

# The Robinson's Herald

July to September 97

*Dear Friends And Supporters Of The Robinsons*

Greetings from Carriacou! As I began this report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year, we were enjoying some heavy rains which began the night before. Our tank is overflowing and the island is lush and green!

**Thanks to those who have been praying for my health needs, but please do not let up.** My restricted activity over the last several months appears to be helping. I still have some discomfort at times, but for the first time since last November of 1997 I have been able to go on my 3 mile "fast walks" this past Monday through Friday. I am hoping to be able to continue this from here on out—the Lord willing and helping. I am definitely sleeping better and the exercise should help get my weight back down to an ideal of around 160 pounds. I currently weigh around 195. **Please pray for the Lord to enable me to glorify Him in my body by practicing better moderation in my eating habits.**

We really enjoyed having Tabitha with us for two months this past summer. The last of July she returned to the U.S. to prepare to enter college. Since August she has been enrolled in educational studies at Appalachian Bible College, Bradley, West Virginia, and is already deep into her studies. The school is academically accredited and we are very thankful for her being accepted there. She recently told us that she loves it! We thank the Lord for the way He is supplying her needs. While attending ABC she is also attending Grace Gospel Church located in Daniels, West Virginia, where she is also helping with AWANA on Wednesday nights. What a privilege it is to watch Tabitha trust the Lord as she continues to mature spiritually! Her mailing address at ABC is; Tabitha Robinson, P.O. Box ABC, Bradley, West Virginia 25818. Her telephone number is 304-877-3760, extension 1202. **Pray for her continued provision and for the Lord Jesus to help her remain focused on Him, and her primary purpose for being at ABC.**

Things continue to improve at Windward Bible Church as well. We have been able to visit some of our folks the last couple of months. We have also been blessed to have numerous new visitors from the village of Windward and the immediately surrounding areas. From time to time a woman in the her 30s comes from Windward and brings her 2 children to Sunday school. Another family has also been coming. They are in their early 30s and have 4 children. **The husband appears to have been a Rastaman, but a few Sundays back, at the conclusion of morning service, he privately acknowledged to me that he had received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.** During the message he had heard us give extensive teaching on salvation by grace through faith apart from all works—including water baptism and communion. Thus, I believe he really knew what he is was professing. His sincerity will be determined by what he does from this point on. He has let me know that he has to proceed at his own pace. I have sought opportunities to visit with him at home, but he says his work schedule prohibits it at this time. **I will keep him anonymous, but please pray for this man to grow and also to share his new faith openly with others. Pray also for his wife to be saved. Also pray for him to take the step of following the Lord in believer's baptism. Pray for another man in his late 40s to take the same step who also**

**professed salvation earlier this year.** By the way, a couple of weeks ago this latter man's 15 year old son asked me if he could come to service! I said everything I could think of to encourage him to do so. **Pray for him to come and also to be saved.**

This past Wednesday night another young man paid us a visit. He is also from Windward and appears to be in his late 20s. Like most Windward people he comes from a strict Roman Catholic background. So far, I am not aware that anyone even invited him to come, but we were all glad to see him. He listened intently during the Bible study and let people help him find the Bible passages to follow the teaching. **Please pray for his salvation also.**

Since 1992 we have been praying for the walls of darkness and religious tradition around Windward to be torn down. By God's grace the light is beginning to shine through, but the fortress is still in place. **Will you join us in praying faithfully for this village?**

Shortly after our last letter had gone out, I received a phone call from a family in the U.S. They are nearing the end of their training at Appalachian Bible College. They are also interested in Carriacou and open to the Lord possibly leading them to come here, perhaps even to work directly with us! I shall also keep their names anonymous, but please mention this to our God in your prayers as well. **Pray for their provision so they can come for a visit, perhaps next year, so they can see the work that needs to be done first hand. Please pray!**

Now on another matter. Back in 1982 I met author Constance Cumbey in person. She wrote the best-selling exposé, *The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow*, published by Huntington House in 1983. Linda and I actually had dinner with her and spent nearly an entire Sunday with her in Detroit, Michigan. I have tried to remain in contact with her since then and have corresponded by phone on a few occasions. We have recently corresponded by e-mail.

Mrs. Cumbey is also a practicing attorney. I was recently surprised to discover that she is also involved in the fight to bring the euthanasia practices of Dr. Kevorkian (a.k.a. "Dr. Death") to a halt. I was even more surprised, and even appalled, when she told me;

Dr. Kevorkian takes much of his inspiration from Alice Bailey. I have his annotated copy of Alice Bailey writings on Xeroxed sheets he kept ... it is her notions of death and dying he passes on to the world as 'medical science.'

