

SIGNPOSTS

ARNEW-SIPo-7-5-16

A DIGEST OF RESEARCHED INFORMATION FOR CONCERNED CHRISTIANS

WCC PROMOTES A ONE WORLD RELIGION

The recent Assembly of the World Council of Churches confirmed that it is promoting the establishment of a one world religion as one of the main pillars of a one world government or New World Order. Two things are necessary to form a one world religion. Firstly the unique revelation given by God through Jesus Christ and preserved in the Bible must be destroyed. Then practices and concepts from other religions must be introduced into the Christian faith in order to merge them. The WCC is doing both.

"Come, Holy Spirit - Renew the Whole Creation" was the overall theme of the WCC's Seventh Assembly, held in Canberra, Australia, from February 7-20, 1991. The theme was further spelt out in four sub-themes - **Giver of Life - Sustain your Creation! Spirit of Truth - Set us Free! Spirit of Unity - Reconcile your People! and Holy Spirit - Transform and Sanctify Us!**

The sub-theme "Spirit of Unity - Reconcile your People!" is not a call for the unity of Christians. It calls for the **unifying of people of all religions. Even those "who have no faith" (that is, atheists).** In other words, the WCC aims to unite all mankind!

PAGAN PRACTICES AT THE ASSEMBLY

The WCC laid great stress on contact with the Australian Aborigines who worship their ancestors and demon spirits. Worship, which opened the Assembly, began with an Aboriginal cleansing ceremony involving smoke from burning gum leaves and a traditional ritual with a "message stick" in which Aborigines gave permission for participants to enter Australia. As near naked and painted Aboriginal men pranced, Assembly delegates and visitors were obliged to pass through the pall of dense smoke. "The rite was linked with a Christian understanding of the cleansing and refining fire of the Holy Spirit," reports the WCC's *Ecumenical Press Service*. **Participants were told that by passing through the smoke, they would be cleansed, thus joining Aboriginal and Christian spirituality!**

"The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin," says I John 1:7. "That He (Christ) might sanctify and cleanse it (the Church) with the washing of water by the Word," says Ephesians 5:26. We cannot be cleansed or made spiritual by pagan smoke!

"THE SPIRITS OF VICTIMS OF TRAGIC DEATH"

Ms Chung Hyun Kyung, a theology professor and minister of the Presbyterian Church, South Korea, gave the second keynote address of a two-part theological introduction to the Assembly theme. She arrived on the stage dancing with two Aboriginal men, in paint and loincloths, and 16 Korean men with gongs, drums and banners. She invited the audience to "get on holy ground with me by taking off your shoes while we are dancing to prepare the way of the spirit". Many did.

Then, with a candle burning on either side of her, she invoked the spirits of the dead by reading the names from a printed list. Among the departed spirits she invoked were Hagar, Uriah, male babies killed by Herod, Joan of Arc, Jewish people killed in the gas chambers, Mahatma Gandhi, Steve Biko, Martin Luther King, Jr, Malcolm X and finally **"the spirit of the Liberator, our brother Jesus, tortured and killed on the cross".** She then burned the list and scattered the ashes into the air.

"In my tradition people who are killed or die unjustly become wandering spirits, the Han-ridden spirits," she said in her



Painted Aborigines prepare the fire to produce the sacred smoke to "cleanse" delegates for the worship service at the WCC Assembly.

dramatic address. "They are all over the place, seeking the chance to make the wrong right. Therefore the living people's responsibility is to listen to the voices of the Han-ridden spirits. ... **These Han-ridden spirits in our people's history have been agents through whom the Holy Spirit has spoken her compassion and wisdom. Without hearing the cries of these spirits we cannot hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.**"

ROMAN CATHOLICS PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN WCC

Officially, the Roman Catholic Church is not one of the 317 member churches of the WCC. Nevertheless, Roman Catholics play a major role in the affairs of that body.

