

## Ecumenical YOUTH Organisations: 'Youth for Christ' and 'Youth with a Mission'

I was contacted recently by someone concerned about the content of a message given by the National Director of 'Youth for Christ: Ireland' Simon Marriott. In particular they were particularly worried by the evident enthusiasm for '**co-operative ecumenism**' with the Roman Catholic Church. The organisation's web site is found on <http://yfc.ie/>

The person who contacted me had tried to 'glean' information about **Youth for Christ** but had discovered nothing of any significance concerning the things that were troubling them and wondered if I could help. This was my reply –

Hi xxxxx, good to hear from you. I discovered quite early in my Christian life that YFC were on the wrong tracks, particularly where ecumenism was concerned. This link takes you to a quite old article but it nevertheless documents long-standing problems with YFC. I wouldn't endorse everything this ministry produced but much is helpful - this is the link  
<http://jbeard.users.rapidnet.com/bdm/Psychology/yfc.htm>

I subsequently received the following reply –

Well thank you Cecil, the article affirmed everything we thought or knew after hearing such a message last night.

I myself then took the time to listen to the message which can be heard on –

<http://www.ballynahinchbaptist.org/sermon/working-with-yfc/?fbclid=IwAR3iBQj6EB527Ajxtn3XRpJ8QBkfn73tvYkfS8NxV2JhuF2wTNAuedgrrZo>

The relevant portions where '**ecumenical endeavours**' are openly welcomed, advocated and praised can be found by listening to **18.10 – 21.40** and **41.32 – 42.55**.

In the first portion Mr Marriott speaks of how a group calling themselves '**Christian Voices Together**' had been meeting together in Mullingar four times each year over a number of years. The group included 4 Roman Catholic priests, 1 Anglican minister, 1 Presbyterian minister, several folks from a Community church and others. He was so impressed with this that he invited them to meet at the **YFC** premises for a meal every 8 weeks. He said '**the glue**' that bonded them was '**Jesus**'. The problem of course is that the **Roman Catholic 'Jesus'** is **not the true Jesus of the Scriptures**.

Then in the second portion Mr Marriott expresses his belief that God is going to do mighty things across Ireland including in **Roman Catholic parishes**. Sadly of course, as long as these folks remain 'wedded' to **Roman Catholicism**, nothing genuine and of the Holy Spirit will be happening amongst them.

I found listening to the message quite 'hard going' as it tended to 'ramble' and lacked 'structure' (as Mr Marriott himself basically admitted) and I'm conscious those are 'subjective' observations but I also found the biblical content/application in the last section to be 'light' and 'questionable' (as you will read in the closing paragraph of this article) and that for me would be an 'objective' observation.

One final **great** concern for me was the obvious welcome for and use of the **ALPHA** course and my concerns about it are well documented in the video of my talk on the subject which can be viewed on these links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6DjxpYR7mk> (Part one)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L10A00LqKeM> (Part two)

On further looking at the web site of the church where this talk was given, I noticed that they also support '**Youth with a Mission**' so I sent details of my concerns with **YWAM** to my inquirer and this was what I wrote –

XXXXX,

I had a look at other groups supported by BBC and noticed that **YWAM** feature - sadly they are as problematical as **YFC** as this report demonstrates

<http://jbeard.users.rapidnet.com/bdm/Psychology/ywam.htm>

I also referred in an article to their then leader in Ireland, **Rob Clarke**, when a book called '**Adventures in Reconciliation**' was published many years ago by the so-called '**Evangelical Catholic Initiative**'. You can see my article on

<http://www.takeheed.info/a-christian-response-by-cecil-andrews-to-adventures-in-reconciliation-29-catholic-testimonies/>

**Mr Clarke** was also the headline speaker in March 1994 at an '**Evangelical Catholic**' conference on 'Encouragement'.

From a lengthy article by former Roman Catholic, **Tom McMahon**, who now heads up The Berean Call ministry founded by the late Dave Hunt we read –

**'Most of the popular parachurch ministries, rather than evangelising Catholics, work with them as Christians. These ministries include Prison Fellowship, the Billy Graham Association, Campus Crusade, YWAM, Promise Keepers, InterVarsity Fellowship, and Focus on the Family.'**

That article can be viewed on

<http://www.takeheed.info/evangelicals-and-catholics-dialogue-unto-death/>

I also made reference to **YWAM** when I aired concerns about the line-up for '**New Horizon**' back in 2001 and you can access that article on

<http://www.takeheed.info/clouds-of-concern-over-new-horizon/>

The relevant portion from that article reads –

**'Another effort that has drawn ecumenical support and participation is the worldwide 'March for Jesus' movement. Central to the thinking and theology behind these marches has been the idea [false] that Christians can engage in open warfare with 'territorial spirits. One of three men behind the setting up of the 'March for Jesus' was Roger Forster [annihilationist as opposed to eternal conscious punishment] – the other two being Lynn Green of the ecumenical YWAM and Gerald Coates of the 'Toronto Blessing' and 'Gold tooth-filling' fiascos.**

Why am I drawing attention to these errors in relation to **New Horizon**? Simply because Roger Forster heads up Ichthus Christian Fellowship in England and the worship leader for the **New Horizon** weekend is New Zealander David Lyle Morris who according to the programme is 'based with the Ichthus Christian Fellowship in London'.

Back in 2000 **YWAM** also gave their support (as did **YFC**) to an event featuring another deceiver called **Tony Campolo** and you can read that short article on

<http://www.takeheed.info/tony-campolo-to-spearhead-history-makers-initiative/>

Finally, back in 1998 I included the following in my ministry newsletter for June of that year and as you will read both **YWAM** and **YFC** were involved - –

**• The Rec Walk (5th July 1998 – 28th August 1998)**

The purpose is described as '**It's Christian young people on a journey of discovery together around the borders of Northern Ireland discovering their common destiny in Christ and His heart for their land while praying for Reconciliation: Unity: Peace. The Executive Committee are drawn from the Church of Ireland Youth Council; Christian Fellowship Church; CATHOG; Methodist Youth and YWAM Amongst the listed supporters are 1 Cardinal and 3 (RC) Bishops, 4 Church of Ireland Bishops; 1 former moderator and 3 Presbyterian ministers, representatives of Youth for Christ and Scripture Union**'.

Those involved in this '**Rec Walk**' bring to mind those faithless ones which Paul reminded Timothy of in 1 Timothy 1v 18-19 "**This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; HOLDING FAITH and a good conscience; WHICH SOME HAVING PUT AWAY CONCERNING FAITH HAVE MADE SHIPWRECK.**"

That newsletter can be fully accessed on this link –

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-june-1998/>

Hope this is helpful.

For Christ

Cecil

My hope is that this short article will serve as a helpful resource to show how these organisations are betraying the **truth** of the gospel by their willing compromise with **'false ecumenism'**. At the start of the **YFC** talk it was stated that the **'oneness'** prayed for by the Lord in **John 17:21** was **'oneness of heart'** – **NO** - the heart is very deceitful (**Jeremiah 17:9**). The true **'oneness'** prayed for is **'oneness in truth'** (**John 17:17**) and the **'false ecumenism'** advocated by both **YFC** and **YWAM** is **at the expense of "truth"**.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 14th August 2019