My past personal research indicates Alice Bailey's works have been influential in Theosophy and the New Age movement for decades. Benjamin Creme is just one highly profiled New Age harbinger who has been influenced by Bailey's works and unreservedly endorses them. It was Creme who worked through Tara Press to place ads in newspapers all over the world in 1982 that announced that the "Lord Maitreya" had come to Earth. The add claimed Maitreya was actually the Christ of Christianity, the Messiah of the Jews, the Krishna of Hindus, the Imam Mahdi of Moslems, and the future incarnated Buddha of Buddhists.

Essentially, Theosophy is heavily esoteric and occultic in nature and blends tenets of Jewish mysticism, Christianity, and Eastern religions—especially those which promote the teachings of reincarnation. As I see it, this is the crux of the matter. Those who believe in reincarnation believe death enables a person to be "born again" in the next life. This new birth

is supposedly another chance to work out one's Karma, which is the supposed spiritual law of cause and effect. Balancing one's Karma is supposedly accomplished by suffering for any past wrongs, or enjoying prosperity and good health if one suffered in a previous life. Thus, helping the suffering to die is actually seen as helping them complete their present Karma by leaving the current suffering behind and entering into a better life. This is contrary to Biblical teaching that tells us death is followed by judgment and an eternal state (Hebrews 9:27) which is determined by whether one has trusted in Jesus for salvation.

If one has critically read some of Bailey's works they also know the "helping" of such Karma can also be used to justify some nasty activities. This includes using abortion, infanticide, and genocide in general when those physically or mentally challenged, or those suffering or doomed to suffer stand in the way of humanity's so thought evolutionary development. This can include not only mental or physical suffering or disability—but being spiritually challenged as well. Nearly every religion in the world can cooperate with and be sympathetic to the eclectic nature of the New Age Movement in some ways. However, Christianity as based upon the literal teachings of the Christian Scriptures cannot.

I am concerned that Kevorkian remains free even though tens of people have apparently died with his "help." I am even more alarmed because it seems his activities are gaining increasing acceptance with each assisted murder in which he is not charged or convicted. **I have shared this unusual material to ask all who receive this prayer letter to pray for Attorney Constance Cumbey, and others who are working to put a stop to implementing this devilish philosophy.**

Now on another note, I did produce some 50 copies of *Apollo's Revival: A Return to the Ancient Myths; The Ecumenical Movement and the Charismatic Renewal in Light of the Historical and Biblical Record*. Some 20 copies were delivered to various individuals in the U.S. as well as abroad. I have also given out some copies to selected folks in our local congregation here.

The comments and remarks offered thus far have been encouraging. It even looks as though some professionals are interested in helping me with final editing and artwork. PTL! But more importantly, it seems to be helping some Biblical Fundamentalists find biblical clarification and support for their beliefs so they can articulately challenge error and darkness with Biblical truth.

*Apollo's Revival* has also opened dialogue with some who wish to discuss some issues in more depth. One such issue happens to be pretty hot and controversial right now. It concerns the movement known as "Promise Keepers" (PK).

Right as I began initial preparation to write this edition of the "Robinson's Herald," I received some timely information in the mail that has prompted me to share my perspective on the subject. I will be referring to an article that appeared in *Our Sunday Visitor* (OSV)<sup>1</sup>, which is actually a Roman Catholic weekly newspaper. This article focused on PK from a Catholic perspective. It is really an eye-opener!

I have communicated with a respectable number of Fundamentalists who have actually attended PK's meetings. They usually focus on the so-thought "good work" this group is doing and have assured me that its speakers share the "gospel of salvation by grace." Thus, they believe PK people are coworkers in the faith who are worthy of our participation and cooperation. But is this actually so? Does PK really proclaim the

gospel of salvation by grace through faith—"apart from works"? As I believe you will soon see, this group fails this crucial test.

Simply because one says they believe "salvation is by grace through faith" does not necessarily mean they believe salvation is granted without works, which is true Biblical grace. . .

**<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

*Roman Catholics, as reflected in the beliefs of Augustine of Hippo, believe they are "being saved" by grace. They also believe this grace can only be received by partaking of the sacraments of the church—which includes water baptism and celebrating the mass. They also believe practicing good deeds, confession, offering prayers and devotion to dead saints and Mary, and even church membership are all needed to help them be saved.<sup>2</sup> And, all true Catholics are adamant about "grace" being received through works. What the article in OSV said about this issue is very enlightening;*

Yet, profound differences remained between the evangelicals of Promise Keepers and Catholics who were sympathetic. Last year, Promise Keepers published a "statement of faith" with lines that seemed to be crafted to exclude Catholics—or force them to reject their Catholic faith.

Section five of the Promise Keepers credo reads: "We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, was alienated from God. That alienation can be removed only by accepting, through faith alone, God's gift of salvation, which was made possible by Christ's death."

