavenly Father":

Mormon: *Have you read the Study Guide One already? Do you have any questions regarding that topic?*

Christian: *Well, yes! I believed I have and this is regarding the short note here which states "We are the children of God: Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:29; Romans 8:16-17."*

Mormon: *Yes, it is true that we are all children of God since we are all created by Him.*

Christian: *I don't think the Bible (KJV) will agree with your belief since John 1:12 tells us that only those who received Jesus in their heart can become a child of God. While all the verses that your pamphlet quoted are out of context. Why? Because Genesis 1:26-27 tells of God creating man and does not speak about men becoming his children, while Acts 17:29 and Romans 8:16-17 tells us about Paul talking to those who have already become Christians by receiving Jesus in their hearts. So why do you still suppose that "All men are children of God?" By the way, I have already invited Jesus in my heart to be my Lord and Savior, have you?*

5. After the discussion, see to it that you remind them to search for the answers to your questions (that would challenge them to think) and that you are willing to talk to them once more if ever they return. If you need more witnessing materials contact The Bereans: A.R.M.
6. If they ask you to pray with a sincere heart whether the Book of Mormon is true or not, tell them that that is very subjective. Why? Because anybody can pray for the any religious book like the Kor'an of the Muslims, New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses, or the sacred books and literatures of the other Eastern religions and still could possibly receive a "burning in the bosom." Tell them to follow the attitude of the Berean Christians that they "searched the scriptures daily , whether" what the apostle Paul said was true (Acts 17:11). The same apostle admonishes each one in 1 Thes. 5:21 to "prove [Gk. dokimazo, to test, to examine, to discern] all things" (which includes the Book of Mormon). This is why Christianity is not a leap in the dark.
7. Before they leave, ask permission if you could pray for them. If so pray again an evangelistic kind of prayer and let the Holy Spirit do the final penetration in their heart.

Things To Remember When Witnessing To Mormons

1. Ask the Lord to guide you and allow the Holy Spirit to give you power in witnessing to these kind of people. Never rely on your own capabilities to convert a person but rather leave the results to God.
2. Use the King James Version as your Scripture and use their Book of Mormon to contradict what they believe in the Pearl of Great Price and Doctrines and Covenants. Although you may use the Book of Mormon only to prove that their teachings contradict. Unlike the inspired writers of the Scripture that never contradict each other.
3. Remember the Scripture verses and quotations before you witness so to avoid idle time in-between conversation.
4. Always remember the things they've said so that you could point out their organization's contradictions.
5. Never point at them as the source of false teachings but rather the LDS authorities. Witness with a sincere love, compassion and wisdom.

How to Start a Conversation with a Mormon:

Christian: *Which of the four books, “Bible,” “Book of Mormon,” “The Pearl of Great Price,” “Doctrines and Covenants,” is the first revelation of God?*

Mormon: *Well, of course the “Bible!”*

Christian: *Which of the four books I’ve mentioned contains the old revelation?*

Mormon: *The Bible.*

Christian: *Therefore the remaining three books contain the new revelation of God?*

Mormon: *Yes!*

Christian: *Do you believe that God contradicts Himself?*

Mormon: *No!*

Christian: *Since God does not contradict Himself and we have the old revelation “the Bible” and the three new revelations here therefore it is only proper to judge the new revelation by the older revelation? Right?*

(either refuses or changes the topic)

Christian: *Is it true that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only “true” Church?*

Mormon: *Yes!*

Christian: *And is it true that all Christian churches have been apostatized after the apostles death?*

Mormon: *Yes! (They may not be consistent with this answer but the fact is there has been a time when all Christian churches cease to exist until the time before Joseph Smith established the LDS Church)*

Christian: *Do you believe that in every generation there are no true churches to glorify God?*

Mormon: *Yes! (If the Mormon says, “Well, there may be some...” Then respond by saying, “Therefore it is not true that the Christian church has been apostatized. And Joseph Smith has been lying after all in “Joseph Smith –History 1:19” that all churches “are wrong and their creeds are an abomination.”)*

Christian: *Then how can you explain Ephesians 3:21? “Unto him be glory in the church throughout all ages [Gk. genea, generation), world without end. Amen.” (KJV) Do you think God cannot preserve His flock from Satan’s deception? If God was able to preserve “seven thousand (prophets) in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (1 Kings 19:18, KJV) and Elijah thought he was the only one left (v. 10), can God be not consistent with the preservation of His people throughout all ages or generation?*

(Note: Do not allow the Mormon to jump to another verse unless he explains to you full what this verse means. Watch for perverted and out of context interpretations.

Additional Scripture texts: Matthew 28:20; Jude 24, 25)

The Gospel of Paul C. Jong and the New Life Mission

- The Christians in the Philippines were surprised and shock to know last September 2001 during "2001 Philippines Church Leaders' Conference and Crusade with Rev. Jae-Rock Lee" that they have actually been deceived.
- This has been so serious that a well-known Christian organization in the Philippines like the **Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches** did not endorse **the Manmin Joong-ang Church**.
- Many evangelical churches still participated during the conference and crusade held at the Quirino Grandstand. **The founder and senior pastor of this church was Jae-Rock Lee, a Korean.**
- Well, another Korean cult is rocking again our nation spiritually through television and cyberspace in the person of Paul C. Jong.
- He is the founder and leader of *The New Life Mission*, which started last 1991 and is into literature ministry. His influence has already spread to over 150 countries in 45 major languages.[1]

Unlike in the Philippines where most cult leaders are immediately known because of their diametric opposition to most of the orthodox Christian truths, Jong presents his statement of faith[2] in an evangelical fashion like Lee in the following manner:

- We believe that the Bible, consisting of Old and New Testaments only, is verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit, is inerrant in the original manuscripts, and is the infallible and authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that the one triune God exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Adam, created in the image of God, was tempted by Satan, the god of this world, and fell. Because of Adam's sin, all men have guilt imputed, are totally depraved, and need to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit for Salvation.

