

THE SHAKERS

With APPENDIX on John Wimber and Francis MacNutt

A group known as 'The Shakers' have quite possibly by now become 'extinct' but, during the 18th–20th centuries, they exercised some influence in religious circles, particularly in America, although they do trace their roots back to England. Despite numerically going into 'freefall' during the course of the 20th century it is interesting that their experiential practices influenced the thinking of people like the late **John Wimber** and his friend and 'fellow-healer', former priest, but still a Roman Catholic, **Francis MacNutt**.

By way of introduction I want to quote from the relevant entry in my copy of the 'Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements'. Under **SHAKERS** we read –

'The followers of **Ann Lee** (1736-1784) who emigrated from England to New York with eight sympathisers in 1774. The Shakers introduced a version of millenarian perfectionism within a communal setting. The wife of a blacksmith in Manchester, **Lee** was the mother of four children, all of whom died in infancy. Her subsequent emotional distress found relief in religious enthusiasm. **She was deeply influenced by radical Quakers and French Camisard prophets and she concluded that she was the second appearing of Christ. A concomitant interest in and end-times restoration of spiritual gifts to the church resulted in her espousal of healing and tongues.**

Lee organised her followers as the '*United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing*'. Given her own unhappy marriage it is hardly surprising that **she taught that the source of evil was the sex act** and that **Christians who coveted perfection should eliminate** greed, pride and **sex**. By regulating every minute detail of daily existence, substituting communal property for private possessions **and enjoining celibacy**, Shaker communities responded to these issues. The Shakers generally gained adherents during periods of local revival, when they challenged converts with their call to perfection. Later the spontaneity and enthusiasm that marked religious gatherings under **Ann Lee** yielded to systemised doctrine and elaborate regulation under the supervision of **Lee's successor**, Joseph Meacham. As awakenings spread across the northern states after the Revolutionary War the Shakers experiences rapid growth. They moved westward to reap a harvest from the revivals that focused in Cane Ridge, Kentucky. By 1825 there were Shaker communities in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky as well as in New England and New York. Membership surged to approximately six thousand. **For several years after 1837 spiritualism flourished in Shaker settings.** The waning of revival fervour combined with internal tensions to discourage further growth. The prosperous Shaker communities merged until only one active but dying community remains.

During Lee's lifetime, Shaker services resembled early Quaker gatherings. **Visitors reported that spiritual gifts operated and that these gifts validated the message of Christ's second appearing. Reports of signs, visions, prophecies and gifts attracted the curious and convinced some;** others considered **Lee's personal dealings** compellingly persuasive.

Lee's message was essentially restorationist: the primitive church had lost the gifts, but an end-time restoration had been promised. It was being realised in the 1780s. **After Lee's death religious** enthusiasm was channelled into ritualistic dance, and tongues speech was confined to "quick meetings" held during the Christmas holiday season'.

At this point it might be helpful to invite you to view a helpful TV programme from a number of years ago that provides interesting insights into the history, beliefs and practices of **'The Shakers'**. You can watch this by going to

Unfortunately due to a copyright complaint we have had to remove this video from our YouTube site. However, it is possible to purchase a DVD of this programme on <http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=1402913&cp=&sr=1&kw=the+shakers&origkw=the+shakers&parentPage=search&searchId=1412587>

I would like now to make a few observations as a result of what was shown in that programme.

