

NEW AGE MOVEMENT:

Three Old Lies.

In recent months I have been publishing articles on the ministry web site that have included the text of some tracts that were written and published in the early years of 'Take Heed' Ministries. Two of those articles related to **THE HARE KRISHNAS** and to **YOGA**. The relevant articles for these can be accessed on <http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/December-2014/Hare-Krishnas.pdf> and <http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/December-2014/Yoga.pdf> My reason for drawing particular attention to these two articles is that their subject matter is very relevant to the subject matter of this article on **THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT**. As you will read and also see via video links, Eastern religious philosophy and practices formed key elements of that **NEW AGE MOVEMENT** as it 'blossomed' late 20th century. As with those other articles I want now to include the text of my early 'Take Heed' tract which in this case was titled "**Three Old Lies of the New Age Movement**".

Three Old Lies of the New Age Movement

"There is no new thing under the sun"

Ecclesiastes 1:9

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years the subject of the **New Age Movement (or NAM)** has been widely mentioned in Christian circles but often at meetings I am still asked to try and explain what the **NAM** is. The **NAM** does not have an earthly headquarters, a printed policy manifesto or a basis of faith but I believe that many ideas which are currently popular in the world today would encapsulate the spirit of the **NAM**. The **NAM** seeks to reject the **PERSONALITY** of the holy and righteous God of the Bible and to reject the **PURPOSES** of this same God. The God of the Bible is a personal God who can be known in a personal way (see **Matthew 11:27** and **John 17:3**). He is not some impersonal 'Star Wars' force. Neither is He a God who will set aside His judgment on sin (**Genesis 2:17**). At present in this age of grace He is calling a people to Himself who "**were not redeemed with... silver and gold... but with the precious blood of Christ**" (1st **Peter 1:18-19**). Satan's strategy through the **NAM** is to employ the **three old lies** he used in **Genesis 3** when he said (1) "**Ye shall not surely die**" (v 4) (2) "**Ye shall be as gods**" (v 5) (3) "**knowing**" (v 5). In this leaflet I hope by God's grace to detail some areas where these **three old lies** are functioning today as we approach this co-called **New Age**.

(1) "YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE"

The Bible clearly teaches that following physical death there will be a judgment for all to face; **"it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment"** (Hebrews 9:27); **"the hour is coming in the which all... shall come forth... unto the resurrection of life and... unto the resurrection of damnation"** (John 5:28-29).

Because of the growing influence of Eastern religious philosophy, an increasing number of people in the 'Christian' Western world are now believers in **REINCARNATION**. This teaches that the human soul passes from the body at physical death and enters into a new physical body which will have been determined by what is known as **'the law of KARMA'**. This means that the good actions and bad actions of our previous life are weighed against each other to determine the level of human (or animal) existence we will have in our next mortal life. People in high places are promoting this lie of **REINCARNATION**.

(A) ENTERTAINMENT: The well known actress **Shirley MacLaine** promotes the idea that we have all lived before and that **there is no real death simply reincarnation**. She claims to be aware of previous lives she has lived. **Diane Solomon**, another American entertainer, said on 'Kelly'*** – a programme on Ulster TV - that, under hypnosis she had been regressed into previous lives including one where she had been a man going across a field to buy sugar for 'his' wife's birthday.

(B) EDUCATION: The founder of a group known as **The Anthroposophical Society** was a man called **Rudolf Steiner** who fervently held to belief in **reincarnation**. Around the world various special care centres and schools bearing his name have been established and in associated literature we read they have **'been built on the underlying principles of Rudolf Steiner'**.

(C) RELIGION: Eastern religions such as **Hinduism**, the **Hare Krishna Movement** and **Buddhism** are flourishing in the West and of course all teach **REINCARNATION**. Well known personalities such as **Hayley Mills, Boy George, ex-Beatle George Harrison, Tina Turner, Patrick Duffy and Richard Gere** have done much to popularise these faiths. Other activities such as **Yoga and Transcendental Meditation** plus groups like **The Grail Movement, the Unity School of Christianity and Rosicrucianism** are vehicles to introduce people to the concept of **REINCARNATION**.

REINCARNATION is a lie of the devil because it rejects the truth that the holy and righteous God of the Bible will judge sins (**"the transgression of the (His) law"** 1st John 3:4) of men and cast into **"outer darkness"** (Matthew 25:41) and **"everlasting fire"** (Matthew 25:41) and **"everlasting punishment"** (Matthew 25:46) those who die unrepentant, in their sins, rejecting Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sins on the cross as their only plea for mercy and gracious salvation.

REINCARNATION rejects the purposes of the God of the Bible whom planned to redeem a people unto Himself – a people who were totally incapable of saving themselves from the prescribed penalty for their sins (“**the wages of sin is death**” **Romans 6:23** – eternal separation from the presence and blessing of God) no matter how many lives they supposedly might have lived. **REINCARNATION** – “**Ye shall not surely die**” is the first old lie of the NAM.

*** You can watch a video of this TV interview with **Diane Solomon** in which she tells of her ‘past lives’ and also misguidedly claims to be a ‘Christian with wavy edges of belief’ by going to this link – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLdA2qF6hFI>

(2) “YE SHALL BE AS GODS”

On Channel 4 TV a series was screened called ‘**The New Age**’ *** and in the first programme it was enlightening to listen to the comments of some of the contributors. Sir George Trevelyan said the following ‘**The whole meaning of the experiment if man on earth is to develop a creature who can in time come back to God as a co-creator... are we worthy... to become a co-creator with God? That’s the great human destiny... now coming to fulfilment**’. Alan Watson of the **FINDHORN Community** in Scotland said. ‘**For me the important thing about the New Age is the recognition that the presence of God is in each one of us rather than an external figure... actually we are divine beings**.’ Shirley MacLaine wrote, ‘**the tragedy of the human race was that we had forgotten that we were each divine**’. (‘Out on a Limb’ p 352).