However, one Christian who is spiritually keen in discerning doctrines will notice two of Jong's beliefs such as these,

We believe that Jesus Christ is God, was born of a virgin, baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, crucified as the Lamb of God, rose again from the dead, and ascended to heaven, where He is presently exalted at the Father's right hand.

We believe that salvation consists of the remission of sins, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, and the gift of eternal life, received by faith alone, apart from works.

Inclusion of statements such as Jesus being "*baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River*" and "*salvation consist[ing] of the remission of sins*" becomes suspicious and requires us to draw a closer look.

This is because a careful study of his doctrine reveals that he believes in *addition* to faith it is also essential to believe in the act of Jesus' water baptism[3] performed by John in the Jordan River through laying on of hands as a prerequisite for salvation thereby making a person righteous and justified before God.

"As a result, His baptism does not nullify the Cross, but actually it is the gospel of the Lord that completes and fulfills the meaning of the Cross.

It also teaches us that we cannot have redemption *unless there is the baptism* and precious blood of Jesus Christ.

What you mean by being saved is that you obtain the remission of sins by believing the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:8, Acts 2: 38)."[4]

"Both the words of the Old and New Testaments have their equivalents to each other (Isaiah 34: 16). *The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan is equal to the sinner's laying hands on the head of the sin offering in the Old Testament.*

When He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan, He said, '*Permit it to be so now, thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*' (Matthew 3:15).

"Here, 'all righteousness' means 'justice and fairness.' It means that it is fitting for Jesus to become the sin offering for mankind, to be baptized by John the Baptist in the form of the laying on of hands to take away all the sins of the world in the fairest way according to the sacrificial system, composed of the laying on of hands and blood, which God established in the Old Testament."[5]

- Jong does not understand that this is not the *gospel* that will save people from their sins. He even made the cross of Christ of none effect (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17) by adding faith to Jesus' water baptism through laying of hands by John the Baptist to cleanse people from their sins,

“Therefore, His blood would virtually be effective in washing away sins in the hearts of believers, only if they believe that all their sins have been laid on Him when John the Baptist baptized Him by laying hands on Him.”

- Nevertheless, is it also true that *“all [our] sins have been laid on Him when John the Baptist baptized Him by laying hands on Him?”*
- As much as we wanted to commend Jong for giving attention to Jesus’ water baptism that act was not the main focus of this event rather the anointing with the Spirit to prepare Jesus for His ministry.
- According to the *New Bible Dictionary*,

“The accounts of Jesus encounter with John at the River Jordan are consistent in focusing on Jesus’ anointing with the Spirit rather than the act of [water] baptism (particularly Lk. 3:21-22; Jn. 1:32-34; cf. Acts 10:37-38).”[6]

- In fact, you will notice that the first chapter of the gospel of John did not even mention the detailed account of Jesus being baptized by John but rather focuses on the Spirit’s anointing over Him.
- In addition to this fact, the Bible does not mention that our sins *“have been laid on Him when John the Baptist baptized Him by laying hands on Him”* during His water baptism rather God laid our sins on Jesus and He bore it while hanging on the cross to pay for every mankind’s sin,

“... and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isa. 53:6b
“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Pet. 2:24

- Jong even concludes, *“What you mean by being saved is that you obtain the remission of sins by believing the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:8, Acts 2: 38).”[7]*
- The Bible is very clear that to believe in Jesus Christ alone will grant you eternal life (*cf. Jn. 3:16; 8:24; Acts 16:31*)
- It is not Jesus’ water baptism that saved us but Jesus Himself when He died, was buried and rose again from the grave to be victorious over death. This is not the gospel that saves a person rather it is a *different gospel* adding to the finish work of Jesus Christ on the cross of calvary. May the Filipino people be cautioned with Jong’s false gospel.

Recommended Reading:

Reader's Feedback: **Delivered from Paul Jong's Teachings.**

SOAR and the Prophetic Movements

Ano po ang inyong masasabi sa Bride of Christ na pinamumunuan ni G. Solomon Ocampo at ang SOAR teaching at ang mga churches na nasa Prophetic movements esp. Dr. Jonathan David ng Malaysia. Sa aking pang unawa ito ay kulto rin ayon sa mga hawak kong katuruan.

Response

We understand that a number of good Christian leaders in the prophetic movements have gone beyond the boundaries of the Scripture by being unscriptural in what they teach. However, we in the ministry do not sweep judgement on all of those in the prophetic movement as heretics.

This is because there may be a number of Christian leaders who also believes in the prophetic giftings but are still faithful in the Scripture. They may not even agree with the extreme teachings of the "word faith" teachers and "prosperity gospel" preachers.

In addition, allow us to present the PCEC Position Statement on SOAR by which we also endorse:

PCEC Position Statement

Owing to the significant number of questions and inquiries that have been brought to our attention by different pastors and Christian leaders about the controversial teachings of the School of Apostolic Revival, we were compelled to look into the teachings of this group and evaluate them in the light of the basic doctrines of Scripture.

Here are four major Bible teachings that run diametrically opposed to the truths of the Holy Scriptures:

On the Bible: *The Bible is not the final revelation of God but He continues to reveal Himself to people especially "prophets".*

On the Church: *The Church as Christ's Bride will eventually become God (with a capital "G") herself. Using such passages as Rev. 21:2; Jer. 7:18; 44:15-29; Eph. 5:22-32; Lev. 19:19; 2 Cor. 6:14, etc., to "prove" that God hates intermarriages but approves of marrying one's own "kind" and because Christ being God will be married to the*

Church as His Bride she has to become God herself. As their teaching asserts: "God's Partner should also be a God". This is what they refer to as "Divine Romance".

On Man: *Their teaching on the Church consequently reveals their view of man. If the Church, which is composed of men and women, can become God in the process, it follows that man (or at least those who belong to the Church) will not remain human forever but will evolve to become God Himself. This is not unlike the teachings of Mormonism. That's why proponents and followers of this teaching now greet each other with, "Good morning Jesus," or "How's the God of Davao?" What blasphemy!*

To further complicate their teachings on man, they claim that the king of Tyre in Ezk. 28, Lucifer in Isa. 14 and Adam are one and the same.