1. I was struck by some similarities between **the founder of the Shakers, Ann Lee** and **the founder of Seventh-day Adventism Ellen G White**. For a start and a rather basic observation – both are women. Then both claimed to have experienced a 'heavenly vision'. Both majored very much on the second coming or appearance of Christ. Both believed they could prophesy in the predictive sense and their followers accepted them as genuine 'prophets' – making predictions and giving teachings that added to and were believed by their followers to be on a par with the Word of God.
2. **Ann Lee** commanded her followers, even it would appear when they were married (but sleeping in segregated dormitories in communal houses), to lead celibate lives. Whilst not precisely fulfilling the prediction of **"seducing spirits and doctrines of devils"** that would include **"forbidding to marry"** (1 Timothy 4:1-3) her teaching does represent a rejection of marital intimacy that is clearly enjoined in **Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"**.
3. The call to and claims for 'sinless perfection' as being attainable in this life seem to run absolutely contrary to the words of the apostle John (to believers) as found in **1 John 1:7&9 "But if we (believers) walk in the light as he is in the light. We have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, his son, cleanseth us (believers) from all sin... If we (believers) confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us (believers) our sins and to cleanse us (believers) from all unrighteousness.** And following on in **1 John 2:1** we read **"My little children (believers) these things I write unto you (believers) that ye (believers) sin not. (John's ideal hope) And if any man (believers) sin (John's acknowledgement of the realities of life, even for a believer, in a fallen world) we (believers) have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"**.

Matthew Henry summed up very well the teaching in these verses with these words **'The Christian religion is the religion of sinners, of such as have sinned, and in who sin in some measure still dwells. The Christian life is a life of continued repentance, humiliation for and mortification of sin, of continual faith in, thankfulness for, and love to the Redeemer'**.

4. The testimony (after 10 minutes) of a young woman as to how she felt **'the power of God'** when **Ann Lee** touched her arm is disturbing and is perhaps the first indication of **occult activity** that I shall develop further later on. In her excellent book **'True to His Ways'** (available via <http://www.truetohisways.com/order.html>) **Ruth Davis** wrote

'It is plain to see that yoga and charismatic practitioners have spiritual experiences that are virtually identical... many people at Toronto were "getting it"... superstars like Benny Hinn... and Rodney Howard Browne have been known to impart spiritual power... But so it is also with KUNDALINI SUPERSTARS. One pagan organisation notes **"The power to transmit shaktipat resides in a celibate saint. Shaktipat can be given by such a saint BY HIS TOUCH, his speech..."** (pp 42-43).

5. In relation to the **'Dualism'** view of God as being **'Male and Female'** (equally) that was attributed to **Ann Lee** I like the following words of explanation from a section titled **'In the Image of God'** located on http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/books/immortality_resurrection/2.htm -

'Some interpret the image of God in man as being the combination of human maleness and femaleness. The basis for this interpretation is primarily the proximity of the expression **"male and female he created them"** to the phrase **"in the image of God he created him"** (**Genesis 1:27**). Undoubtedly, there is some theological truth in the notion that the image of God is reflected in the male-female fellowship as equals. But the problem with this interpretation is that it makes too much of too little by reducing the image of God exclusively to the male-female fellowship as equals. The interpretation of the image of God as being the combination of human maleness and femaleness has led some to make God into an androgynous Being, half male and half female. This view is foreign to the Bible since God does not need a female counterpart to complete his identity. An **action of God** is sometimes compared to that of a compassionate mother (**Isaiah 49:15**), but the **person of God** is revealed, especially through Jesus Christ, as that of our Father' (**Cecil- Matthew 5:16, 45&48; 6:1,4,6,8,&9**).

6. **At this point I want to commend a particular attitude promoted by the Shakers**, one that could be summarised as **'Good work is good worship'**. The Shakers had a very commendable **'work ethic'** by which they sought to bring glory to God and this to me appears to be in line with what Paul wrote (although specifically addressed to **"servants"** I believe it has universal application to all those engaged in work) in **Colossians 3:22-23** **"Servants, obey in all things your masters... in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men"**. A few verses earlier Paul had also written **"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"** (v 17).
7. Another rather obvious digression from the teaching of scripture was the practice of having female **'eldresses'** in positions of church-community authority – each church-community being ruled by **'elders'** and **'eldresses'**.