Although the 315 WCC staff members come from 89 churches and 63 countries according to the WCC book *Vancouver to Canberra 1983-1990*, **about 25 percent belong to just one church, Roman Catholic!** While the book gives no further breakdown of staff by church membership, it is highly improbable that any of the WCC member churches has such a high proportion of staff members. Great care is taken in the selection of staff to ensure no geographical region dominates. Obviously there is not similar concern to avoid the dominance of one denomination. **In view of the widespread criticism of the power and intolerance of WCC staff, the high proportion of Catholics is most significant.**

Moreover, **the Vatican appoints 12 of the 120 members of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order.** Does any WCC member church have such a high proportion? The Vatican also sent 23 observers to the Assembly.

"Roman Catholic participation in the ecumenical movement has become a normal feature," stated the Vatican-WCC Joint Working Group (JWG) in its report to the Assembly after noting that most of its original mandate had been fulfilled. The Assembly directed the JWG to concentrate on the remaining obstacles preventing a fuller WCC-RCC relationship. It is hoped the two bodies would "agree on a new framework for the relationship". A smaller coordinating group would promote regular cooperation between departments of the Vatican and WCC.

The Assembly agreed to set up similar working groups in regional ecumenical organisations and to consult fully with the **three dozen or so national councils of churches which already include Roman Catholic membership.** Three of the WCC's eight regional ecumenical organisations - for the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Middle East - also include Roman Catholic jurisdictions as full members. In other words, despite the lack of a formal link at the highest levels of the WCC, the RCC is **fully integrated in the WCC structures at the local and regional levels!** This fact was noted by the report. "Ecumenicism is alive at the base where people live and struggle together."

The Pope repeatedly stressed the need for "progress towards the restoration of unity among Christians" in the message he sent to the Assembly. **He saw "positive aspects of our search for visible unity in faith"** in his visit to the WCC in 1984 "and your subsequent visit to Rome."

This call for visible unity was echoed by Archbishop HE Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church's External Relations department. **"We see the WCC as the cradle of the one church for which we are all working. The WCC is our home. We have a special responsibility for the fate of the WCC. The Archbishop is a member of the WCC's executive and central committees.**

After continuing to expound various aspects of Korean spiritism and equating them with elements of the Christian message, she concluded: **"For me, the image of the Holy Spirit comes from the image of Kwan In.** She is venerated as goddess of compassion and wisdom by East Asian women's popular religiosity. She is the enlightened being. She can go into Nirvana (a Hindu concept of heaven) at any time she wants to, but refuses. Her compassion for all suffering living beings makes her stay in this world, enabling other living beings to achieve enlightenment. She waits and waits until the whole universe, people, trees, birds, mountains, air, water, become enlightened. They can then go to Nirvana together where they can live collectively in eternal wisdom and compassion. **Perhaps this might also be a feminine image of the Christ who is the first born among us, one who goes before and brings others with her."**

"I no longer believe in an omnipotent, macho, warrior God who rescues all good guys and punishes all bad guys." "Liberation theologies ... re-read the Bible and re-interpret Christian tradition and theology from their experience of oppression and liberation. (But) **we have to re-read the Bible from the perspective of birds, water, air, trees and mountains, the most wretched of the earth in our times. Learning to think like a mountain, changing our centre from human beings to all living beings, has become our responsibility in order to survive."**

Her speech ended in a dance with one of the Aboriginal men which, according to Dr John Edward Milheim, a visitor: **"For the sake of decency is best left undescribed"**! Nevertheless, the plenary session gave her a standing ovation!

Much can be said about this blasphemous mixture of Christian, Eastern and New Age concepts. Firstly, Jesus is not dead. He rose from the dead and is now glorified. There are strong warnings in the Bible about invoking the dead. The spirits of the dead do not wander on the earth. The believing dead go straight into the Lord's presence (II Cor 5:8). The unbelievers go to hell to await the final judgement (Rev 20:11-15). Jesus said the Holy Spirit would take the truths of Jesus and declare them to the disciples (John 16:15). The Holy Spirit is not to be confused with the goddesses of Eastern folk lore. Nor is His voice heard through the cries of angry Han spirits. Moreover Ms Chung was strangely silent about those whose bodies were torn apart by cruel and painful abortions. God is certainly compassionate, so compassionate that, at great personal cost, He opened the way for sinful mankind to be reconciled to Him. Those who spurn His love have condemned themselves (Jn 3:18) and will face God's wrath (Heb 10:31, Rom 1:18).