On Heaven and the Rapture: *Heaven is not a place outside of us because it is IN us. WE are that heaven. God is in His eternal dwelling. Passages like Heb. 11:8-10, 13-16; Jn. 14:2, 3 are used to buttress this assertion. Citing Mat. 24:35, they further claim, literally that "heaven will pass away."*

There is neither a Rapture nor a Second Coming because Christ is already in us. As SOAR emphatically declares, "The coming of the Lord is not the blessed hope - it is a blessed fact (Acts 1:11). My expectation is not that He will come again, but rather I will be like him when he does." This is contradictory at the very least because SOAR denies His second coming and yet affirms it at the same time.

Analyzing the above teachings, we arrive at the following critical observations:

1. The SOAR doctrines are a mixture of biblical and non-biblical truths where passages are taken out of context;
2. Conclusions are based on illogical progression and absence of logical sequences is apparent.

Therefore, in response to these findings based on the SOAR teaching materials we have acquired and the personal accounts of those who attended their seminars and/or have been taught in their churches by pastors associated by their group, we, the national leaders of PCEC, call upon all believers nationwide not to host or participate in any of the seminars/activities sponsored by SOAR. Furthermore, we enjoin you to circulate this statement for the caution and information of the entire body of Christ in the country.

PCEC (Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches) Executive Committee 01 October 2001.

Jehovah's Witnesses

Cult Organization: Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society - organization of the Jehovah's Witnesses

Founder: Mr. Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)

Current President: Milton G. Henschel (1920-present)

World Headquarters: Brooklyn, New York

Philippine Headquarter: No. 186 Roosevelt Avenue, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City

Worldwide Membership in 234 Lands Since 1998

Memorial Attendance - 14,088,751

Baptized Converts - 323,439 people

Average Bible Studies - 4,433,884

Philippine Membership Since 1998

Memorial Attendance - 407,094

Baptized Converts - 8,836 people

Average Bible Studies - 82,850

Source of Authority

1. The Holy Bible (preferably King James Version)
2. The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, 1984 ed.
3. The Watchtower magazine which is like a Bible commentary written by the Governing Body (a.k.a. God's Theocratic Organization)

Other Supplementary Materials

1. The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures, 1985 ed. (a.k.a. KIT)
2. The Emphatic Diaglott, 1942 ed.
3. Awake! magazine - discusses present-day issues

Unbiblical Beliefs

1. Does not accept the Triune God revelation of the Scripture.
2. Believes God is a solitary person with a personal name, "Jehovah," who is the Father.
3. Believes Jesus Christ to be the preincarnate archangel Michael and is "a god" not equal to Jehovah.
4. Teaches the third Person of the Triune Being as "holy spirit" and is a "force."
5. Believes Jesus Christ did not resurrect physically but rather was resurrected as "glorious spirit creature" and his body dissolved into gaseous form.
6. Beliefs about Salvation:
 - a. Believes there are two classes of Christians:
 - i. The "anointed" class composed of 144,000 who will go to heaven as spirits sons of God. The door was close to for this class since 1935. Only this class are the ones who are "born again."
 - ii. The "great crowd" who will be resurrected on earth and will have the chance to live in new heaven and new earth after the great Armageddon.
 - b. Believes there are four requirements for salvation:
 - i. Jesus Christ must be identified.
 - ii. Taking in knowledge of God's purposes regarding the earth and Christ's role as earth's new king. In other words, "to obey God's law."
 - iii. Associated with God's channel, His theocratic organization.
 - iv. To support His government while loyally advocating His kingdom rule to others.
7. Denies the reality of hell but instead teaches "soul sleep" and the "annihilation of the wicked."

Methods of Witnessing to a Jehovah's Witness

1. Set a time and place for meeting so that no one could distract all four of you. This compose the two "pioneers" J.W., including one Christian to pray and intercede while the other shares the gospel.
2. Invite the J.W. in an opening prayer before the discussion by addressing God as "Jehovah," and pray an evangelistic kind of prayer if opportunity calls. Ask the Holy Spirit of God to open the J.W.'s heart and so be receptive to the gospel of Christ.
3. When sharing truths with them, avoid saying "Your belief about Jesus is not base on the Bible" rather say , "The Watchtower Governing Body's interpretation about Jesus is not base on the Bible." Pointing to the "organization" and not to him as a person to avoid offending him directly.
4. Be very careful not to say, "I am going to prove to you that Jesus is Jehovah" because you have only made it difficult for him to understand. It is as if you are saying, "I am going to prove to you that Jesus is the Father." Rather you can say, "Lets check the real identity of the Lord Jesus Christ."
5. Most of the time they will try to answer back your questions and get you sidetracked you with many peripheral issues. Be sure that you remain in your proper course of discussion.
6. Try to challenge the J.W. individual to research if what you are saying about the Governing Body and J.W. teachings are true or not. Offer him your help in searching out for the truth.
7. Before parting, offer to pray evangelistically for them by addressing God as "Jehovah" and leave some J.W. witnessing materials for them to read. You cannot win a J.W. in just one sitting but requires a long period of time, sometimes years.
8. But all we can do is to plant the seed, then someone will water and God will cause it to grow (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6).

How to Start a Conversation with a Jehovah's Witness (JW)

1. You can begin by saying, "Hi! I'm [your name] are you familiar with the Watchtower organization's teaching? What do they believe about Jesus Christ?"
2. You can also begin by asking, "How long have you been a Jehovah's Witness?"