8. In point 4 I mentioned **'occult activity'** and there are a number of references to the various **'spirits'** of dead people **'making themselves known'** during meetings. Around **31:32** into the video it refers to **'Indian spirits'** and then between minutes **37-38** it speaks of an increase in **'spiritualism'** and mentions the **'spirits'** of amongst others **'George Washington'**, **'Christopher Columbus'** and **'departed Shakers'**. Perhaps this could be very much a legacy of **Ann Lee** who claimed to have the gift of **'prophecy'** – rather like the young girl mentioned in **Acts 16:16** **"And it came to pass as we went to prayer, a certain damsel, possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying"**. In relation to **'soothsaying'** **Vine's Dictionary** says this – **'displayed by those who were possessed by the evil spirit (represented by the pagan god or goddess – Cecil – remember the 'dualism' taught by Ann Lee) while delivering their oracular messages'**. Verse 17 continues **"The same followed Paul and us and cried saying, these men are the servants of the most high which show unto us the way of salvation"**. Here we have an example of someone who appears to be in the 'Christian camp' – saying many true words BUT is actually one who is not a Christian and has a major 'spirit-possession' problem that manifests itself in **'prophetic fortune-telling'**. Did Paul allow 'the good' to outweigh 'the bad' and just ignore the problem? **Verse 18** **"And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour"**. Receiving as acceptable and genuine these **'spirit'** visitations seems to indicate Shaker openness to **'occult activity'** that is specifically prohibited in **Deuteronomy 18:9-14**.
9. Between **17:57-18:43** we learn of the views of two people on what they witnessed during Shaker **'worship'**. Words such as **'shrieks'**, **'shouts'** and **'bedlam'** are used. Earlier I wrote – 'it is interesting that their experiential practices influenced the thinking of people like the late **John Wimber** and his friend and 'fellow-healer', former priest, but still a Roman Catholic, **Francis MacNutt**' and I shall later quote from a book that makes a linkage between vintage Shaker **'manifestations'** and more recent claimed **'manifestations'**.
10. Finally I heard no mention of **"Jesus Christ and Him crucified"**. I heard of the **Shaker 'way of life'** and trust in the **Shaker 'church'** but the Lord and the Cross really did not feature. There was mention of Christ's life and teachings. Copying Christ and obeying Him can NEVER be the grounds of 'salvation'. The emphasis seemed to be that acceptance by God depended on what amounted to living an **'Ascetic Life'**: holding to such a view will sadly only bring eternal misery. **'Ascetic'** is defined in the **'Collins English Dictionary'** as **'a person who practises great self-denial and abstains from worldly comforts and pleasures especially for religious reasons'** and that seems to be a most applicable definition when looking at **'The Shakers'**.

In point 9 above I wrote 'I shall later quote from a book that makes a linkage between vintage Shaker **'manifestations'** and more recent claimed **'manifestations'**.

The book in question is **'The Toronto Blessing and Slaying in the Spirit: the telling wonder'**. It was written by **Nader Mikhael** and pages 110-113 contain two sections headed **'THE SHAKERS'** and **'WIMBER STUMBLES ON THE POWER'**

Mr Mikhael wrote –

THE SHAKERS

'In establishing historical precedents for the falling phenomena, **Francis MacNutt** cites a movement called the Shakers:

"Later at the beginning of the nineteenth century we read about the revival among the Shakers with trembling, weeping and swooning away, till every appearance of life was gone and ... more than a thousand persons fell to the ground apparently without sense or motion" (**Francis MacNutt: Overcome by the Spirit: Chosen Books; New Jersey 1984: p 106**)

Francis MacNutt (see the APPENDIX at the end of this article which will also include **'WIMBER STUMBLES ON THE POWER'**) calls this a 'revival'. And he cites the above manifestations of the Shakers as one of the marks of revivals and, of course, support for the falling phenomenon. Thomas Brevoir, a sympathiser of the Shakers, described one of their meetings thus:

"Sometimes after assembling together and sitting a while in silent meditation, they were taken with a great trembling, under which they would express the indignation of God against all sin. At others times they were afflicted with a mighty shaking, and were occasionally exercised with singing, shouting, and leaping for joy at the near prospect of salvation... shaking, running, and walking the floor... swiftly passing and repassing like clouds agitated by a mighty wind" (Thomas Brevoir: *The Two worlds: The Natural and The Spiritual*: London: p 158)

Brevoir added that sometimes people got "caught up by some invisible power, and whirled around the meeting room at an almost incredible rate, proclaiming the Word of the Lord to His people..." (Ibid p 167) One cannot talk about the Shakers without talking about **Ann Lee** who is considered to be the founder of the movement. Here are some statements made by leaders of the movement about her:

'**Ann Lee... while lying in the Manchester jail... saw and experienced the manifestation of the baptism of the Christ Spirit – the same that made Jesus the Christ; and the same that will make every man and woman Christ, when prepared... the eyes of her understanding were opened to discover the "foundation of the world" and to see plainly that they were "out of course"...** Evidently the way to redeem humanity as a whole was thus to begin with one human being as a nucleus for Christians to gather to... This was religion – cease to do evil; learn to do well – distinct from mere theology. Religion in this illiterate woman, and in her followers, would create its own theology' (Robley Edwin Whitson: *The Shakers; Two Centuries of Spiritual Reflection: SPCK [London 1983] p 84*). (Cecil – the statement highlighted in red certainly affirms that this 'religion' was 'distinct from mere [biblical] theology' and did 'create its own [aberrant] theology').

'Because in the woman the root of sin was first planted... its final destruction must begin where its foundation was first laid... Therefore, in the fullness of time... that same spirit which dwelt in the man Jesus... was revealed in a WOMAN... that woman was **Ann Lee** (Cecil – this seems to almost mirror the Roman Catholic teaching about 'Mary' being the 'new Eve' to undo the problems caused by the 'first Eve' – see more on this in my article 'Ave Maria' on <http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/August-2014/Ave-Maria.pdf>) and by her sufferings and travail for a lost world, and her union and subjection to Christ Jesus, her Lord and Head, she became the first born of many sisters, and the true mother of all living in the new creation

(Cecil – once again this closely mirrors Roman Catholic teaching about ‘Mary’ – “Mary’s suffering, beside the suffering of Jesus reached an intensity which can hardly be imagined from a human point of view but which was mysteriously and supernaturally fruitful for the redemption of the world” (Pope John Paul II *Salvifici Doloris*); “The Virgin Mary... is clearly the mother of the members of Christ... since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head. Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church” (1994 Catholic Catechism: Paragraph 963).

... thus the perfection of the revelation of God, in this latter day, excels, particularly, in that which respects the glorious part in the creation of man, namely the woman... so that by the first and second appearing of Christ, the foundation of God is laid and completed (Cecil – this is basically a claim that Ann Lee is the ‘second appearing of Christ’ – this flies in the face of Acts 1:11 “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This SAME JESUS, which is taken up from you, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER as ye have seen him go into heaven”; of Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for HIM shall HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME without sin unto salvation” and of Titus 3:12-13 “we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope and THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF the great God, and our Saviour, JESUS CHRIST”)... Then the man who was called JESUS and the woman who was called ANN are verily the two first visible foundation pillars of the Church of Christ’ (Ibid p 227) (Cecil – again the linking in of Ann Lee into a ‘foundation’ role where the Church is concerned is refuted by Ephesians 2:19-20 which speaks of the “household of God” being built upon “the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone”).

‘So we point to Ann, or Ann the Christess, by and through whom a SECOND REVELATION of the same Gospel, with an increase is made; and testify that ‘this is the Jesus or Jesus the Christ, that was for to come’ (Ibid p 82) (Cecil – Matthew 24:23-24 “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or there, believe t not. For there shall arise false Christs”)

‘When addressed as if she was an ordinary person, she would reply with dignity “I am Ann, the Word”’ (C. W. Shumway: *A Study of the Gift of Tongues*: A. B. Thesis, University of Southern California, 1914, p 115). (Cecil – there has only ever been One who was “the Word” as we read in John 1:1 and 14).

