

# BUCKINGHAM REPORT

**AN IN-DEPTH CRITIQUE BY AMERICA'S FOREMOST  
CHRISTIAN ANALYZER OF THE ISSUES, PEOPLE, &  
EVENTS AFFECTING TODAY'S SPIRIT-LED LEADERS**

## **PASTOR ON THE PERIPHERY**

The tragedy of so many Charismatic churches is they are built around the personality and personal charisma of a single leader.

That's not bad in the beginning. In fact, it's probably the best (and sometimes the only) way to start. However, the church that continues to base its existence around a strong personality figure is in for a great fall sometime in the future.

When Charles Haddon Spurgeon was in his prime, his followers erected a massive church building, the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, in 1861. Spurgeon preached there to overflowing crowds for almost 30 years. But after his death in 1892, attendance at the Tabernacle fell off. Now it is a mere showplace of the greatness of a former era—and to some degree the sad tombstone of a man who had vision only for the present.

### **The Liabilities of Popularity**

It's normal to flock to hear a popular leader. I enjoyed attending the Kathryn Kuhlman meetings. But when Miss Kuhlman died, her ministry essentially died with her. It was sad the way her personal secretary, who took over the Kathryn Kuhlman Foundation, tried to keep her alive by replaying her radio tapes on stations around the nation. Kathryn Kuhlman knew her ministry was for the present only. She was a John the Baptist to the Charismatic movement.

The same is true, to some degree, of Billy Graham. The very fact he calls his organization the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has doomed it to exist only as long as he lives—except as it will carry on in the institutions he has created. There is always talk of who will inherit Graham's mantle—just as there were at least two people, a young man and a young woman, who announced they had received Miss Kuhlman's "mantle." But mantles do not fall on men or women. Rather, like Elijah's, they are left behind (perhaps hanging in the top of a thorn tree) for industrious individuals to pick up and fashion their own ministry.

Such is the fate of the evangelist. When he dies his ministry invariably dies with him. That's normal, for such ministries are not churches—they are extensions of the minister's personality. Many parachurch ministries have the same evangelist mentality, which carries over into a church, a TV ministry, or even a Bible school.

### **Role of the Undershepherd**

However, that is not God's intent for a church. A church is to be the body of Christ. The motivating ministry in a church is not evangelistic or prophetic—it is



pastoral. Although a church may be influenced, even permanently flavored, by its apostolic, evangelistic or prophetic leader—it should never be centered around him. It must be centered around the shepherd-personality of Jesus Christ.

The true undershepherd does not stand in the middle of his flock. He remains on the periphery, guarding his flock from danger, scouting ahead for fresh food, making certain the water is not poison and gently coaxing the strays back to the fold. His trademark is not his preaching, his television personality or the buildings he builds. The true undershepherd cares. That's all: He simply cares for his sheep. He doesn't lay claim to the flock by plastering his name all over the sheepshed, and he constantly discourages those who would call the flock by his name. He knows the flock belongs to Jesus. Only then will the church live on after he has gone.

### **ISRAEL HIGH COURT RULES AGAINST PROJECT KIBBUTZ**

On April 30 the Supreme Court of Israel voted to deny visas to the staff of Project Kibbutz. Although the court said Project Kibbutz as an organization was welcome in Israel, staff members, who were there on tourist visas, would have to leave. Project Kibbutz has been operating in Israel for more than 10 years, bringing young people from all over the world to work on kibbutzim for a year's program of Christian discipleship. Founder Art Carlson, who has spent the last year in California, is returning to Israel to take over active leadership. Art and his wife, Claudia, who have permanent Israeli visas, are allowed to live and work in Israel.

During this last year Art has had extensive contact with the ministry of John Wimber of Vineyard Ministries and now feels he should return to Israel trusting God to "demonstrate healings, miracles and casting out devils" as part of the new emphasis among the Jewish people. "The question that has become clear to me is," Carlson writes, "'Will the Lord penetrate the Middle East, or anywhere else for that matter, with anything other than the model of His own ministry?'" Some on the former Israeli staff are moving to a new training center in Scotland, which will become the primary orientation center for those going to Israel for kibbutz assignment. Correspondence and inquiries should be sent to:

Project Kibbutz  
Fagra Mill Training Center  
Dundrennan, near Kirkcudbright  
Dumfries, Scotland

### **PROBLEMS AT THE CHRISTIAN EMBASSY, JERUSALEM**

For a number of years I have been a strong supporter of the work of the International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem (ICEJ). I was a charter member of the U.S. board of directors, have attended three of the celebrations in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles and have spoken at two of them. I love the director, Johann Luckhoff, and Jan Willem van der Hoeven, the founding voice of the ICEJ. However, last year when I sensed the ICEJ was becoming politically involved, I resigned from the board—as did several others. It's not that I disagree with those who feel that political pressure and demonstrations are the proper approach—it's just that I'm called to use other methods. Besides, the term "Christian Zionism" does not fit into my understanding of Christ-likeness.