Things to Remember Before Witnessing to a Jehovah's Witness

1. Pray and ask the Lord's guidance that you will not rely on your own knowledge and capacity but rather in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Use only acknowledged J.W. literatures preferably King James Version, New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (NWT), The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures (KIT), and The Emphatic Diaglott. As one Christian apologist said, "That their words may be used against them."
3. Bring the necessary materials and remember the Bible texts so there will be no idle time in-between. This will not also allow him to focus on some other things.
4. Address him/her by his first name to make your relationship more personal.
5. Sit on an area where he could not be distracted by passers-by and eye-catching scenes. As much as possible, allow them to read the Scripture passages or quotations by themselves for them to store it in their minds.
6. Speak with authority, love and compassion.

Why Believe In Christianity Over All Other Religions?

Critics often ask why Christianity is any better than any other religion in the world. After all, of all the religions that exist how can it be that only Christianity is true? If God exists, why can't God use different religions? Don't all paths lead to God? Skeptics ask these kinds of questions all the time and, unfortunately, few Christians have the the answers. Therefore, in an attempt to demonstrate why Christianity is true and all other religious systems are false, I've prepared the follow list of reasons for Christianity's superiority.

There are such things as absolute truths

- If truth is relative, then the statement that truth is relative is an absolute truth and would be self defeating statement by proving that truth is not relative.
- But, if truth is absolute, then the statement "truth is absolute" is true and not self defeating. It is true that truth exists. It is true that truth will not contradict itself as we have just seen. In fact, it is absolutely true that you are reading this paper.

- If we can see that there is such a thing as truth in the world, then we could also see that there can be spiritual truth as well.
- It is not absurd to believe in spiritual absolutes anymore than physical or logical absolutes.
- Even the statement that all religions lead to God is a statement held to be a spiritual absolute by many people. This simply demonstrates that people do believe in spiritual truth. Why?
- Because truth exists. However, not all that is believed to be true actually is true.
- Furthermore, all belief systems cannot be true since they often contradict each other in profound ways -- and truth is not self-contradictory.

Religions contradict each other; therefore, they cannot all be true.

- Mormonism teaches that there are many gods in existence and that you can become a god.
- Christianity teaches that there is only one God and you cannot become a god.
- Islam teaches that Jesus is not God in flesh where Christianity does.
- Jesus cannot be both God and not God at the same time.
- Some religions teach that we reincarnate while others do not.
- Some teach there is a hell and others do not. They cannot all be true. If they cannot all be true, it cannot be true that all religions lead to God.

- Furthermore, it means that some religions are, at the very least, false in their claims to reveal the true God (or gods).
- Remember, truth does not contradict itself. If God exists, He will not institute mutually exclusive and contradictory belief systems in an attempt to get people to believe in Him.
- God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33).
- Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that there can be an absolute spiritual truth and that not all systems can be true irregardless of whether or not they claim to be true. There must be more than a mere claim.

Fulfilled Prophecy concerning Jesus

- Though there are other religions that have prophecies in them, none are 100% accurate as is the Bible and none of them point to someone like Jesus who made incredible claims and performed incredible deeds.
- The Old Testament was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.
- Yet, the Old Testament prophesied many things about Jesus. This is undoubtedly evidence of divine influence upon the Bible

Please consider some of the many prophecies of Jesus in the following chart.

Prophecy	Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matt. 1:18,25
Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matt. 2:1
He would be preceded by a Messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matt. 3:1-2
Rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 7:5; 7:48
Betrayed by a close friend	Isaiah 41:9	John 13:26-30
His side pierced	Zech. 12:10	John 19:34
Crucifixion	Psalms 22:1, 22:11-18	Luke 23:33; John 19:23-24
Resurrection of Christ	Psalms 16:10	Acts 13:34-37

- Fulfillment of prophecy can have different explanations. Some state that the NT was written and altered to make it look like Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy (but there is no evidence of that).
- Others state that the prophecies are so vague that they don't count (but many of the prophecies are not vague at all).
- Of course, it is possible that God inspired the writers and Jesus, who is God in flesh, fulfilled these prophecies as a further demonstration of the validity of Christianity.

The Claims and Deeds of Christ

- Christianity claims to be authored by God. Of course, merely making such a claim does not make it true.
 - Anyone can make claims. but, backing up those claims is entirely different. Jesus used the Divine Name for Himself (John 8:58), the same Divine Name used by God when Moses asked God what His name was in (Exodus 3:14).
 - Jesus said that He could do whatever He saw God the Father do (John 5:19), and He claimed to be one with the God the Father (John 10:30; 10:38).
 - Likewise, the disciples also called Him God (John 1:1,14; John 10:27; Col. 2:9).
 - By default, if Jesus **is** God in flesh, then whatever He said and did would be true. Since Jesus said that He alone was the way, the truth, and the life and that no one can find God without Him (John 14:6), His words become incredibly important.

 - Again, making a claim is one thing. Backing it up is another. Did Jesus also back up His fantastic words with miraculous deeds? Yes, He did.
- Jesus changed water into wine (John 2:6-10).
 - Jesus cast out demons (Matt. 8:28-32; 15:22-28).
 - Jesus healed lepers (Matt. 8:3; Luke 17:14).
 - Jesus healed diseases (Matt. 4:23,24; Luke 6:17-19)
 - Jesus healed the paralytic (Mark 2:3-12).
 - Jesus raised the dead (Matt. 9:25; John 11:43-44).
 - Jesus restored sight to the blind (Matt. 9:27-30; John 9:1-7).
 - Jesus restored cured deafness (Mark 7:32-35).
 - Jesus fed the multitude (Matt. 14:15-21; Matt. 15:32-38).
 - Jesus walked on water (Matt. 8:26-27).
 - Jesus calmed a storm with a command (Matt. 8:22-27; Mark 4:39).
 - Jesus rose from the dead (Luke 24:39; John 20:27).
 - Jesus appeared to disciples after resurrection (John 20:19).

The eyewitnesses recorded the miracles of Jesus and the gospels have been reliably transmitted to us. Therefore, we can believe what Jesus said about Himself for two reasons: One, because what He said and did, agrees with the Old Testament and two, because Jesus performed many convincing miracles in front of people who testified and wrote about what they saw Him do.