‘Shaker theology teaches that Jesus, abstractly considered, aside from his baptism, and when born of Mary, was not the Christ, nor Christ Jesus’ (Robley Edwin Whitson: *The Shakers; Two Centuries of Spiritual Reflection*: SPCK [London 1983] p 245) (Cecil – Luke 2:8-11 “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night... And lo the angel of the Lord came upon them... And the angel said unto them fear not... for unto you IS BORN THIS DAY in the city of David A SAVIOUR WHO IS CHRIST the Lord” and in verses 25-32 “there was man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon... and it was revealed unto him by the Holy ghost that he should not see death before HE HAD SEEN THE LORD’S CHRIST... Then took he him up in his arms and blessed God and said, Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION”).

‘More recently there has been another manifestation of God’s divine power – Disembodied spirits began to take possession of the bodies of the brothers and sisters... after which they were welcomed to Zion to hear the true Gospel of Christ’ (Thomas Brevoir: *The Two worlds: The Natural and The Spiritual*: London: p 167) (Cecil – the only ‘spirit’ promised to ‘take possession’ of the bodies to true believers is the Holy Spirit as we learn in John 14:23; 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 6:19).

‘The Shakers regarded it as one of their missions to reach to the “lower spirits” and one of their elders described how a whole tribe of Indian spirits would troop into the house... everybody in the house would be possessed... they would sing songs entirely unknown to our people” (David Christie-Murray: *Voices from the Gods*: Routledge & Kegan Paul [London and Henley, 1978] p 52). (Cecil – the practice of ‘necromancy’ – seeking to communicate with the dead is clearly forbidden [and ‘abominated’ by God] in Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and those who practice it clearly run the risk of ‘demon possession’. Ruth Davis in her book ‘True to His Ways’ wrote on page 64 concerning some of these verses [9-11] “The New English Bible translation of these verses is helpful. It describes forbidden practices as ‘trafficking in spirits’... As we shall see all mystic and occult practices involve trafficking in spirits”).

'These are examples of the experiences and the theology of the shakers, written by supporters of the movement. **This is not a perversion of the Gospel; this is an anti-Gospel (Cecil – I say a hearty 'AMEN' to that)** Does the Holy Spirit attest to such doctrines with speaking in tongues and healings and words of knowledge? The Apostles pointed to Jesus and taught: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). **But the Shakers point to Ann Lee, the Christess.** Needless to say this Christess died and remains in her grave. When people abandon the plain truth that is revealed in the Word of God, they become easy prey to demons.

We believe that what the Shakers experienced was straightforward 'demon possession'. Yet MacNutt sees 'revival' in the movement of the Shakers! He seems uninterested in doctrines as set forth in the Word of God but fascinated by supernatural experiences. **What is even more disturbing is the following comment made by MacNutt:**

'The shaking phenomenon occurs in **John Wimber's** conferences... This seldom happens at our conferences unless an evil spirit is causing the agitation. Having great admiration for **John Wimber** and his ministry, we spent some time with him discussing this difference'.

He then mentioned four possible explanations for the difference. The first one was that:

'At one time John was a Quaker pastor. The Quakers and the Shakers were originally given those names because they quaked and shook at their meetings under the power of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps this shaking phenomenon is part of John's spiritual heritage'. (Francis MacNutt: *Overcome by the Spirit*: Chosen Books [New Jersey, 1984] p 160).

Indeed when Wimber was asked to leave the Quaker's denomination he requested their spiritual blessing. Carol Wimber saw some significance in this blessing:

'In retrospect, I believe their blessing explains some of the shaking and quaking and signs and wonders we later experienced'. (Kevin Springer: *Power Encounters*: Harper and Row, San Francisco, 1988 p 8).

It is fascinating and also disturbing to realise that Satan's activity at Shaker Meetings was replicated many decades later at so-called 'Toronto Blessing'-type meetings and also at the Roman Catholic/Ecumenical 'Healing' meetings of **Francis MacNutt**.