Above all, the WCC's endorsement of Ms Chung's presentation confirms that it is attempting to blend Christian and pagan practices and concepts to produce a one world religion. This blending was also highlighted in a leaflet based on the WCC's 1991 calendar which was posted with SIGNPOSTS Vol 10, No 2.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER RELIGIONS

Ten official Assembly guests came from non-Christian religions. They included Hindus, Jews, Buddhists, a Muslim, a Sikh and a Shintoist. Dr Wesley Ariarajah, the WCC's Director of Inter-Faith dialogue, **"My understanding of God's love is too broad for me to believe that only this narrow segment called the Christian Church will be saved. ... If you are a Christian you must be open and broad, not narrow and exclusive."**

"The presence of representatives of other world religions as guests in the Assembly reminded us of the growing need to

respect the image of God in all people, to accept each other as neighbours and to admit our common responsibility with them for God's creation, including humanity," said the Assembly in a message to all churches and Christians.

It is little wonder that the headline in *The Australian* (11/2/91) said: **"All faiths are one with God - WCC"**. The article began "The World Council of Churches took ecumenism to its farthest limits at the week-end, suggesting **Muslims, Hindus and others achieved salvation in the same way as Christians** and warned the latter against 'narrow' thinking".

The Christian faith IS narrow and exclusive because its Founder was narrow and exclusive! Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me" (Jn 14:6). Paul

echoed the same sentiment. "There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus," (I Tim 2:5). So did the writer to the Hebrews. "God, Who at various times and in different ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (Heb 1:1-2). God has not spoken through Mohammed, nor through Buddha nor through the spirits of the dead!

It is true that all humans are created by God. However only those who have repented of their sins and received Jesus as Saviour and Lord (Jn 1:12), are the true children of God. Those who refuse to bow the knee to Jesus are in rebellion against God. They are called children of disobedience (Eph 2:2). For this reason the wrath of God comes upon them (Eph 5:6, Col 3:6). Therefore they are also called the "children of (God's) wrath" (Eph 2:3)!

"THE WCC MUST DIE"

"Perhaps the Spirit is saying to the Churches that the WCC has served its purpose and must now die," declared George Austin, Archdeacon of York, in an article in the Church of England Newspaper (22/2/91).

"Syncretism, animism, spiritism and more than a nodding acquaintance with New Age heresies were clearly present in the sermons and presentations," wrote the deeply concerned delegate from the Church of England (Britain). "Traditional Christians were disturbed to note how welcome and acceptable these influences were to many delegates and visitors."

"If a Christian Assembly cannot bring to the world's problems a solution whose source comes from the foundation we believe to be the Word of God - one is led to ask why £4 million has been spent by the churches to bring us together in Canberra," he said.

"I returned from the WCC Assembly convinced that the Church of England needs to take stock of its membership of the World Council of Churches. ... If we are to remain in membership I believe we have to insist that the Council returns to Biblical fundamentals. It must purge its Geneva offices of the influences which if unchecked will accelerate the decline into gross heresy which has frequently been evident at Canberra."

ORTHODOX EXPRESS THEIR ALARM

"Has the time come for the Orthodox churches and other member churches to review their relations with the WCC?" asked Eastern and Oriental Orthodox participants at the Assembly, who shared many of Archdeacon Austin's concerns.

They questioned "the very nature and identity of the Council" in a statement issued at the close of the Assembly. Their concern arose out of **"a growing departure from Biblically-based Christian understandings of: a) the Trinitarian God; b) salvation; c) the Good News of the Gospel itself; d) human beings as created in the image and likeness of God; e) the Church, among others."**

The Orthodox complained that the WCC was tending **"to become a forum for an exchange of opinions without a specific Christian theological basis.** In such a forum, common prayer will be increasingly difficult, and eventually will become impossible, since even a basic common theological vision will be lacking." The statement also expressed "a certain disquiet" about relations with other religions because witness was not being born to the integrity of their faith. **"The Biblical faith in God must not be changed."**

Alarm was expressed over some presentations which affirmed **"with very great ease the presence of the Holy Spirit in many movements and developments without discernment."** "We must guard against a tendency to substitute a 'private' spirit, the spirit of the world or other spirits for the Holy Spirit Who proceeds from the Father and rests in the Son. ... **We find it impossible to invoke the spirits of 'earth, air, water and sea creature'."**