These people are telling us that we can be, and in fact are, like God. Sound familiar? Listen to **Isaiah 14:14** “**I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high**”. Here we read of the fall of the devil (v 12) himself through his puffed up pride and in answer, in **Isaiah 42:8**, God says, “**I am the Lord; that is my Name; and My glory will I not give to another**”. Only God has created something out of nothing as we read in **Hebrews 11:3**. If the day ever dawns (which it won’t) that man is able to do that then he will have the right to term himself as a ‘**co-creator**’.

As for ‘**the presence of God is in each one of us**’ this is simply not true. Only true Christians, born again of the Spirit of God, are indwelt by God because Jesus promised them concerning Himself and His Father “**We will come unto him and make our abode with him**” (**John 14:23**). If God promises to come and indwell someone it means He is not there in the first place. Moving into the field of religion itself, some actually claiming to be Christians, we find this false promise of godhood being spread around.

Mormonism teaches that obedient Mormons can expect to become Gods and Goddesses who will own and populate their own planets throughout eternity. They have a saying that goes as follows – ‘**As man is, God once was; As God is, man may become**’.

Armstrongism (Worldwide Church of God) which produces **'The Plain Truth'** magazine and **'The World Tomorrow'** satellite TV broadcast taught for over 40 years that God was creating a family of Gods although much of the theology formulated by the founder, **Herbert W Armstrong** is currently under review. (Cecil – since writing this **'New Age Movement'** leaflet the **Worldwide Church of God** has dropped many of Armstrong's heresies and has embraced much orthodox Christian belief. Despite this they have consistently failed to identify their original founder **Herbert W Armstrong** as being the false prophet and heretic that he was. Their change of course towards orthodox Christianity was not accepted by many of their members and adherents and in consequence a number of breakaway groups formed that continue to hold to much of what Armstrong taught – one such group would be the **'Living Church of God'** under the leadership of **Roderick C. Meredith**, one of the original evangelists ordained in December 1952 by the late Herbert W. Armstrong.)

Kenneth Copeland, American TV 'evangelist', author and whose broadcasts are expected shortly in Europe via satellite TV said, **'You don't have a God in you; YOU ARE ONE'**. (Cecil – again since writing this leaflet Mr Copeland's programmes have regularly featured in the UK etc on the likes of GOD TV and now via TBN UK)

"Ye shall be as gods" as taught by these groups and individuals both rejects and usurps the personality of the only creator, God Himself, and rejects the purposes of that same God who has redeemed a people (Cecil – this people are not and will not be gods – see Revelation 21:3) unto Himself, and it is **the second old lie of the NAM**.

*** Later in this article I shall be giving two links that will enable you to watch that Channel 4 TV series on 'The New Age' and you will be able to watch Sir George Trevelyan and Alan Watson actually say what I have quoted in my leaflet/article.

(3) "KNOWING"

Satan held out to Eve the prospect of hidden knowledge if she would disobey God and give heed to what he was telling her. Today more and more people are prepared to go to any lengths and to pay any price to gain hidden knowledge or power. This is particularly true where what are known as **OCCULTIC PRACTICES** are concerned. The word **'OCCULT'** simply means **'hidden'** and relates to methods that people employ in their pursuit of hidden power or knowledge. There is nothing new about them as many of them are mentioned in **Deuteronomy 18:9-12**.

ASTROLOGY, where the term **'New Age'** is drawn from is big business today and from The White House to The Kremlin political leaders have received astrological readings. Leading film stars, daily newspapers and breakfast TV include horoscopes in their daily schedules – influential people joining with those in **WICCA**, worship of **'Mother Earth'** and believers in the healing power of **'crystals'** to **"worship... the creature more than the creator"** (Romans 1:25). Paul describes such people as **"fools"** (Romans 1:22).

CLAIRVOYANTS can be found in High Street shopping centres or contacted through personal column adverts and **palmists, tarot card readers** and **crystal ball gazers** are commonly found in seaside resorts. This upsurge in **fortune-telling** is a revival of **DIVINATION** (Deuteronomy 18:10).

SPIRITISM is common practice through a network of '**SPIRITUALIST CHURCHES**' and also through the use of **Ouija Boards, Mediums** and **Seances**. This practice of contacting the spirits of the dead is **NECROMANCY** (Deuteronomy 18:11). This practice even appeared at a so-called Christian gathering – **The World Council of Churches** in Canberra, Australia, when one delegate in a 'prayer' called upon the spirits of dead people and inanimate objects such as the Amazon rainforest. God declares both these practices and the practitioners to be an "**abomination**" (Deuteronomy 18: 9 &12).

Promoters of **MULTI-FAITHISM** tell us that we must seek for light (hidden from us? Satan's strategy in the Garden of Eden) in other faiths. Joshua said concerning other nations and their gods "**come not among these nations... neither make mention of the name of their gods nor cause to swear by them neither serve them nor bow yourselves unto them. But cleave unto the Lord your God**" (Joshua 23:7-8).

Business training programmes such as **FORUM** (formerly EST) and **SILVA MIND CONTROL** are based upon occult meditative practices such as **VISUALISATION** and should be resisted.

ALTERNATIVE HEALING THERAPIES which claim to be a rediscovery of ancient wisdom are something which every Christian should approach with caution. The apostle Paul wrote "**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy**" (Colossians 2:8) and the underlying philosophy behind many practices such as **acupuncture** and **reflexology** would appear to run contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures. For a good treatment of this whole subject I would recommend the book '**Healing – At any price?**' by Dr Samuel Pfeifer and published by Word Books.