In his book '**Strange Fire**' **John MacArthur** writes this on page 201 – '**In reality, the stupor that characterises the modern charismatic phenomenon mirrors pagan practices more than anything Christian. Parallels to the practices can easily be found in false religions and cult groups. As Hank Hanegraaff explains** –

'The "slain in the spirit" phenomenon has more in common with occultism than with a biblical worldview. As popular "slain in the spirit" practitioner **Francis MacNutt** candidly confesses in his book *Overcome by the Spirit* the phenomenon is externally similar to "manifestations of voodoo and other magic rites" and is "found today among different sects in the Orient as well as among primitive tribes of Africa and Latin America".' (Hanegraaff: *Bible Answer Book*: p 83)

Ruth Davis in '**True to His Ways**' wrote on pages 154-155 '**I have often heard charismatics claim that the Holy Spirit comes upon them to encourage the casting off of normal social restraints, or to set them free to enjoy whatever the Spirit has for them... Disregard for orderliness and propriety, confusion and revelry are the fruits of satanic influence**'.

I think that quote from **Ruth Davis** sums up perfectly much of the misguided 'theology' and 'practice' espoused by **Ann Lee** and those who joined **The Shakers**. For any who wish to study further this '**Shaker Movement**' I will now give details of some other informative web sites that include references to '**The Shakers**'.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/537839/Shaker>

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/thirdwaveteachings.html>

<http://www.svchapel.org/resources/book-reviews/6-church-history/632-heavens-on-earth-utopian-communities-in-america-1960-1880-by-mark-holloway>

APPENDIX

John Wimber and Francis MacNutt

I mentioned earlier that in the book '**The Toronto Blessing and Slaying in the Spirit: the telling wonder**' the author **Nader Mikhael** had on pages 110-113 two sections headed '**THE SHAKERS**' and '**WIMBER STUMBLES ON THE POWER**'. This is what **Mr Mikhael** wrote about **John Wimber** -

WIMBER STUMBLES ON THE POWER

'In April 1978 **Wimber** was praying for a home group to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As he touched them they began to fall over. Like the Hunters and **MacNutt**, **Wimber** did not know that people would fall over. A week later he himself had a falling experience.

... John went to the refrigerator to get a glass of milk. As he was pouring the milk John said, "It must be when you teach the word of God the Holy Spirit..." He never finished his sentence. As he started to say "Holy Spirit" his legs buckled and he caught himself on the counter, splashing milk all over in the process. He looked up to me with a surprised grin and said "I think we're on to something here, Carol Kay". (Kevin Springer: *Power Encounters*: Harper and Row, San Francisco, 1988: pp 10-11).

I find this incident very interesting, because of my middle eastern culture and my knowledge of the word of God. First my knowledge of the word of God tells me there is no waste in all the activities of the Holy Spirit. The splashing of milk all over in the process of the manifestation is very unlike the work of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus, after feeding the thousands, said to His disciples "Gather up the fragments that remain so that nothing is lost" (John 6:12). Why did the Lord Jesus command them to gather the fragments? After all he could multiply them again and again. So, why is there concern about the fragments? His answer is recorded. "So that nothing is lost". This reaction is what one would expect from the creator who values even the smallest bit of what he created. The impostor however does not have such care for the fragments and is happy to waste.

Unlike Westerners, whom **Wimber** wants to have a paradigm shift from a Western mind-set to an Eastern one, I spent the first 25 years of my life in Egypt. I remember that as a young boy growing up in a little village in Egypt, whenever I found a fragment of bread in the street, I would pick it up and place it by the side of the road lest anyone should walk over it. That would have been an act bordering on blasphemy. Bread is considered to be a “grace from God” in this part of the world and to step over it amounts to insulting God. The spirit that caused the splashing of milk that God created was not the Spirit of God but an alien spirit.