Christ's resurrection

- Within Christianity, the resurrection is vitally important. Without the resurrection our faith is useless (1 Cor. 15:14).
- It was Jesus' resurrection that changed the lives of the disciples. After Jesus was crucified, the disciples ran and hid.

- But when they saw the risen Lord, they knew that all that Jesus had said and done proved that He was indeed God in flesh, the Savior.
- No other religious leader has died in full view of trained executioners, had a guarded tomb, and then risen three days later to appear to many many people.
- This resurrection is proof of who Jesus is and that He did accomplish what He set out to do: provide the **only** means of redemption for mankind.
- Buddha did not rise from the dead.
- Muhammad did not rise from the dead.
- Confucius did not rise from the dead. Krishna did not rise from the dead, etc.
- Only Jesus has physically risen from the dead, walked on water, claimed to be God, and raised others from the dead. He has conquered death.
- Why trust anyone else? Why trust anyone who can be held by physical death when we have a Messiah who is greater than death itself?

Conclusion

- Why should anyone trust in Christianity over Islam, Buddhism, Mormonism, or anything else?
-
- It is because there are absolute truths, because only in Christianity is there accurate fulfilled prophecies of a coming Messiah.
- Only in Christianity do we have the extremely accurate transmission of the eyewitness documents (gospels) so we can trust what was originally written.
- Only in Christianity do we have the person of Christ who claimed to be God, performed many miracles to prove His claim of divinity, who died and rose from the dead, and who said that He alone was the way the truth and the life (John 14:6).
- All this adds to the legitimacy and credibility of Christianity above all other religions -- all based on the person of Jesus.
- It follows that if it is all true about what Jesus said and did, then all other religions are false because Jesus said that He alone was the way, the truth, and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).
- It could not be that Jesus is the only way and truth and other religions also be the truth.
- Either Jesus is true and all other religions are false or other religions are true and Jesus is false. There are no other options. I choose to follow the risen Lord Jesus.

FREEMASONRY AND THE MASONIC LODGE

- There are over 6M Masons worldwide today. There are about 33,700 Lodges (meeting place for Masons). In US = 4M members /15,300 Lodges.
- Reasons why Mason getS Into Freemasonry:
 1. Business or social reasons
 2. Others see it as a philanthropic organization of good works.
 3. Fraternal organization or brotherhood.
 4. Out of pride thinking of being saved by good works.
- There is a journey ritual in different levels of freemasonry.
BLUE LODGE – the Foundation of all freemasonry.
Three degrees of the Blue Lodge:
 1. Entered apprentice degree
 2. Fellow craft degree
 3. Master Mason

After going through the three degrees of the Blue Lodge, the Mason has the option to stay in the blue lodge or advance through either the "Scottish Rite" or the "York Rite".

SCOTTISH RITE – from the fourth through the thirty second degrees + the thirty-third honorary degree.

YORK RITE – has thirteen degrees.

Once a mason has attained the highest arm of either craft, he has the option to choose to join the "Shriners".

SHRINERS – are masons who have already achieved the highest degrees of the Blue Lodge including the Scottish or York Rite.
It is also known as THE ANCIENT AND ARABIC ORDER OF THE NOBLES of the Mystic Shrine

• THE RITUAL INITIATION OF THE BLUE LODGE LEVEL:

In order to join the Lodge, each mason must first be initiated through a ceremony which is similar all over the world.

1. The initiate first is divested of his jacket, the money or metal article he has.
2. His left leg trouser rolled up over the knee, shirt opened to expose his LEFT breast, RIGHT shoe is removed replaced by a slipper.
3. Blindfolded, a noose put around his neck (hoodwinked) and brought to the outer door of the lodge.

4. This act signified that everyone is said to be in darkness and anyone outside the masonry is in darkness, and only masons have the true knowledge that will bring light to the world.
5. While on the outer door, seeking the light of the Lodge, the doorkeeper or tiler will put a sword or a sharp point and lead him inside the Lodge room.
6. An altar sits in its center, members awaits the candidate in the darkness lit only by a single light above.
7. Behind an altar a man called the 'Worshipful Master' – the master of the Lodge and the presider.
8. The initiates bows before the 'Worshipful Master' and says something like this, "I am lost in darkness and seeking the light of the Free Masonry.
9. He is then told he is entering into a secret organization and that he must keep the secrets he is going to be taught.
10. At this time, he is require to take a **blood initiations oaths**, taking his thumb or his hand to his throat and repeats an oath, this include the ff. Words:

A. Entered apprentice or the first level

"Binding myself under no less a penalty than having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots and buried in the rough sands of the sea."

B. Fellowcraft Degree

"Binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my left breast torn open, my heart plucked out and given as prey to the wild beast of the fields and fowls of the air."

C. Master Masons Degree

"Binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my body severed in twain, my bowels from hence and burned in ashes "

QUESTIONS IN CONFLICT WITH REGARDS TO THE RITUAL:

1. How can I put a blindfold on, come before a man called the "Worshipful Master and say I am lost in darkness and need the light of freemasonry? (1 Jn 1:4-7) If Christ lives in your life, you have the light.
2. If I am going to join the Lodge, how can I come before a man called "Worshipful Master" and bow before him in a religious ceremony and say I am lost in darkness?
No one can serve two masters (Matt 6:24). We can't claim to be a follower of Christ and then bow before a man we accept as our "Worshipful Master"
3. How can a Christian can take a pagan oath. How can a follower of Jesus Christ swear to have his throat cut and his bowels ripped open and given to the beast as a penalty for breaking such oath?
(James 5:12 God isn't amused by this because he forbids these pagan blood oaths of masonry)

THE GOAL OF FREEMASONRY

Most Masons become puzzled when asked to define the goal of freemasonry, same or most will say something about the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man or about the making good MEN better.