The true God of the Bible has imposed certain 'no-go' areas for our own good and these are in keeping with His personality and purposes but today, spurred on by the devil, man is challenging God and pursuing practices which are "**the ways of death**" (Proverbs 16:25). The promise of "**knowing**" is **the third old lie of the NAM**.

CONCLUSION

The **NAM** is founded upon lies and so the duty of every Christian is to lovingly point people involved in any way in the **NAM** to the truth. Jesus said "**I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life; No man cometh unto the Father but by me**" (John 14:6). Every person, including **new-agers** is a sinner (Romans 3:23). "**Christ died for our sins**" (1st Corinthians 15:3) and "**Jesus... shall save his people from their sins**" (Matthew 1:21). "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved**" (Acts 16:31).

Following on from this text of my early 'Take Heed' tract which was titled "Three Old Lies of the New Age Movement" I want now to supply a link to the audio of a talk I gave back in 1997 on the subject of 'The New Age Movement'. This talk was one of a series of assorted talks that I gave at a special 'Bible Week' organised by Second Newtownards Presbyterian Church. The link to listen to that talk is –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NhltvRqYfl>

Having set out both in print and by audio my own assessment of the **NEW AGE MOVEMENT** I want now to let these **New Agers** speak for themselves. Earlier in the text of my tract I mentioned a series of programmes that were broadcast (in 1991) by Channel 4 TV. You can now watch these programmes by going to these two links –

NEW AGE SERIES (Part one)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5hx0q2HgMQ>

NEW AGE SERIES (Part two)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xo-YN5CyFs>

At this point in this article I feel it might be helpful for me just to quote a number of scriptures that I feel are relevant when it comes to assessing from a Christian viewpoint the practices and beliefs of those **new-agers** you have just watched and listened to. I'm not directing or linking these scriptures to any specific portions of the videos but I feel you may find them helpful when considering what you have just watched and what you will read and watch later..

"And the serpent said unto the woman. Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"

Genesis 3:4-5

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"

2nd Corinthians 4:3-4

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent... hath God not made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe... Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men... not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise"

1st Corinthians 1:19-27

“When they knew God they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools; And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things... Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen”

Romans 1:21-25

**“In those days there was no king in Israel:
Every man did that which was right in his own eyes”**

Judges 21:25

**“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death”**

Proverbs 14:12

“There shall not be found among you anyone that... useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord”

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him who is the head of all principality and power”

Colossians 2:8-10

“I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not... O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

Romans 7:18 & 24-25

**“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?
Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil?**

Jeremiah 13:23

**“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold all things are become NEW”.**

2nd Corinthians 5:17

In the **New Age** series of videos a number of **New Age ‘hot-spots/locations’** were mentioned and I want now to make particular reference to two of them.

GLASTONBURY and FINDHORN

When speaking about **THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT** I often showed the video of a 25-minute programme broadcast some years ago that followed the 'exploits' of a Church of England minister, **Kevin Logan**, as he met with **New Agers**. In that programme we saw what happened when he visited and met with **New Agers** in **GLASTONBURY** and **FINDHORN**. I think at this point it would be helpful for you to watch that programme and you can do so by going to this link –

KEVIN LOGAN at GLASTONBURY & FINDHORN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn2tK7t1pqw>

As you will have seen, **ALTERNATIVE HEALING THERAPIES** featured quite prominently at times in the programme and I shall be writing in greater detail about them later in this article.

Over the years **GLASTONBURY** in Somerset has certainly 'put itself on the map' for a number of reasons. One reason is its annual music festival that attracts tens of thousands of visitors who set up camp under canvas for the duration of the festival. One essential must-pack item to be brought is wellington boots for on many occasions the festival has experienced huge downpours of rain and splashing about in the mud has become quite a regular feature of the event.

Another reason, and the one that is relevant to this article, is that **GLASTONBURY** has become very much a centre for all things **New Age**. Over the centuries various myths and a mystique have grown up in, around and about **GLASTONBURY** that have really laid a foundation upon which those holding to **New Age** thinking and beliefs have been able to build.

To illustrate this I would now invite you to watch a programme that will I believe amplify and explain what I have just written. This is the link –

GLASTONBURY MYSTIQUE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0IJDjXQYrk>

So much for **GLASTONBURY**, but what about **FINDHORN** which is located on the North East coast of Scotland and not too far from Inverness?

A number of years ago I visited **FINDHORN** when in the area and I wrote about that experience in an article in my ministry newsletter of June 1998. It can be accessed on <http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-june-1998/> but I wish also to reproduce what I wrote then in that article. This is what I wrote under a heading of -

'Foreign Feelings at Findhorn'

Margaret and I were able to spend a relaxing week in a quiet area of North East Scotland during the last week of April and I took the opportunity to visit one of the best known (in the world) **New Age** centres – **The Findhorn Foundation** which lies east of Inverness overlooking the Moray Firth. This was a centre which was familiar to me through the writings of amongst others Dave Hunt and also through the video of a TV programme which I often use when talking on the New Age. It is a combination of static caravans and purpose built offices/visitors centre/arts centre/shop and cafe/. **I doubt if I have ever felt as spiritually uncomfortable as I did during our time there and after about 15 minutes we left as the feeling of oppression was intense.***** I managed to pick up some leaflets and leave some scripture references in the visitors book (John 14:6; Acts4:12). I also obtained Network News/April 1998 – the magazine of the Foundation and the worldwide influence of this group was highlighted in an article entitled '**Findhorn Foundation and the United Nations.**' Part of that article stated -