It is **Wimber** who needs a paradigm shift to the Biblical culture in order to discern the Work of God from the work of alien spirits. But that is not all. The milk that was splashed all over had to be cleaned. This splashing was the direct result of the manifestation. Is there any incident in the activities of the Holy Spirit where someone had to clean after the Spirit had been manifested? **The spirit that made Wimber buckle, splashing milk all over, is not the Spirit of God but an unclean spirit’.**

FRANCIS MacNUTT

I think that from what I have written so far there was a close connection and interaction between **John Wimber** and **Francis MacNutt** – their mutual linkage of ‘**Shaker-Heritage**’ to ‘manifestations’ that occurred as they ‘ministered’; their mutual cross-referencing of each others’ ‘ministries’ etc. One very obvious example is the fact that when **Francis MacNutt** wrote a revised version of his book called ‘**Healing**’ the foreword to it was written by **John Wimber**. Here is part of that foreword –

‘Last year I had the privilege of ministering together with him at an advanced healing seminar here in Anaheim, California... We all were touched by Francis’s compassion and patience as he prayed for literally hundreds of people. The only shortcoming for me in the original edition of *HEALING* was its narrow denominational focus; it was written with a **distinctly Catholic and sacramental orientation**.

As an Evangelical Protestant (**Cecil – a clear example of just how debased the terms ‘Evangelical’ and ‘Protestant’ have become**) I had to wade through some material that, though well-written, was of concern only to Catholics... Well, I am happy to report that shortcoming for Protestants has been corrected in this edition. If in the past you have shied away from *HEALING* thinking it only addresses Catholic concerns, be assured **this new edition is for all Christians’.**

So much for **John Wimber** describing himself ‘**As an Evangelical Protestant’!!**

I first came across **Francis MacNutt** back in 1992 when I attended a meeting at which he spoke. I gave a short report in my ministry newsletter of September 1992 and this is what I wrote –

‘I was recently given a leaflet by a brother in Christ (a converted Roman Catholic) which advertised a workshop on “INNER HEALING”. On the leaflet the speaker was styled as the ‘**Reverend Francis MacNutt’ (USA)**. Mr MacNutt is actually an ordained Roman Catholic priest who is now married with a family and this of course helps to mask his true denominational affiliation. The workshop (the morning session of which I attended) was held in a Belfast Protestant church hall under the auspices of the “Churches Ministry of Healing” – an interdenominational grouping headed up by an Anglican ‘brother’ (David Jardine).

It attracted around 200 people and by a show of hands we learned that over 80% had heard the American charismatic **John Wimber**, a close friend of Mr MacNutt, live. Mr MacNutt made frequent references to his own charismatic "experience" and to well-known Roman Catholic clergy who are active in such circles e.g. ****"Father" Tom Forrest**** – head of the Pope's "Evangelisation 2000". **Mr MacNutt's ministry is being used to further the aims of today's Ecumenical Movement**'.

****** Back in 1990, **David Cloud**, in an issue of his ministry newsletter 'O Timothy' gave a very full report of what happened at a charismatic-ecumenical get-together in Indianapolis. One of those who attended was **"Father Tom Forrest"**. Mr Cloud gave details of what **"Father Forrest"** said at a session that was **only for Roman Catholics** and it makes for interesting reading –

'Another illustration of the gross heresy countenanced in the charismatic-ecumenical movement is seen in a speech in Indianapolis by **priest Tom Forrest**. Forrest is a Catholic priest based in Rome and is in charge of the Roman Catholic program to "evangelize" the world by the year 2000. He works hand in hand with the pope and is a great lover of Roman heresies. One morning in Indianapolis, **Forrest spoke to the Roman Catholic session**, and said, **"Our role in evangelization is not just to make Christians; our job is to make people as richly and as fully Christian as we can make them by bringing them into the Catholic church."** Forrest continued by glorying in the Catholic distinctives.