"Faith alone" is a key doctrine of the Protestant Reformation. Though the phrase appears nowhere in Scripture, it was inserted by Martin Luther into his German translation of the Bible.

The author of the above was correct in saying the phrase "faith alone" is not in the Bible. Yet that is exactly what Ephesians 2:9 means when it says "not of works, lest any man should boast" in referring to believers being saved as a "gift" by grace through faith. Romans 6:23 teaches the same by saying, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." To make sure He was not misunderstood, the Holy Spirit also had Paul to write;

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. <sup>5</sup>But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (Romans 4:4-5)

What the Bible says about salvation being by grace apart from works can be misunderstood only by not reading it. However, one can obviously choose not to believe it or even ignore it if they wish.

Because of the concern expressed to PK by Catholics over this issue, the author of the OSV article was happy to report . . .

Early this year, Promise Keepers revised the statement in a way that passed theological muster with those Catho-

<sup>1</sup> *Our Sunday Visitor*, July 20, 1997, as reproduced in the September 1997 issue of "The Berean Call," Bend, Oregon.

<sup>2</sup> I have supplied several official statements enumerating Catholic beliefs in *Apollo's Revival*. My sources were Encyclopedias and official literature that is sanctioned by the Holy See of Rome.

lics: "Only through faith, trusting in Christ alone for salvation, which was made possible by His death and resurrection, can that alienation be removed."<sup>3</sup>

*Regardless of how it may sound to some, the above statement cannot mean salvation is granted apart from works, for this is the issue that upset Catholics and prompted its revision in the first place. Instead "gift" has been dropped and the remaining is worded to limit salvation to being by "faith." For Catholics, faith is believing whatever their church says about salvation—which claims works are necessary. Notice;*

#### 9. What is faith?

Faith is a supernatural gift of God, which enables us to believe without doubting whatever God has revealed.

#### 11. How are you to know what God has revealed?

I am to know what God has revealed by the testimony, teaching, and authority of the Catholic Church.

#### 135. Will Faith alone save us?

Faith alone will not save us without good works: we must also have Hope and Charity.

#### 140. How must we obtain God's grace?

We must obtain God's grace chiefly by prayer and the holy Sacraments.

#### 249. What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward Sign of inward grace ordained by Jesus Christ, by which grace is given to our souls.

#### 252. Ought we have a great desire to receive the Sacrament?

We ought to have a great desire to receive the Sacraments, because they are the chief means of our Salvation.

#### 256. What is Baptism?

Baptism is a Sacrament which cleanses us from original sin, makes us Christians, children of God, and members of the Church.

#### 261. Is Baptism necessary for salvation?

Baptism is necessary for salvation, because Christ has said: "Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" . . .<sup>4</sup>

The revision of PK's "statement of faith" is a natural consequence of engaging in cross-doctrinal ecumenism. It is no skin off Satan's nose to credit such ventures with some good—but likely temporal—benefits and experiences in order to pervert the true gospel. Paul condemned such in the strongest words;

**<sup>6</sup>I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: <sup>7</sup>Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert [μεταστρέψαι, lit. to turn around] the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any**

other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.** (Galatians 1:6–8)

Just as with this issue involving PK, Paul also encountered those who believed "faith alone" was insufficient for salvation;

<sup>1</sup>And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. (Acts 15:1)

Concerning these who were perverting the gospel, Paul was inspired to respond by writing;

<sup>5</sup>To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. . . .

<sup>16</sup>Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:5, 16)

Continuing with the theme of arguing for salvation by grace as opposed to being by works, Paul also warned . . .

<sup>7</sup>Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? <sup>8</sup>This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. <sup>9</sup>A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. (Galatians 5:7–9)

In spite of all the above being said about salvation being a free gift offered by grace through faith, PK dropped the word "gift" (*i.e., grace*) from their statement of faith. They also continue to bend to please Roman Catholics. The same article carried in OSV also said;

While there are no hard figures, some say that 10–20 percent of those men are Catholic. And, recently, Promise Keepers, a largely evangelical movement, has taken steps to attract even more Catholic men to its events and principles of discipleship.

- At its March meeting, Promise Keepers' board of directors welcomed Mike Timmis as a new member. A Detroit-area lawyer and businessman, Timmis is a longtime leader in the Catholic charismatic renewal.

- At several rallies this year, Promise Keepers has spotlighted Catholic evangelist Jim Berlucchi as a speaker.

As a Catholic evangelist, Berlucchi would preach the official Catholic "gospel" that claims works is necessary for earning salvation. The true gospel is the scriptural story of how Jesus' life, death, and bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) paid the full debt for the sin of the world. It also claims this was a complete and perfect substitutional sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:12, 28 and 10:10–12) *This made salvation a gift that can only be received through faith. Consequently, PK's gospel is perverted—not biblical—as it has been purposefully worded in their adjusted statement of faith.* It appears close, but it is actually "another gospel" (Galatians 1:8) heralding "another Jesus" (2 Corinthians 11:4) which are compatible with the teachings of the Church of Rome.