Joseph Ford Newton, Mason; - as masonry expands all religious dogmas will cease to be. All individual creed and dogmas will be done away with and what remains will be THE ONE ETERNAL RELIGION that Masons are brining into the world.

AGNOSTICISM

Origin of the term

- The word *agnostic* comes from the Greek *a* (no) and *gnosis* (knowledge).
- Among the most famous agnostics (in the original sense) were Huxley, Charles Darwin, and Bertrand Russell.
- Russell's *Why I Am Not a Christian* is considered a classic text about agnosticism.
- It has been argued from his works, especially *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, that David Hume was an agnostic, this however remains subject to debate.

Agnosticism is not to be confused with a view specifically opposing the doctrine of gnosis and Gnosticism - these are religious concepts that are not directly related to agnosticism.

Modern uses

- Most modern uses focus on the question of the existence of God rather than a broad range of metaphysical questions.
- The term may be applied to the simple failure to hold that God does or does not exist (i.e., not taking a stand).
- In this sense, the twentieth century logical positivists, such as Rudolph Carnap and A. J. Ayer, who viewed that any talk of God and perforce considerations of whether one can know that God exists are simply *nonsense*; would count as agnostics.
- The freethinking tradition of atheism calls "agnosticism," used in this sense, "weak atheism" (or "negative atheism").
- However, some critics have pointed out that almost all agnostics live as if there were no God, not as if there were one, which makes agnosticism in their eyes clearly a brand of atheism, not some neutral point of view in-between atheism and theism.
- The term has many uses, however, most in fundamental disagreement with the others.
- One alternative first suggested by Huxley states, *"In matters of the intellect, follow your reason as far as it will take you, without regard to any other consideration.*
- And negatively: In matters of the intellect, do not pretend that conclusions are certain which are not demonstrated or demonstrable" (Huxley, *Agnosticism*, 1889).
- A. W. Momerie has noted that this is nothing but a definition of honesty. Huxley's usual definition went beyond mere honesty, however, and he insisted that these metaphysical issues were fundamentally unknowable.

Some Views Within Agnosticism

- **Empirical agnosticism** (aka open agnosticism, weak agnosticism, soft agnosticism)-the view that the question of the existence of gods is knowable but the individual has not seen enough evidence or there is evenly-weighted evidence on both sides of the question of the existence of God or gods.
- **closed agnosticism** (aka strict agnosticism, strong agnosticism, hard agnosticism)-the view that the question of the existence of God or gods is unknowable by nature or that human beings are ill-equipped to judge the evidence
- **ignosticism**-(aka apatheism)-the view that the question of the existence of God or gods is meaningless because it has no verifiable consequences
- **model agnosticism** - the view that philosophical and metaphysical questions are not ultimately verifiable, but that a model of malleable assumption should be built upon rational thought. Note that this branch of agnosticism differs from others in that it does not focus upon the question of God's existence.

Origins of agnosticism

- Agnostic views are as old as philosophical skepticism. But the terms "agnostic" and "agnosticism" were applied by Huxley to sum up his thoughts from that time's contemporary developments of metaphysics about the "unconditioned" (Hamilton) and the "unknowable" (Herbert Spencer).
- It is important, therefore, to discover Huxley's own views on the matter.
- Though Huxley began to use the term "agnostic" in 1869, his opinions had taken shape some time before that date.
- In a letter to Charles Kingsley (September 23, 1860) he discussed his views extensively:

"I neither affirm nor deny the immortality of man. I see no reason for believing it, but, on the other hand, I have no means of disproving it. I have no a priori objections to the doctrine. No man who has to deal daily and hourly with nature can trouble himself about a priori difficulties. Give me such evidence as would justify me in believing in anything else, and I will believe that. Why should I not? It is not half so wonderful as the conservation of force or the indestructibility of matter"..

"It is no use to talk to me of analogies and probabilities. I know what I mean when I say I believe in the law of the inverse squares, and I will not rest my life and my hopes upon weaker convictions"..

"That my personality is the surest thing I know may be true. But the attempt to conceive what it is leads me into mere verbal subtleties. I have champed up all that chaff about the ego and the non-ego, noumena and phenomena, and all the rest of it, too often not to know that in attempting even to think of these questions, the human intellect flounders at once out of its depth."..

And again, to the same correspondent, May 6, 1863:

"I have never had the least sympathy with the a priori reasons against orthodoxy, and I have by nature and disposition the greatest possible antipathy to all the atheistic and infidel school. Nevertheless I know that I am, in spite of myself, exactly what the Christian would call, and, so far as I can see, is justified in calling, atheist and infidel. I cannot see one shadow or tittle of evidence that the great unknown underlying the phenomenon of the universe stands to us in the relation of a Father who loves us and cares for us as Christianity asserts. So with regard to the other great Christian dogmas, immortality of soul and future state of rewards and punishments, what possible objection can I—who am compelled perforce to believe in the immortality of what we call Matter and Force, and in a very unmistakable present state of rewards and punishments for our deeds—have to these doctrines? Give me a scintilla of evidence, and I am ready to jump at them."

Of the origin of the name "agnostic" to cover this attitude, Huxley gave (Coll. Ess. v. pp. 237-239) the following account:

"So I took thought, and invented what I conceived to be the appropriate title of 'agnostic.' It came into my head as suggestively antithetic to the 'gnostic' of Church history, who professed to know so much about the very things of which I was ignorant. To my great satisfaction the term took."

Huxley's agnosticism is believed to be a natural consequence of the intellectual and philosophical conditions of the 1860s, when clerical intolerance was trying to suppress scientific discoveries which appeared to clash with a literal reading of the Book of Genesis and other established Christian doctrines. Agnosticism should not, however, be confused with deism, pantheism or other science positive forms of theism.