NO PROTEST FROM EVANGELICALS

Yet, despite the clear attempts by the WCC's Assembly to reject the Bible and unite all religions into a one world religion, despite the extreme concern expressed by Anglicans and Orthodox, **the Evangelical delegation saw no need to protest! Instead, they called for greater Evangelical involvement in the WCC!**

"I feel very positive here ... and will go back home to be an advocate of the WCC," said Rev David Coffey, the future general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. "I don't have problems with people who think differently," remarked Peter Kuzmic, a Pentecostal pastor from Yugoslavia. Most Latin American Evangelicals know little about the WCC, said Argentine Baptist Rene Padilla, but **"those of us that do, have had a very positive experience in working with those involved in the ecumenical movement"**.

The bold stand by Dr Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), against the WCC is in stark contrast to the support given the WCC by the Evangelical participants. **"The WCC's position that (followers of) the pagan religions will get to heaven without Jesus Christ makes Christ Himself a deceiver** when He said 'No one can come to the Father but by Me'," said Dr McIntire, who led a poster protest outside the conference centre. "Then Paul wasted his life and his letters spreading Christianity over the Roman world; the Bible is wrong in rejecting idols in the Second Commandment. **The WCC demotes Jesus Christ to the level of the pagan leaders and makes Him only one of many ways to God."**

"The ICCC repudiates this and calls all Bible believers to stand with it everywhere for the whole Bible and the whole Church. May the Lord help us all to stand firm for the Faith in these days of compromise and departure from the Christ of the Scriptures."

TOWARDS A NEW WORLD ORDER

Recent world events, including the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the Gulf war, have stepped up the world's plunge towards a New World Order. American President George Bush talks of it constantly. "This crisis in the Persian Gulf, as grave as it is, also offers us a rare opportunity to move towards an historic period of cooperation. Out of these troubled times, our objective - a New World Order - can emerge. ... Today, that New World Order is struggling to be born. A world quite different from the one we've known." (*Address to Congress 11/9/90*).

"We have a real chance at the New World Order, an order in which a credible United Nations can use its peacekeeping role to fulfil the promise and vision of the UN founders." (*President Bush addressing the nation as the bombing of Iraq began, 16/1/91*).

"An act of terrorism has been perpetrated against the emerging New World Order," Eduard Shevardnadze, the then Soviet Foreign Minister, told the United Nations on Sept 25, 1990. He was referring to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"US President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev arrived yesterday on this Mediterranean Island (Malta) for a summit conference beginning today during which both hope to start the search for a New World Order." - *New York Times* Dec 1, 1989.

As an integral part of this New World Order, a one world religion is being formed. This is the responsibility of the ecumenical movement headed by the World Council of Churches. As this issue of SIGNPOSTS clearly reveals, **the plan is for one church, then a one world religion and finally a one world government.** Clearly the WCC is not waiting to accomplish the first goal before moving on to the second. It is already working on all three, although not necessarily at the same speed.

In order to unify all religions, **the WCC must break down all distinctive Christian beliefs.** In a word, it denies that God has spoken exclusively through Jesus Christ. This denial raises fundamental questions: **How can we be sure of what God has said? If we are not sure what God has said, can we be sure that God actually exists? Is the WCC working on the basis that there is a God or has it accepted the Marxist concept that God is nothing more than the figment of man's imagination? If God is merely the figment of man's imagination, then surely all religions are founded on nothing more than records of the**

awakening of man's religious consciousness? If that is accepted, it is not difficult to harmonise, and eventually unite, all religions, something the WCC is certainly trying to do.

The Bible warns of a great "falling away" (*apostasia*) from the true faith of a large section of the Christian Church (II Thes 2:3). Apostasy has been defined as **the act of professing Christians who knowingly and deliberately reject revealed truth, especially regarding the deity of Christ and redemption through His atoning sacrifice, while continuing to maintain the outward profession of the faith.**

Read carefully this issue of SIGNPOSTS and decide for yourself **whether the World Council of Churches has committed apostasy or is committing it.** If your answer is "Yes", then the Bible is very clear. "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord" (II Cor 6:17). "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins" (Rev 18:4).