In May a number of the branch directors representing Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand, England and the United States met in London to discuss their own misgivings about the direction being taken by the ICEJ. Concern was expressed that Col. Orde Dobbie, the curator at the Garden Tomb, had resigned from the staff of the ICEJ—along with a number of others. The directors expressed concern over the “embarrassment and alienation” caused by: (1) “virtual loss of credibility in the eyes of the evangelical church throughout Israel”; (2) “waning credibility among Israeli leaders”; (3) “excessive and extreme emphasis on some political matters and a tendency to become a political rather than a biblical voice in Israel”; and (4) “departure from one of the original objectives, to be a reconciling influence between Arabs and Jews.” Respected Christians living in Israel such as Lance Lambert and Derek Prince, who are advisors to the ICEJ board, have also expressed concern over the current direction of the ICEJ.

Meanwhile plans are continuing for the Christian celebration during the Feast of Tabernacles scheduled for this fall, with hope being expressed by all that the problems will be resolved as lovers of Israel gather to pray.

IN THIS ISSUE I AM SPOTLIGHTING...

### HOME SCHOOLS

During a recent radio interview with Phyllis Schlafly, Dr. James Dobson warned his listeners about the grave dangers inherent in the public school system of America. The problem is not that prayer is not allowed in most public schools; rather it centers around the values which are being taught by humanist, homosexual or atheist teachers.

Second and third grade children are being taught courses in “Behavior Modification” and “Values Clarification.” When parents object, the children are given group “counseling.” These value modification courses depend on the teacher who is now allowed, by law, to teach that “responsible” pot smoking means limiting intake to five to six joints a week; that premarital sex is permissible if plans are made to prevent unwanted pregnancy and venereal disease; that homosexual behavior is an acceptable life style. (NOTE: On March 25 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that an Oklahoma teacher could not be dismissed for teaching homosexuality as an acceptable life style.)

In short, today’s child is being taught, as part of the normal education plan in the early years of grammar school, that there are no eternal moral values. This is in direct contradiction to the Hatch Act, which requires teachers to obtain permission from parents before teaching any kind of controversial material. The reasoning: homosexuality, drugs, premarital sex and many other subjects are no longer controversial.

I recommend you buy Phyllis Schlafly’s new book, **Child Abuse in the Classroom**, and that you write for Dr. Dobson’s tapes on the subject, “Mind Abuse in Our Schools.” Prices for both may be obtained by writing:

Dr. James Dobson  
Focus on the Family  
Box 500  
Arcadia, CA 91006.



The almost national hysteria surrounding child abuse has caused many teachers to warn small children to be aware of any "sexual" advances on the part of their parents. The result: Children are now afraid to crawl up in their daddy's lap, afraid to let mommy bathe them in the bathtub. If children notice any "deviant" behavior, they are encouraged to report their parents to the teacher—a procedure being used in Communist nations where children are rewarded for informing on their parents. This is a relatively new development dating back to 1980 when state school boards began coercing private and religious schools to conform to public school standards. Civil rights laws and child custody laws are now being used to give the state regulatory powers over church and family.

## CASE STUDY

I received a frantic phone call two weeks ago from a member of our church. For a number of years her husband has been awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award at our high school—an award given by the students. Both are lovely, loving people who honor God. They have a 13-year-old daughter who is in junior high school. For a number of weeks the daughter had wanted to smoke at home and had threatened to run away. She knew her parents would discipline her if she tried, however. In a social studies class in junior high she learned that the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) has the power to remove a child from a home if there is evidence of child abuse. She reported to her teacher (who is required by law to report all child abuse cases to HRS) that her parents abused her physically. That night a 26-year-old single girl, who is a certified case worker for HRS, knocked at my friends' door. She identified herself, said a complaint had been filed against the parents, and asked them if they had ever spanked their daughter with a paddle. The mother admitted she had—two years before. The case worker then removed the daughter from the home and took her to a shelter where she is allowed to smoke. She remains there while the confused and heart-broken parents wade through miles of red tape with the help of expensive lawyers, trying to get their child back home.

Such cases are causing more and more Christian parents to send their children to a Christian school—or to open a home school in their own home. The main problem with Christian schools is the expense. Many young parents simply cannot afford the necessarily high tuition—even of kindergarten classes. Another problem is transportation. Since most Christian schools do not run fleets of buses (or if they do, they charge, thereby increasing the cost of schooling) many parents have been forced to choose the home school over the Christian school.