'Last December the United Nations accredited the Findhorn Foundation as a non-governmental organisation associated with the UN's Department of Public Information. This unique recognition involves supporting the process of implementing the principles of the United Nations, raising awareness on UN activities and issues of global concern...This association with the UN entails a commitment on the part of Findhorn Foundation "to disseminate information and raise public awareness about the purposes and activities and achievements of the United Nations and issues of global concern" related to sustainability, environment peace, shelter new world order... This recognition is not to aggrandise the group ego but to affirm the true nature of the work which is unfolding at Findhorn. Its founding pattern of attunement to the Will of God brings with it a planetary context – not in a missionary sense but in the sense of a deep alignment with the purpose of the planetary being...The deeper the Community will go into its local, practical and inner work the more energy from above will pour in' (p4)

Those familiar with **New Age** terminology and philosophy will readily recognise how opposed these views are to the Creator God, Who can only be '**attuned to**' through faith in the person and work of His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is working out His plans and purposes rather than those of some '**planetary being**' and Who gifts to all His chosen people the Person of God the Holy Spirit to indwell them rather than exterior spiritual '**energy from above**' often symbolised today by the rainbow.

13 years ago when he published his book 'The Seduction of Christianity' Dave Hunt quoted the then leading UN Official Robert Muller 'The time has come to obtain peace on this planet...the UN charter has to be supplemented by a charter of spiritual laws' (p53/54). **Findhorn is now part of that `supplement!'**

***** Cecil – The only other time I have felt such intense spiritual oppression was when Margaret and I visited the Roman Catholic Marian Shrine at Knock in County Mayo – there was truly 'a heavy darkness' present and once again we left shortly after seeing some of the well-visited buildings on the site.**

In 2004 Channel 4 TV broadcast a series of 3 programmes looking at the activities that go on at **FINDHORN** and if you would like to watch those programmes you can do so by going to links that I will give you shortly.

Before that let me quote from the '**Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs**' by John Ankerberg and John Weldon – they wrote (p 40) –

'Dorothy MacLean is a New Age leader and one of several co-founders of the spiritistic FINDHORN COMMUNITY in Scotland. She is the author of several books on how to contact angels and other spirits. In "Angels Today" she discusses her personal experience with angels. "I found that I could not make contact with these angels until I myself was in a state of consciousness similar to theirs... To them we had magnificent divine potentials... We were gods in the making... They await our choice to let our lives be guided by our intuitions, by our angelic awareness that we may cooperate with them.'

[Cecil – as I typed that quotation the following scriptures came to mind – "But I fear lest by ANY MEANS as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be CORRUPTED from the simplicity that is in Christ... And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an ANGEL of light" "2nd Corinthians 11: 3 & 14].

They also wrote (p 46)

'The spiritistic FINDHORN COMMUNITY in Scotland, with its worship of nature spirits (*devas*) and angels, is one example of how the popular angels' emphasis on the environment leads to contact with demons under the guise of harmony with Mother Earth. In return for their prayers and for worship to the spirits inside trees, plants and rivers, the angels promise people physical, emotional and spiritual healing. They also promise the earth will evolve into perfection'.

The programmes featured on the following three links will enable you to judge whether these quotes from the '**Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs**' accurately reflect what goes on at **FINDHORN**. Personally I think they do but you can be the judge by going to –

FINDHORN SERIES (Part one)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKeLHlsdahQ>

FINDHORN SERIES (Part two)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbEIYc-Jq3o>

FINDHORN SERIES (Part three)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4GaGOT9-U8>

ALTERNATIVE HEALING THERAPIES

Earlier in this article I made reference to **ALTERNATIVE HEALING THERAPIES** and said that I would make more detailed reference to them. Recommendations and referrals to practices such as **Acupuncture, Reflexology, Homoeopathy, Iridology, Aromatherapy** and the use of **Herbal Remedies** have increased substantially over recent years. Do these pose any problems for Christians? In some cases and situations I do believe Christians need to exercise caution.

In his book '**The Serpent and The Cross**' Alan Morrison wrote the following (pp 169-170) –

'Never has there been such a focus of interest on healing of all types – especially on those which involve “self-help” and which explore the physical and spiritual “energies” which are alleged to lie beyond the normal field of perception. Catchphrases which were once confined to obscure foundations, such as Holistic Healing, Alternative Medicine and Complimentary Medicine, have now become a standard part of the medical vocabulary... The Holistic Health Movement as we know it today is based on the concept that “we are all sentient (capable of feeling) beings who are continually creating our own realities” (E. Bauman: 'The holistic Health Handbook': And/OR Press 1978: p 13) That is a classic self-deifying Neo-Gnostic concept... Illness is therefore regarded as a result of “an imbalance of energy flow throughout the body” (W. Ohashi: 'D-I-Y Shiatsu': Unwin 1977: p 10)

Examples of the techniques used in the Holistic Health Movement are Homeopathy, Yoga, Naturopathy, acupuncture, massage (many forms: Swedish, Polarity Massage, Metamorphic etc), reflexology (foot manipulation), hypnotherapy, T'ai Chi, Shiatsu, visualisation, meditation, colour healing, various psychotherapies, crystal dowsing, faith healing, New Thought systems such as Silva Mind Control and Positive thinking etc.

Although a number of the treatments used by the Holistic Health Movement should be encouraged... as some are not only harmless but positively beneficial (e.g. herbal medicine, some forms of massage etc) an increasing number of therapeutic approaches are based on a combination of occult techniques. Some involve the utilisation of psychic powers, Shamanism and the ancient Eastern view of the body with its location and manipulation of so-called CHAKRAS (energy centres) and “meridians” (energy channels). Any therapy which claims to tune in to “energies” is suspect'.