What should our response be to the one world religion and apostasy? Paul says "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard of me" (II Tim 1:13). In other words, **get back to the Bible and affirm it as God's inerrant Word, our authoritative guide in all matters of faith and conduct!**

Fortunately there are now many books which apply the Bible message practically in the face of apostasy, secular humanism, Satanism, the New Age Movement, pornography and falling moral standards. One such book is *Biblical Solutions to Contemporary Problems*. See page 8.

"Therefore take up the whole armour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day" (Eph 6:13)

Edward Cain

CHANGING CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

UNIVERSAL SALVATION

Salvation is equated with "wholeness, or enlightenment, or divine guidance, or rest, or liberation" in a 2 500-word document *Religious Plurality: Theological Perspectives and Affirmations* drafted at a special WCC consultation, "Theology of Religions" held in Baar, Switzerland in January 1990. It formed part of the material discussed at the WCC's Seventh Assembly. The document was summarised in the March 1990 issue of *One World*, the WCC's monthly magazine.

"We find ourselves recognising the need to move beyond a theology which confines salvation to the explicit personal commitment to Jesus Christ," says the document. Salvation "may be available to those outside the fold of Christ in ways we cannot understand, as they live faithful and truthful lives in their concrete circumstances and in the framework of the religious tradi-

tions which guide and inspire them".

The above quotations cut right across the Biblical revelation that salvation comes exclusively through repentance and personal, conscious faith in Jesus Christ. The knowledge that salvation is only through Christ has provided the impetus for missionary outreach. It has been backed by passages such as "How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (Rom 10:14-15). Talking of religious people groping after the Creator God in non-Christian religions, Paul says "These times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:22-31). Peter dismisses the Jewish religion as "your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers" (I Pet 1:18 NASB).

After quoting Acts 4:12 ("Nor is there salvation in any other"), the document cites other Scripture passages to support the statement that it is "inconceivable to us that God's saving activity

could be confined to any one continent, cultural type or group of people". And, by implication, to any one religion! This interpretation is confirmed when the document states that **God is "present in and at work in people of other faiths"**.

The concept underlying this argument is a defective understanding of the Bible. It denies that the whole of Scripture is given by Divine inspiration. In other words, it maintains that one verse contradicts another, that one verse can be used to cancel out another. Bible-believing Christians maintain that when Scripture is compared with Scripture and one passage is used to shed light on another, there are no contradictions and we acquire a greater understanding of God's message. The fact that God is the Creator of all things does not oblige Him to be the Saviour of all people regardless of their beliefs and actions!

The World Council of Churches has wilfully turned its back on God's revelation and is leading people into apostasy!

The Baar document links interfaith dialogue with human liberation (ie the creation of a New World Order). "We need to move towards a dialogical theology in which the praxis (practice) of dialogue together with that of human liberation will constitute ... both a source and basis of theological work."

This is a key sentence because it links the two aspects of the WCC's work. It is determined to find a system of belief (dialogue) which will bring all the religions and ideologies of the world together. The goal is "human liberation", a WCC code phrase for the creation of a New World Order or one world government. Rev 13 clearly outlines an alliance between a Satanic one world government and an apostate Church, both of which persecute true believers.

THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATES IN ALL FAITHS

Since the early 1970s, the WCC's sub-unit on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths has organised international meetings between Christians and people of other faiths, especially Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims

"We have to learn to recognise in our neighbours the presence of the divine, spoken of in different ways in different traditions: the Shekinah in the Jewish traditions, the Holy Spirit of the Triune God to the Christians, the Atman of the Hindus and Sikhs, the Ruh to Muslims."

So says a message to the Assembly from a multi-faith consultation held in Hong Kong in August 1990. The consultation, which was reported in *One World* (November 1990), was intended to enhance the input into the Assembly by people of other faiths. Participants included Buddhists, Christians, Confucians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs as well as a Zoroastrian, a follower

"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."
Luke 21:28

of the Shinto tradition and a scholar of Taoism.