PK's founder, Bill McCartney, had an agenda that included Roman Catholics from PK's inception. The following was stated in the same OSV article under consideration;

<sup>3</sup> I verified this statement at Promise Keepers' official web-site which is located at "<http://www2.promisekeepers.org/sof.htm>".

<sup>4</sup> Excerpted from *A Catechism of Christian Doctrines*, "Approved by the Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales and directed to be used in all their Dioceses. First published 1889, Revised Edition 1985, London, Catholic Truth Society, Publishers to the Holy See." Reprinted in *Apollo's Revival*, pp. 67–68, by Walter Robinson II, Copyright 1997.

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Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney told *Our Sunday Visitor* recently that full Catholic participation was his intention from the start.

“Back in 1992, at our first stadium event, we very clearly stated from the podium that we eagerly welcomed the participation of Roman Catholics, and we’ve had scores of Roman Catholics attend and go back to their churches excited. . . .”

The article also reported, “McCartney is a former Catholic” who “was active in Christ the King Association, a Catholic charismatic community based in Ypsilanti.” He was also “associated with the ecumenical Word of God covenant community” and actually claimed to be a “born-again Catholic.” Since then he has been associated with the “Boulder Valley Vineyard, which is affiliated with the Vineyard Christian Fellowship [VCF].” VCF is an outgrowth of John Wimber’s teaching on the so-called “The Third Wave” movement of the Holy Spirit, and it has many serious doctrinal problems and practices. The article also said;

Still, as recently as 1995, McCartney was identifying himself privately as a Catholic and admitting that he still prayed the Rosary. Today, he denies both, though he praises the formation he received as a Catholic.

From its inception PK has been charismatic and ecumenical by nature. It also has an increasingly strong Roman Catholic influence and inclusive policy by design. Its doctrinal stance is so broad the “gospel” it *officially* promotes is perverted. Nevertheless, I believe most involved with PK sincerely desire to do something good for the “cause of Christ.” But good motives mixed with bad doctrine in “Jesus’ Name” will only produce eternal heartache and suffering in the end. (Matthew 7:21–27)

Thus, Biblical Christians should avoid participating in PK activities. This is obviously a matter of personal discernment and choice for many. But as it pertains to local Bible teaching churches, pastors should become concerned when some in their congregations—and especially those in leadership—become involved with PK. The same applies to any who get involved in any ministry that utilizes any who embrace doctrinal error. (See Romans 16:17 and Titus 1:9, 16) Titus 2:7–8 literally calls for those who oversee ministry to be *uncorrupted in doctrine*, and to use *right and accurate words that cannot be criticized!* This rules out vaguely worded statements crafted to facilitate cross-doctrinal cooperation.

*Further, cooperating with the likes of PK can actually desensitize believers to doctrinal error and perversion—including those practiced by Charismatics.* Thus, believers in general are also admonished . . .

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. (Ephesians 5:11)

As such, Biblical Fundamentalist should not “give place by subjection, no, not for an hour” unto those who pervert the gospel in any way. Nor to those who *knowingly* and *willfully* sit under the influence of those who do. This is necessary to insure “that the truth of the gospel might continue with” believers. (Galatians 2:5)

But what about the apparent needed ministry to encourage men in the things of God and family? Why not challenge sound believers to put together local ministries that are participated in by local churches that are sound in both doctrine and practice? Such local events would not likely have the large numbers, the grandeur, the public eye, nor the large

coffers that supports PK events. They are even likely to be persecuted by most religious groups that are excluded from participation as leaders and speakers. But such has always been the case with God’s true workers doing His work. (See Ezra 4:1–5, Acts 16:16–24, and 2 Corinthians 4:8–9) Yet, bringing Catholics, and some Charismatics who are also deceived about salvation by grace, to such events could actually be instrumental in leading them to true biblical salvation and spiritual growth.

Perhaps most Fundamentalists who frequent PK events are merely uninformed. Maybe some pastors are also uninformed about the true nature of this ecumenical and charismatic movement, and thus, have failed to properly inform their flocks. If that is the case, perhaps this document can help by serving as a primer. Feel free to copy and distribute it as needed. One could also request a copy of “*Apollo’s Revival*” while some stock still remains from the preliminary printing.

As always, we are thankful for your faithful financial support and prayers. We could not be working here if you were not being faithful there in doing your part in carrying the true gospel unto all the world.

Still looking up to Him as your coworkers,

Walter Robinson II

Please send all support to:

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