In his **INTRODUCTION** to the **Third (Updated) Edition** of his book '**UNDERSTANDING ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE: Holistic Health in the New Age**' Roy Livesey wrote (pp 13-15) –

'Alternative Medicine continues to increase in popularity. I view the situation even more seriously than when writing the Second Edition. The hold that Alternative Medicine is taking increases and the therapies themselves are, I believe, generally more deceptive than I had supposed... The infiltration into the Christian Church runs deeper... When the First Edition of this book was written in 1983 I hadn't paid my first visit to America as a Christian. I hadn't recognised what is now so very clear both here (UK) and in America, the existence of the NEW AGE MOVEMENT. I had been a New Ager but I hadn't properly understood the vastness of the New Age, and I didn't call it by that name.

I had been a New Ager long before I became taken up with supernatural healing and holistic health. Yet it was holistic health, alternative medicine, that eventually gripped my attention more than anything previously, and it was this that Satan eventually used to seduce me into the occult realm... What I didn't at once realise as I proceeded step by step... was that alternative medicine, notwithstanding it was extraordinarily significant in my own course of deception, was indeed a most logical place to start. **Alternative Medicine is an occult entry point for increasing numbers** ... unredeemed man is faced with a vast range of alternatives which mostly appear to be very different. Satan appears to present a marvellous choice. **However Christians can see the same threads running through the vast majority of therapies identified. God will give discernment to those who love the truth and seek it only from Him...** Herbal remedies are looked at (right) at the outset in Chapter One. Herbal remedies are biblical. While most of alternative medicine is well avoided by Christians, what we have in this book is not a blanket condemnation and I hope that what I have written about Herbal remedies may encourage Christians in an area which seems increasingly to be taken over by New Agers.

Perhaps the most serious area for concern and for our discernment is the infiltration of New Age healing methods and techniques into the Church. "Signs and Wonders", Psychology, Visualisation, Inner Healing and Positive Confession come into this category... **I want to emphasise the purpose of this book. It is to encourage the reader in his own discernment. I believe a start is made when we realise, all of us, that we can be deceived.'**

I want now to invite you to watch some video segments that show excerpts from a couple of programmes where the focus was on **ALTERNATIVE HEALING THERAPIES**. Personally I was quite impressed by the contribution made by the **acupuncture practitioner** who appeared to distance himself from the ancient 'energy' philosophy espoused by many and to put forward a simple biological and anatomical explanation for the beneficial effects. This is the link to these segments -

ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES – segments

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq9iaK2TCEg>

Rather than me trying in this article to give specific advice (Aromatherapy excepted as I will explain shortly) I will simply recommend two books that examine the pros and cons from a Christian standpoint. In each case I will list the title and give links as to where copies of the books can be obtained both in the UK and in the USA. The books are -

“Healing at any price” (by Samuel Pfeifer) UK

http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/offer-listing/0850091535/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1_olp?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1421674652&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=healing+at+any+price+samuel+pfeiffer&condition=used

“Healing at any price” (by Samuel Pfeifer) USA

<http://www.amazon.com/Healing-Price-Samuel-M-D-Pfeifer/dp/0850091535>

“New Age Medicine” (by Paul C Reisser) UK

http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=new+age+medicine+reisser

“New Age Medicine” (by Paul C Reisser) USA

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=NEW%20AGE%20MEDICINE%20REISSER

In relation to **AROMATHERAPY**, which featured in the video segment of the programme presented by **Gloria Hunniford**, I actually wrote some years ago a short booklet based upon my own research into this practice and what I will do now is reproduce the text of that short booklet. This is what I wrote –

‘AROMATHERAPY and the CHRISTIAN’

INTRODUCTION

In the little leaflet which I wrote under the title of ‘**The Three Old Lies of the New Age Movement**’ I made reference to the upsurge in the popularity of **ALTERNATIVE HEALING THERAPIES** and I recommended the book ‘**Healing – At any price?**’ by Dr Samuel Pfeifer and published by Word Books. This publication examined many of the therapies which have become popular but the practice of **AROMATHERAPY** is not dealt with in it and this is a therapy which I am more and more being asked to comment upon. This booklet is an attempt to set out what the practitioners of **AROMATHERAPY** claim are the benefits of the practice and secondly to examine the implications of these claims where the Christian is concerned.

THE ORIGINS

The opening paragraph of an article in the Belfast Telegraph of 2nd September 1991 read –

‘The delicate scent of **ARMOATHERAY** is very much in the air at the minute as part of the **NEW AGE** philosophy. But the use of essential oils to cure the ills of **MIND** and body... has been around in one form or another for at least 4000 years’.

In the 1992 July/August issue of the magazine 'Practice Nurse' an article entitled '**Massage in a bottle**' stated '**AROMATHERAPY can be traced back to the early Egyptian Empire 5000 years ago. Clay tablets used to order the essential oils of myrrh and cypress, dating from about 1800 BC were found in Babylon**'.

In an article written by Roberta Mechan, a local **AROMATHERAPIST**, we read '**The first evidence of wide use of essential oils comes from ancient Egypt where AROMATIC oils and gums were used as BURNT OFFERINGS to their gods**'.

I just want to highlight two points here which I think are important for the Christian to note:-

(a) This practice claims that it goes beyond the physical and is able to influence the mind (and even the spirit as we shall see later).

(b) This practice has its roots in Egypt and Babylon which the Bible shows us have been traditional enemies of the God of the Bible and His people (we even read of the use of **AROMATIC oils** being linked to the worship of heathen/false gods).

THE PROCESS

Depending upon the desired effect an essential oil will be selected for use by the practitioner upon their client. To help select the correct oil the practitioner will (according to the Belfast Telegraph article) ask a few medical history questions, check posture and skin conditions and use **REFLEXOLOGY** for diagnostic purposes. Those who have read '**Healing – At any price?**' will already be aware of the problems which **reflexology** poses for Christians.