Once again the message is: all religions are the same and the Holy Spirit is equally present in all of them! This interpretation is confirmed by the Baar document: The Holy Spirit "has been at work in the life and traditions of people of living faiths. ... It is within the realm of the Spirit that we may be able to interpret the truth and goodness of other religions. ... The Holy Spirit ... will lead us ... into fresh and unexpected discovery of new wisdom and insight, as we learn from our neighbours of other faiths."

According to the WCC, the document limited itself to "people of faith". It did not address the issue of whether or how God is present and active among agnostics, secular humanists, devotees of various ideologies, atheists, who do not testify to encountering any "sense of the divine".



Ms Chung Kyung burns the list of the dead she invoked.

The WCC booklet *Let the Spirit Speak to the Churches* clearly suggests that the main work of the "spirit" is to motivate people to struggle for justice and peace whether they are Christians, people of other faiths and ideologies or people without faith (ie atheistic Marxists). Thus Christians "need to discern the Spirit at work in places where the name of Christ is not explicitly invoked" (p 16).

Incredible! The WCC believes that the Holy Spirit works through those in rebellion against God!

The "spirit" referred to in these quotations is not God, the Holy Spirit. It is "the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" who is equated with "the prince of the power of the air"

(Eph 2:2). It is the spirit of the world (kosmos - "the present condition of human affairs, in alienation from and opposition to God" - Vine) (I Cor 2:12). It is "another (one of a different quality) spirit" (II Cor 11:4). It is not of God. It does not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. It is the spirit of the antichrist (I Jn 4:3).

The Rev George Austin clearly saw the direction in which the WCC is going. "A few feminine images in the Scriptural description of the Holy Spirit gave the excuse for changing the gender of the Holy Spirit from He to She. Of course the real purpose is to prepare for a more fundamental change in the doctrine of God so that patriarchal (and Scriptural) descriptions of God as Father and Son may be entirely removed in due course."

ALL HUMANS ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

The Assembly was told of a "dream of a just community in which people are not judged by their race or their cultural traditions, but in which people are valued because they are all children of God", in a dramatic presentation on Aborigine history by the Australian Council of Churches.

The booklet *Let the Spirit Speak to the Churches* suggests that it was wrong for Old Testament Israel to see itself as a chosen nation or for the Christian community of the New Testament to see itself as God's people. Instead **"the poor are identified with**

the people of God" and we are to "think of the wider human community as the whole people of God. Such new insights should inform our reflections on the meaning of reconciliation and also our understanding of the church and of its ministry in the world."

This is a clear call for a single religion embracing the entire human race! How it contrasts with the Bible! Peter made it clear that those who believe in Jesus are God's own special people (1 Pet 2:9).

BUILDING A JUST SOCIETY

"The power of the Spirit moves us to strive for the building up of just societies within our local, regional, national and international contexts," states the guidelines laid down in the WCC's programme for the 1990's. "The wisdom of all the faith traditions is needed to enlighten and at times to challenge the misuse of science and technology," says the message from a multi-faith consultation held in Hong Kong. The culture of dialogue "leads us to common action and towards a common future."

WCC'S DICTATORIAL BUREAUCRACY

"I went expecting that an organisation which spoke so feelingly for the voiceless of the world would give a voice to all points of view, yet found little real participation and much intolerance, particularly from the dominating voices of North American liberals," said George Austin, Archdeacon of York, describing how the 1983 WCC Assembly in Vancouver shattered his misconceptions.

"The final plenary sessions in Vancouver were notable for grassroots revolts against the staff's manipulations. ... I had been in a group which laboured long and hard on Communications, only to meet with a flat refusal from staff members to put forward the draft programme we had prepared. We were not alone in our frustration: the illusion of participation was shared by many other drafting groups and we concluded that Democracy ruled OK - but not at the WCC."

Archdeacon Austin went to the Canberra Assembly hoping that things would be different. But "sadly there is little evidence that the principles of participation apply to the internal workings of the WCC. By the end of the first week there was intense anger and frustration among delegates from every part of the world. The only lesson which appeared to have been learnt was a more effective manipulation by those pulling strings."