He praised God for the sacraments. He praised God for the mass. He praised God for the priesthood, "according to the order of Melchisidec." He praised God for Mary, the "Queen of Paradise, [who] is praying for us till she sees us in glory." He praised God for the papacy. He praised God for Catholic tradition, for the saints, for the liturgy. **Finally, he praised God for purgatory**. Yes, you read that right. Tom Forrest praised God for purgatory! He said: "As Catholics--now I love this one--we have purgatory! Thank God! I'm one of those people that would never get to Paradise without it! It's the only way to go. You can't take any sin. You can't take any imperfection. You can't take any sin weakness of your character, not the littlest selfishness, not the littlest bit of disagreement with anyone else to Paradise. You have got to leave it all behind. And if you don't get it done here, that's where you leave it behind, in purgatory. Thank God we know that! [clapping]"

And the thousands of charismatic Catholics present that morning said "amen" and clapped and praised God right along with Forrest for all these foolish heresies. **They all praised God for purgatory**'.

All of **David Cloud's** report of that event including short articles on 'Billy Graham and the Charismatic Movement'; 'The New Prophets' and 'Is healing in the Atonement?' etc can be viewed online by going to

http://wayoflife.org/database/charismatic_confusion_in_evangelism.html

The 'workshop' that I attended was in relation to what is dubbed 'Inner Healing'. On a link I shall give there are details of what **Tom McMahon** (former Roman Catholic and long-time co-worker with the late Dave Hunt at **The Berean Call**) had to say on this subject. This is a transcript of the relevant section found on the following link

<http://www.thebereancall.org/content/t-mcmahon-mark-dinsmore-part-1-0>

'But there is also **Francis MacNutt**, who is a former Catholic priest, who is one of the big-name inner healers. And as a former Catholic priest, one of the techniques...I'm kind of getting ahead of myself... but they use all kinds of techniques: **visualization**, for example, and Francis MacNutt - they would try to visualize Jesus, or attempt to visualize Jesus, or say they were visualizing Jesus – but for **Francis MacNutt, with his Catholic background, he said, "Well, you can also visualize Mary,"** and these things are all, in their view, efficacious'.

For detailed articles on this subject of 'Inner Healing' these links will be of help –

http://www.inplainsite.org/html/inner_healing.htmlhttp://www.inplainsite.org/html/inner_healing.html

<http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/psy-innerhealing1.html>

In conclusion I would point out that the 'ministry' of **Francis MacNutt** has received **approval** from the highest echelon of Roman Catholicism – **from the Pope**. On a web site <http://www.standfirminfaith.com/?/sf/page/30908> that appears to be 'Anglican-Ecumenical' there is a post on 'things charismatic' and what is most interesting is **comment 35** (dated 28/10/2013) which reads as follows –

'Many of you know **Christian Healing Ministry**. It is interdenominational and **headed by Francis and Judith MacNutt who are Catholic** and I believe a good example of balance in the Renewal Movement. Along, with Dennis Bennett and Leanne Payne (ECUSA at that time), I consider, CHM Schools of Healing prayer and conferences as my major mentors. What you probably DON'T know is that **several years ago, Pope Benedict XVI told Francis MacNutt that he believes CHM's campus in Jacksonville FL is going to be for this continent as The Lourdes is for Europe. I posit that this papal connection is confirmation of that balance**'.

With that '**Papal Seal of Approval**' upon the 'ministry' of **Francis MacNutt** '**I will now**', as they say in legal circles, '**rest my case**'.

Briefly now, and to return to the main subject matter of this whole article, – **The Shakers** – the following links will also provide further help for those who wish to delve further into the history, beliefs and practices and present state of this group.

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/shaker/shakers.htm>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Shakers.html>

<http://hancockshakervillage.org/about/shaker-history-faqs/>

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 16 August 2014

Should anyone wish to obtain a copy of
'The Toronto Blessing and Slaying in the Spirit: the telling wonder'
they can do so by contacting the author **Nader Mikhael** by email on
nadern@ozemail.com.au