Also in the Belfast Telegraph article we read '**The oils are too strong to put straight onto the skin so they are diluted in what is called a “carrier” liquid**'. We then learn that '**The molecules of the oils are so shaped that they actually penetrate the skin and make their way through the blood-stream to the brain and round the body**'. Whether this is a medically-proven fact or not I am unable to say but we are all certainly familiar with the effect that the inhalation of certain substances (glue etc) can have upon a person. Nowadays young people are willing to “get high” by this method rather than going on an alcoholic binge.

The Christian knows that his or her body is “**the temple of the holy Spirit**” (1st Corinthians 6:19) and Paul in the next verse tells us “**ye are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body**”. Being aware of the origins of and the process outlined for **AROMATHERAPY** it is my personal conviction that I would not be glorifying God in my body by undergoing **AROMATHERAPY** treatment.

THE CLAIMS

I'm sure most of us have all had the painful experience of bashing our knees at some time or other and our instinct is to rub the affected area vigorously and this certainly does bring a measure of physical relief. However **AROMATHERAPY** itself claims to go beyond the physical and to touch the very spirit of the person receiving the treatment. Mary Grant, a leading practitioner in Belfast wrote, **'out of long experience in the field... I have put together an "eclectic" package of combined therapies with the underlying emphasis... on AROMATHERAPY... giving a holistic approach to MIND, body, SPIRIT and emotional growth, healing and TRANSFORMATION'** (Cecil – emphasis mine).

THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY

Mary Grant also wrote **'Early on I thought I could offer AROMATHERAPY only on a health and relaxation basis... now I realise that every consultation contains some implied question about THE JOURNEY TO THE TRUE SELF'** (Cecil – emphasis mine). This **'journey to the true self'** is found at the heart of many Eastern religious philosophies where various practices (Meditation, Yoga etc) are there to help people achieve **'self-realisation'**. The link between **AROMATHERAPY** and Eastern religious philosophies is shown clearly when Mary Grant goes on to say, **'Though essential oils have been used as far back as the earliest recorded history they are for the "now" of our times... we share a relationship with these powerful healing substances. While their LIFE FORCE facilitates our birth into the new millennium our loving preservation of all that grows from MOTHER EARTH ensures their continued life'**. This idea of a **'life force'** finds expression in the **'PRANA'** of Hinduism, the **'CHI (Ki, Qi)'** of Taoism, the **'ANIMAL MAGNETISM'** of Mesmerism (Reference: **'New Age Medicine'** by Paul C Reisser M.D.; Global Publishers Inc; p 34).

In Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament words we find that **'sorcery'** was linked to appeals to occult powers. Bearing that in mind I want to quote from another article prepared by Mary Grant entitled **"TEMPLE of LIGHT- Psycho-Mythological Blending of Essential Oils"**. Mary Grant wrote, **'in relation to essential oils... less is known about their effect on Spirit, Mind... Yet... in these areas... ancient wisdom excelled... The appropriate centering place for the person is a finely tuned point where matter and spirit meet... essential oils are ... useful tools at the service of transformation for they stand at that point of meaning wherein spirit and matter are most perfectly balanced. Blending them is the alchemist's art requiring a finely tuned person utterly conversant with both worlds. The following blends were conceived as a result of contemplation within The Temple of Light, were first blended at a very special hour in the yearly cycle and were tried out by people on a growth path'**. The reference to blending at a **'special hour in the yearly cycle'** reminds us of what we quoted earlier from Vines Dictionary in relation to **'sorcery'** and appeals to occult powers.

THE EFFECTS

We have already seen that those involved in **AROMATHERAPY** claim that this therapy goes beyond the physical and can affect mind and spirit. Examples of the claims made for certain Essential Oils are contained in Mary Grant's '**Temple of Light**' article. There we read –

ARIADNE... This might be used... to call forth spiritual energies

ICARUS... Use when you are spiritually flying

HYGEIA... Use when you want... rejuvenation

LORICA... to be used in times...when stressed to breaking point

The Apostle Paul told believers at Colossae of the resources that were theirs by being "**in Christ**" – He told them "**ye are COMPLETE in him**" (Colossians 2:10). Christians need no substitute for "**the peace of God which passeth all understanding**" (Philippians 4:7) or a supply source to rival the fact that "**my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus**" (Philippians 4:19).

Hinduism teaches that through Yoga and Meditation it is possible to release hidden energy and power stored in the **CHAKRA** system of the body. In particular they seek to arouse the **KUNDALINI** or **COILED SERPENT** power which supposedly resides at the base of the spine. In '**New Age Medicine**' by Paul C. Reisser M.D. on page 41 we read '**many teachers claim that PRANA can be focussed using meditative techniques at seven energy centres or vortices called CHAKRAS. Located in the mid-line of the body the CHAKRAS are given various titles and assumed to regulate both physiological and psychic events**'

Is there any link between the **CHAKRA** system and **AROMATHERAPY**? In short – YES. In the magazine **YOGA TODAY** (Volume 12: No. 4 August 1987) there is an article entitled '**The Essential Oils and The Chakras**'. Again we read that the Essential Oils go beyond the physical – '**little has been written on essential oils and the mind**' (p 29). Under the sub-heading '**Oils for the Spiritual Path**' we read, '**The subtle aspects of essential oils interact with the unconscious mind to balance CHAKRA energies and the oils can therefore be particularly helpful to the seeker who has become stuck along the way**' (p 30). Under '**Choosing the Essential Oil**' we read, '**I will now give a list of oils that I have found helpful in treating CHAKRA imbalances**'. The author of the article then goes on to list the 7 **CHAKRAS**, to define their relationship to or function within the human body and to list Essential Oils which either stimulate or mellow the particular energy associated with each **CHAKRA**.