Dr. James Dobson says: "Home schooling is the wave of the future." Likewise, Bill Gothard, who is devoting much of his time to promoting home schooling, says, "I believe home education has been the mission factor needed to motivate men as spiritual leaders and to motivate Christians in general to influence our world with the unchangeable principles of God's Word."

In March 1984, **Moody Monthly** devoted 11 pages to an extensive study on home schools. The lead article was written by Raymond Moore, one of the nation's most articulate voices for home schools. He is the author of three definitive books on



the subject: **Home Grown Kids, Home Spun Schools** and **Home Style Teaching**. A second article was by John W. Whitehead, a constitutional lawyer who has defended many Christian groups under attack by government agencies. (Whitehead defended Charles Simpson and the Gulf Coast Covenant Churches during their audit by the IRS.)

Two years ago when Dobson invited Raymond Moore to appear on his popular radio show, it generated the program's largest wave of mail to date.

Bill Gothard is now devoting almost a majority of his time preparing materials for home schools and promoting this life style among pastors and leaders who attend his Pastors' Seminars and the Advanced Training Institute.

After doing extensive research on the subject, Dean Merrill of **Leadership** magazine wrote an extensive article for the September 2, 1983 issue of **Christianity Today**. Merrill cited examples of schools which worked—and schools which didn't work. Although Merrill did not draw a final conclusion, the tone of his article definitely favored home schooling.

### **Uphill Battle**

Despite the Biblical foundation for home schools, the general tone in our nation is to oppose them. This is true not only by state regulatory bodies but by many institutional churches who see home school advocates as extremists. To try to overcome these obstacles home school proponents have organized in a number of states. In Florida, for instance, parent instructors organized last year to form the 142-member Florida Parent Educators Association. The president is Larry Walker of Pensacola.

Walker and his wife, Gail, took their 7-year-old twins out of public school because both boys suffered a type of anemia that robbed them of immunity to disease. Gail, who has a doctorate degree in educational psychology, now teaches the twins at home. A recent independent study showed that one child, John, now reads on a second-grade level, but his brother, Will, tackles books read by most seventh-grade students.

The obstacles are huge. While state laws mandate that children must attend private, parochial or public school, no provisions have been made for home schooling. Samuel L. Blumenfeld, author of **Is Public Education Necessary?**, says, "Public school officials see home schooling as a great threat to themselves, and they are determined to crush the home schooling movement." He advocates repeal of all compulsory school attendance laws, which originally were intended to cut down on truancy in the public schools and insure that all students received a proper education. "These laws," Blumenfeld emphasizes, "have been perverted. They are now used to force home schooling parents to send their children to public schools."

### **CASE STUDY**

Last year Samuel and Marquita Shippy, who live in New Plymouth, Idaho, pulled their six school-age children out of public school and began a home school. They cited two reasons: poor academic standards and subsequent low achievement scores of their children, plus a decline in the moral atmosphere in the schools. The state officials moved in on the Shippys. Both parents were jailed for 21 days in January and their six children were placed in foster homes. At this writing the children remain in foster homes. The parents may visit them for only two hours each Sunday afternoon.

A situation occurred in Texas when Robert and Elizabeth Brown



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pulled their 10-year-old son out of public school in Premont. They said their son could "barely read or write or do math and was still ranked near the top of his class." They also said his language, attitude and self esteem had disintegrated. The Browns faced similar charges as the Shippys, but escaped because Texas law does not distinguish between a "private" school and a "home" school. It is estimated that 5,000 parents are involved in home schooling in Texas alone.

Many lawsuits have emerged, challenging parent educators, claiming they violate compulsory school attendance regulations. One group, at least, is actively fighting these lawsuits. Christian Liberty Academy Satellite Schools (CLASS) in Prospect Heights, Illinois, aggressively promotes home schools. CLASS superintendent Paul Lindstrom is available to travel to any state to assist CLASS families facing court battles. Last year approximately 100 CLASS families nationwide were challenged by school authorities. Only two went to court, and CLASS won both cases. Yet one by one state legislatures are being forced to grant recognition. Strong pro-home schooling bills have recently been adopted in Louisiana and Arizona. Other states, however, while not anti-home school, are passing regulatory laws.

## Information Available

It is impossible in this brief space to fully cover the front on home schools. My purpose is to point out they not only exist, but are growing in number. Whether or not you are promoting home schools in your church, you need to have as much information as possible. For more information send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to:

Christian Home Schools  
8731 N.E. Everett  
Portland, OR 97220

Christian Life Workshops  
180 S.E. Kane Avenue  
Gresham, OR 97030

Hewitt Research Foundation  
Box 9  
Washougal, WA 98671

Christian Liberty Academy  
203 E. Camp McDonald Road  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts  
Box One  
Oak Brook, IL 60521

Pensacola Correspondence School  
Box 18000  
Pensacola, FL 32523