ATHEISM

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

- The term ***atheism*** is formed of the Greek prefix *a-* (meaning "without" or "not") and the Greek-derived *theism*, meaning a belief in a god or gods.
- The literal meaning of the term is therefore *without a belief in a god or gods*, making any person who does not believe in the existence of a god or gods an atheist -- including both those who assert that no gods exists and those who, for whatever reason, do not make any assertion regarding the existence of gods.
- Many cultures have also called anybody who did not believe in their particular brand of Religion an atheist; for example atheism was a frequent accusation of the pagan Romans against the early Christians.
- In modern usage as reflected in most dictionaries, atheism is the assertion that no gods exists, or that the existence of gods has infinitesimal probability.
- Atheism is not synonymous with irreligion; the idea of an eternal non-created universe is an important concept in some religions and as such it is possible to be very religious and very atheistic.

The term agnosticism (coined by T.H. Huxley in 1869) describes a form of philosophical scepticism in which the existence of gods is considered undecidable or in which inquiry into the existence is considered unproductive.

- Some writers, especially online, use the term "strong atheism" (also "explicit" or "hard" atheism) for the denial of the existence of gods, and "weak atheism" (also "implicit" or "soft" atheism) for mere lack of belief, without the active denial of gods.
- In the freethought tradition, analogous terms are "positive" and "negative" atheism.
- Within this scheme, agnosticism represents a rationale for weak atheism. However, none of these terms are in common use.
- ❖ The *Encyclopædia Britannica* estimates that about 2.5% of the world's population classifies itself as atheist.
- ❖ People are considerably more likely, about 12.8%, to describe themselves as "non-religious".
- ❖ Atheism is somewhat more prevalent in Europe and Russia than in the United States and developing countries.

- ❖ For instance, according to a 2003 poll, 33% of French adults say that "atheist" defines their position on religion rather or very well.
- Atheists who openly express their views have often been mistreated, ostracized, discriminated against, or, in some countries, killed.
- For this reason, it is possible that atheism is more prevalent than polls suggest, as people may be reluctant to express their true views.
- Those who hold theistic views often consider that those without a belief in God must be immoral or untrustworthy -- unfit as members of society.

The scriptures of Abrahamic and some other religions contain denunciations of non-believers.

In Europe's Middle Ages, atheism was regarded as immoral, sometimes even criminal; atheists could be sentenced to death by burning, especially in countries where the Inquisition was active.

Even though Protestantism suffered on its own from discrimination and persecution by the Roman Catholic Church, John Calvin was also in favor of burning atheists and heretics.

On the other hand, atheism has at times been the official stance of some countries, such as the former Soviet Union, the former Eastern Bloc, and the People's Republic of China. Karl Marx, an atheist, wrote that religion is "**the opiate of the masses**" and is harmful to society, as it encourages workers to accept the current social order.

Marxist doctrine aside, Communist states may have found it expedient to discourage religion so as to weaken centers of opposition to the state.

In the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, churches that submitted to state control were tolerated.

Every military buildup in the United States since WWII has been accompanied by frequent use of the canard "There are no atheists in foxholes."

During the Cold War, the fact that the communist antagonists of the United States were officially atheistic ("godless communists") contributed to the view that atheists were unreliable and unpatriotic.

As recently as the 1987 presidential campaign in the officially secular United States, George H. W. Bush said [1], "I don't know that atheists should be regarded as citizens, nor should they be regarded as patriotic.

This is one nation under God." Similar statements were made during the controversy surrounding the inclusion of the phrase "under God" in the American Pledge of Allegiance, words which were added to the pledge early in the Cold War period.

Notwithstanding Cold War attitudes, atheists are legally protected from discrimination in the United States.

And they have been among the strongest advocates of the legal separation of church and state.

American courts have regularly, if controversially, interpreted the constitutional requirement for separation of church and state as protecting the freedoms of non-believers, as well as prohibiting the establishment of any particular religion.

The legal situation is often summed up by the phrase: "Freedom of religion also means freedom *from* religion." [2]

(THE ERRORS OF THE ONENESS DOCTRINE)

REASONS WHY WE ACCEPT THE MATTHEW 28:19 BAPTISMAL FORMULA:

- A. Both the minister and the believer render obedience to the Master's own explicit command whenever the words are used "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
- B. Matthew 28:19 fits the definition of a formula. It is an orderly statement of faith or doctrine. It is the prescribed words of a ceremony or rite. The words of the Lord Himself are all contained in one concise declaration. It is not necessary, as in the Jesus Only formula, to combine it with other Scriptures in order to get the complete name. It is complete within itself.
- C. Matthew 28:19 incorporates an orderly statement of faith. It summarized the scattered and unsystemized thought and language of the entire New Testament concerning the nature of the Godhead. He who spoke these words desired their use as the formula, for they were purposely designed to set forth the doctrine of the Trinity in this initiatory Christian rite. The Master's own baptism by John was a vivid precedent for associating the Trinity with baptism. Jesus was there in person. God spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Him.
- D. Matthew 28:19 is the only command in the entire Bible given specifically to those performing the rite of baptism. If you will examine all the passages in Acts dealing with baptism, you will discover that the commands there are to the believers themselves and not to the baptizer, or the minister. Matthew 28:19 is a direct order to those who administer the ordinance informing them to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost."
- E. It is unthinkable that the disciples disobeyed the express command of their Lord. The only logical and scriptural conclusion is that the apostles and other leaders not only obeyed His command to baptize but also obeyed His command to "baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
- F. The Matthew 28:19 baptismal formula is abundantly confirmed by the earliest Christian writings while the Jesus Only formula has no historical support at all. Justin was a contemporary of Polycarp, who was a disciple of John himself, and he stated that Matthew 28:19 was the correct formula.

There is another book called The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles and it is the oldest book outside the New Testament. It is also known as the Didache and is dated by most authorities between the years A.D. 70 and 100. Although the author of the book is unknown, it is a compilation of the teachings of the apostles which he had apparently learned either by personal instruction, oral tradition, or through their (the apostles') own writings or other New Testament writings then in circulation. While it

does not possess the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Didache is an authentic record of primitive Christianity. It includes as instructions for baptizing that we ought to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and also that we ought to baptize in running or living water. There again, the Matthew 28:19 formula is used. And, lest we forget, I would remind you that there is not a single recorded incident in the Bible or any other genuine first-century book where any other formula was ever used in the first one hundred years of the Christian era.