Under 'Applying Essential Oils' we read, 'Essential Oils work best on the spiritual level when they are used in small quantities and low concentrations' (p 31). Finally under 'Using the oils long term' we read, 'The secret of using the oils successfully is to OPEN YOURSELF TO THEIR POWERS (Cecil – emphasis mine). To consciously imagine you are doing this will AID THE PSYCHIC ABSORPTION' (p 31: Cecil – emphasis mine).

Some may argue that this particular article does not mention **AROMATHERAPY** by name so is it fair to link it with claims that the **CHAKRA** system can be influenced by it? Again the answer is – YES – for in the **New Age** magazine 'Network' which is produced in Northern Ireland the Autumn 1992 edition on page 6 made reference to the AGM of the **Register of Qualified Aromatherapists** at which Patricia Davies, author of 'Aromatherapy A-Z' gave a talk on 'The **CHAKRAS** of the body and their relationship to specific oils'.

I might also mention that at this meeting another lecture was given on 'Astrology and its relationship to oils' (Remember Vines Dictionary and 'Sorcery'). At the end of the article an address was given where a chart could be obtained setting out the links between **AROMATHERAPY** and the **CHAKRA** system. I sent off for this chart and it clearly links **AROMATHERAPY** and the philosophy of the **CHAKRA** system.

THE PROMOTERS

In the course of this booklet you will have seen that the practice of **AROMATHERAPY** has featured in and been endorsed by articles in 'Yoga Today' and 'Network' (a **New Age** magazine). As well as the articles numerous adverts for many **New Age** therapies including **AROMATHERAPY** appear in these publications.

I have also in my possession a copy of the 'Psychic News' (31st August 1991 issue). For those not familiar with this publication this is the newspaper produced by the 'National Union of Spiritualist Churches'. Amongst the adverts in this particular issue was one for 'The London Holistic Healing Festival' and amongst the therapies featured at this festival was **AROMATHERAPY**. **As a Christian I simply ask myself that if these therapies are truly of God is it likely they would be finding such welcome promotion in magazines which support philosophies that stand opposed to the truth of Scripture for at the heart of many of these modern philosophies lies the rejection of the real root cause for the presence of pain and sickness in the world today.** These therapies tell us that some invisible life force that supposedly permeates us and everything else has become blocked or out of balance and that is why we have pain. The apostle Paul tells us "As by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying that every time someone is sick or has pain it is because they personally have sinned but we are all subject to ailments because we and this world are far removed from God's original "**good**" creation and as they say in insurance circles, the 'proximate cause' is SIN. Paul reminds us in **Romans 8:22-23** that "**the whole creation**" including "**we ourselves groan**" and "**travaileth in pain**" "**waiting for... the redemption of our body**".

CONCLUSION

When trying to assess the various Alternative Therapies including **ARMOATHERAPY** I think the Christian will find most help and guidance from what the apostle Paul wrote to the believers at Colossae and in particular I'm referring to chapter 2 verses 8-10.

In verse 8 Paul warns against being spoiled "**through philosophy**" – we do well to remember that the underlying philosophies of many of today's therapies would have been 'doing the rounds' in the Apostle Paul's day.

In verse 9 Paul declares that in Christ "**dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily**" – quite simply Paul is declaring that God is personal and not some impersonal life-force.

In verse 10 Paul declares that Christ is "**the head of all principality and power**" – He is the one who upholds and sustains all things (see Hebrews 1:3) and we are not the ones to control or manipulate the power that upholds the universe.

People often say 'but sure it works' or 'it has the desired effect'. The fact that something 'works' does not mean that a Christian should be involved in it. Paul wrote, "**all things are lawful unto me but all things are not expedient**" (1st Corinthians 6:12).

If something runs contrary to, or compromises the truth as found in God's Word, then the Christian should not be associated in any way with it.

I realise of course that some Christians have become involved in the practice of **AROMATHERAPY** and it is not my intention to point an accusing or condemnatory finger at them. Rather I would simply ask them to consider the views which I, as a brother in Christ, have set out, and to seek guidance from God's Word on any possible future participation in this and perhaps other therapies.

In some of the videos that you will have watched there have been references to **RUDOLF STEINER** and to education establishments that bear his name and which are based upon his views. The following video addresses these and **New Age** links –

STEINER and FINDHORN 'architecture'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_47puPOURI

So far you have watched and listened to many who are avid and active supporters of **New Age** thinking so I would like now, as I draw to a close, to give the views of someone who was into such **New Age** thinking but who was then graciously saved by the only true and living God. Some years ago a booklet was published called **'Dawn of the New Age: 5 New Agers relate their search for the truth'**. The booklet contained basically the testimony of 5 Christians who had been saved out of **THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT**. One of them was **Paul James-Griffiths** and I want now to quote part of what he wrote (pp 8-10). Mr James-Griffiths wrote –

'Looking back now I am amazed to see how Satan deceived me, from one layer of deception to the next. I refer to this as Satan's "onion principle". Being aware of my disillusionment with established religion, Satan offered an exciting alternative spirituality to which I easily succumbed. Outwardly the philosophy of universalism, with its promise of unity and world peace was attractive. The key to holding everything together was PANTHEISM – the belief that God is an ENERGY or FORCE that permeates the whole universe. Through MEDITATION I was trying to find ONENESS with God – a feature common to all the Eastern occult-based religions. The SPIRIT GUIDES were there to assist me in this process and to use me as a vessel for their message. I would freely quote from the Bible, Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim scriptures in a dishonest attempt to make all religions merge and so avoid contradictions and possible areas of conflict. The MUSE convinced me that the Christians had misrepresented LUCIFER. He was not the devil, but PAN the god of nature, who worked through the process of evolution for humanity's benefit. He had a NETWORK of many spirits in nature, which wanted to align with human beings to save the earth. I was informed that extremism was the real cause of conflict and disharmony. Orthodox, organised religion was one extreme and Satanism the other. What I needed to do was strike a balance and thus promote true "wholeness".