- G. Matthew 28:19 can be used as the formula and the baptism still be in the name of Jesus Christ because the Son is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the sphere, the foundation, and the ground for Trinitarian baptism. Belief in, and confession of, Christ is the very heart of our baptism. Consequently, the words spoken by most ministers of the Gospel, baptizing according to Matthew 28:19, your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

THREE GODS OR ONE?

We teach there is one God manifest in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Jesus Only people teach that Christ is the *Father*, He is the *Son*, and He is the *Holy Ghost*. Hence the name, Jesus Only. I believe we can provide proper evidence from the Word of God that this is not the case and that the teaching advanced by these people is erroneous and does not accord proper due and honor to the Godhead.

The Scripture does state there is one God. But the word "one" relates to unity as well as number. I John 5:7 clearly means one in unity, as does St. John 17:11-21. And yet there are three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The three are spoken of as one in number and yet treated individually in the Scriptures. There is one God the Father, one Lord Jesus Christ, and one Holy Ghost (I Cor.8:6; Eph 4:3-6). Thus there are three separate persons in divine individuality and divine plurality. The Father is called God(I Cor 8:6), the Son is called God (Isa 9:6-7; Heb 1:8; Jn 1:1-2) and the Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-4).

Individually, each is called God; collectively, they can be spoken of as one God because of their perfect unity. The word "God" can be used either in the singular or in the plural, like sheep. Everything that could pertain to God collectively could also apply equally to each member of the Godhead as individuals.

However, there are some particulars which relate to each individual person of the deity as to position, office, and work that could not be attributed to either of the other members of the Godhead. For instance, the Father is the head of Christ (I Cor 11:3). The Son is the only begotten of the Father (II Jn 1:3). The Holy Ghost proceeds from both the Father and the Sons (John 14:16; Acts 2:3-4)'



THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS BORN 33AD

✓ **THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS TEMPERED 33AD – 313AD**

1. THE HEROIC CHURCH
2. APOSTOLIC CHURCH (PERSECUTED)
3. NERO
4. IGNATIUS, JUSTINE & POLYCARP

✓ **THE CHURCH GROWS INWARDLY 33AD- 325AD**

1. DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH
2. APOSTOLIC FATHERS
3. APOLOGIST (DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH)
4. FALSE IDEAS & DOCTRINES AROSE
5. THE APOSTLES CREED

✓ **THE CHURCH IS VICTORIOUS! 313 AD**

✓ **THE CHURCH CONSOLIDATES 325 AD – 341 AD**

1. AMBROSE 2. JEROME 3. AUGUSTINE
4. COUNCILS

✓ **THE CHURCH DETERIORATES 100 AD – 461 AD**

Satanism and the Occult explosion

The spirit clearly says that in later times, some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons... 1 tim. 4:1

- ✓ the term occult comes from the Latin term ***occultus*** w/c refers to **hidden or secret things**, and in prior times referred to knowledge w/c was available only by going through some sort of secret initiation rites obtained only by a selected few initiates Ex: **Freemasons**,etc
- ✓ today the word has lost some of that original meaning, and we have diff. Types of people being appealed by occult concepts:
 1. **Unchurched people**- those who have little interest in any organized religion.
 2. **Misfits**- those who feel alienated from society, inferior from others. Occult apparently gives them answers.
 3. **PEOPLE whose lives are humdrum** and who need some of glamorous fantasy. **Anton LaVey** was an addict of magic arts, fantasy, channeling and others.
 4. **People who feel lonely or powerless**. The occult promises the power to change the world that is the universe & to control the minds and wills of people. Thus it is appealing to those who feel at a loss in their world.
 5. **People who feel they are far above elite and exclusive and intelligent than other people**. That is why so many highly educated fulfilled people get into the occult and the new Age movement.

THREE MAJOR AREAS OF THE OCCULTS

- A. **MANTIC BEHAVIOR**- this is the practice of divination seeking to foretell the future through the use of astrology, palmistry, numerology, crystal balls& tarot cards.
- B. **MAGIC & SPIRITISM** - practitioners seek to tap into some spiritual force out there but at the same time denying the reality of a true God. Occultist refer to both white & black magic .White magic also known as white witchcraft teaches that there is only one universal source of power and black magic refers to both bad and good source. Tapping into the "force" is actually tapping into the world of demons and deceitful spirits.
- C. **SATANISM**- a third area of the occult is Satanism itself .Church of Satan definition of themselves: "we are a group of dynamic individuals who stand forth as the

Church of Satan

- **founded April 30, 1966** based in **California**
- **Anton Szandor LaVey, Founder**, born in gangland-era **Chicago, April 11, 1930**
- 1st organization to accept and teach about **mans true nature-
a carnal beast** living in a cosmos w/c is motivated by the dark force called **Satan**.

- **THEORY & PRACTICE**

BASICS: 9 Satanic statements; 11 Satanic rules of the earth; 9 Satanic sins; pentagonal revisionism, etc.

- **GROUPS & OTHER FIELD of AFFILIATIONS**

*Parapsychology, telephaty, clairvoyance, ESP, shaman
s, spiritism, voodoo, witchcraft, casting spells, aliens
and UfO... .. AC/DC, Iron Maden, Black Sabbath,
Ozzy Osborn, Slayer, Anthrax, Danzing, Exodus,
Grim Reaper, HAllooween, Mega Death, Metal
Church, Metallic a, Celtic Force, Satan, Sodom,
Kiss, Rolling Stones and Possessed, etc*

Rock Album: "their Satanic Majesty's Request"; 'Goat's Head Soup':

"altar of Sacrifice"; "Reign in Blood"; etc.

***Movies- The island of Dr. Moreou; Dracula; Exorcist;
Omen; Heretic; Poltergeist; etc.***