It was years later that I read some of the most influential books in the NEW AGE MOVEMENT by Madame Blavatsky, Alice Bailey and others. I was stunned to find that their SPIRIT GUIDES had propagated the same philosophy as mine. At the heart of 'the onion' is a belief in LUCIFER. Blavatsky states openly that LUCIFER is the real god of enlightenment and that the Biblical God, JEHOVAH, is the enemy of universalism. Indeed this is the view of FREEMASONRY, GnosticISM, WITCHCRAFT and most leaders in the NEW AGE MOVEMENT. I even discovered that the famous FINDHORN COMMUNITY was based on the same principles. As I read the Bible with a humble attitude, I began to see how warped I had become, despite my well-meaning intentions. The Bible showed me what I was really like 2inside", compared with how righteous and loving the true God is. I no longer dishonestly discarded the real contradictions I found in other religious books; rather I faced up to their problematic sayings and practices. For example, the Hindu god KRISHNA says, "*I am Prahlada, born among demons... I am the gambling of the gamblers*" (Bhagavad-gita 10: 30 & 36). I could not accept such a god.

(Cecil – in relation to this last quote about KRISHNA and 'gambling' – in my copy of the Bhagavad-gita the following explanation is given – "There are many kinds of cheaters all over the universe. Of all cheating processes, gambling stands supreme and therefore represents KRISHNA. As the Supreme, KRISHNA can be more deceitful than any mere man. If KRISHNA chooses to deceive a person, no one can surpass Him in His deceit. His greatness is not simply one-sided – it is all-sided". No wonder Mr James-Griffiths couldn't accept such a 'god' and what a contrast to the only true and living God that we read of in Deuteronomy 32:3-4 "Ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the rock, his work is perfect: for ALL his ways are judgment: a God of TRUTH and WITHOUT INIQUITY, JUST and UPRIGHT is he".)

Readers of the ‘wisdom’ of the **UPANISHADS** (Hindu scriptures) are told to worship the sun daily, to cleanse themselves from sin, and to worship the moon for prosperity (Kausitaki-Brahmana Upanishad 2:7-8). Digging deeper I found actual black magic, plus an abundance of pure superstition in these sacred writings. I discovered the god SHIVA was also called Bhudapati, “Prince of Demons”, a Biblical description for Beelzebub or Satan. SHIVA originated the system of YOGA with its “KUNDALINI” (psychic energy) and system of “CHAKRAS” (energy points apparently in the spiritual body), to try and bring his disciples into union with BRAHMAN – or to realise their godhood, the lies of Satan in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3:5). SHIVA too in Hindu literature has a schizophrenic nature. On one hand he is celibate and an ascetic, on the other hand he is a sex maniac who commits adultery with scores of women when their husbands are away from home. Understandably therefore, many Gurus who follow his path appear to be “holy” and serene, demonstrating amazing psychic ability, yet are constantly involved in sexual immorality. Being “God” however, they claim to be above the law!

While I was a “mystic” seeking utopia through occult philosophy, never did I realise that I was being used as a tool of Satan. Today, as I observe the spiritual scene, I see religious leaders from “Christian” churches involved in interfaith services (in Cathedrals!) which promote pantheistic philosophy I read about in satanic literature. This same philosophy is mushrooming everywhere in alternative medicine, music, the media and the education system... How thankful I am to have found the true God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ who said, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32)’.

CONCLUDING THOUGHT

Some of the **NEW AGE MOVEMENT** practices and philosophies that you have witnessed are ‘doing the rounds’ under different guises in very modern so-called Christian circles. Some examples of them can be found and identified on these links

- (a) **Rob Bell** (‘Emergent Church’) - <http://standupforthetruth.com/2015/01/rob-bell-promotes-mother-god-and-apophatic-meditation-in-new-liturgists-show/>
- (b) **Rick Warren** (‘Purpose Driven’) - <http://standupforthetruth.com/2011/10/rick-warren-recommends-pagan-mantra-technique-for-christians/> and <http://standupforthetruth.com/2013/02/what-links-breath-prayer-practicing-the-presence-and-yoga/>
- (c) You can also listen to a very good analysis by **GARY GILLEY** of these types of spiritual dangers within professing Christian circles in a radio interview on <http://standupforthetruth.com/2015/01/spiritual-formation-interview-dr-gary-gilley/> **Gary** mentions the likes of breath/centring prayer and mentions names like Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, Brian McLaren, Eugene Peterson, Brennan Manning, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Ignatius of Loyola, Ruth Haley Barton, Sarah Young, Inter-Varsity Publishing, Thomas Nelson Publishers, NavPress). This interview I believe also directly addresses concerns previously expressed in my statement about **DAVID LEGGE** posted on <http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/October-2014/David-Legge.pdf>

If you would like to get **Gary Gilley's** book '**OUT of FORMATION**' that is mentioned in the course of the radio interview you can do so by going to these links –

In the UK

http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss/275-0874207-5503255?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=out%20of%20formation%20gary%20gilley

In the USA

<http://www.amazon.com/Out-Formation-Spiritual-Disciplines-God/dp/1783970413>

The only **NEW AGE** that truly matters is the one that is mentioned in **Revelation 21:5** where we read “**And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things NEW**” – for Christians that will be a **NEW AGE** of eternal bliss in the presence of God but for non-Christians it will be just the opposite. “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved**” (Acts 16:31).

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 4 February 2015