A WCC official spelled out in detail what the sub-group Rev Austin attended in Canberra should include in their report, even before discussion began! "When our Moderator tried to lead towards a particular Biblical consideration, the WCC 'minder' assigned to make sure we kept to the party-line, exploded with anger at such an example of Christian 'imperialism'." Complaining that very little time was allowed for discussion at plenary sessions, Rev Austin concluded: "The clear message received by delegates was that the WCC regards itself as above criticism."

It should be noted that only 28 members of the 150 strong WCC central committee were re-elected at Canberra. With more than 80 percent of central committee members novices, the only continuity lies with the permanent staff who are in a powerful position to manipulate the newcomers!

Although over 800 delegates attended the Assembly, not all were present at every plenary session. As a result, some resolutions were passed with as few as 286 delegates voting for them!

"The *oikoumene* embraces the whole inhabited earth with all its forms of life and all its families of faith. The 'peace, justice and integrity of creation' so many long for inevitably concerns all human beings and must be sought in dialogue with people of other faiths as well as with people of no confessed faith." *Oikoumene* is the Greek word for inhabited earth, as in Lk 4:5, from which we get the word ecumenical. In French the WCC is known as the Ecumenical Council of Churches.

Perhaps no other statement sums up the WCC's purpose more clearly. It seeks to unite all people (even those who refuse to acknowledge any god) into one worldwide system!

WCC IN CONFLICT WITH THE BIBLE

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit's only activity among unregenerate people is to convict of sin, of righteousness and judgement (Jn 16:8-11), leading to repentance and faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit only enters into a person who receives Jesus and obeys God (Acts 2:38; 5:32). Moreover those who are led by the Holy Spirit are sons of God (Rom 8:14). Consequently there are those who do not have the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9).

No indication was given at the Assembly that the WCC had any concern in personal salvation, that there is a Heaven to be gained and a hell to be shunned. For this reason, it isn't strictly true that the WCC teaches that all religions lead to Heaven. The WCC has no interest in Heaven and how to get there. It is totally absorbed with reconstructing earthly society.

The WCC seems to hold the concept of God that Karl Marx propagated so vigorously, namely that God does not actually exist. According to Marx, God is merely the figment of man's imagination. The different religions (different concepts of God) are explained by the varying economic, social and political backgrounds of the people among whom they originated.

If one accepts this teaching the two basic requirements for a one world religion fall naturally into place. Since God does not actually exist, He could not have given an authoritative revelation of Himself, as Bible-believing Christians claim. The Bible is therefore not authoritative. Like every other sacred book, it merely contains the ideas of men and is heavily conditioned by the cultural background of its authors. So, according to this teaching, far from taking the Bible literally, we need to peel away the heavy cultural layers to get to the essential divine truths that are hidden beneath them. In a word, man's intellect and contemporary bias become the determining factors in deciding what is acceptable in the Bible and what is not.

Simultaneously, a second strategy has been launched to reconcile religious differences. They can be merged by creating an homogeneous one world political, social and economic environment. Since the different religions developed because of varying backgrounds, a uniform culture will give rise to a single religion.

The ideal population of this New World Order is a rootless, amorphous mass of humanity loyal only to the central authority. Thus the distinctive role of men and women must be eliminated. The family unit must be destroyed. Loyalty to and love of nation, race, culture and language must be ended. Hence the WCC's relentless and continued Programme to Combat Racism. A nation's ability to defend itself must be destroyed. This explains the WCC's opposition to militarisation. Capitalism, represented by the multi-national companies, must be replaced by socialism. In reality, the economic independence

of the individual created by personal initiative must be replaced by a serflike classless society in which the people are totally dependent on the state to supply all their needs.

This is what the WCC has in mind when it talks of a just, peaceful society with new social, economic and political values!

RESTRUCTURING SOCIETY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

The goal of the World Council of Churches is to unite all religions in a super one world religion. But that is part of a larger goal. To promote "one human family in justice and peace" is one of the WCC's "functions and purposes" listed in its constitution. In other words, the creation of a single homogeneous society worldwide in which distinctions such as national pride, love of language and race and differences based on sex and wealth will disappear. These things create conflict in the eyes of the WCC. So when they go, so will war. And who will be the great peace-maker? You've guessed it - the United Nations! Listen, then, to what the WCC says.

One report accepted by the WCC Assembly urged a "new type of mission, not into foreign lands, but into 'foreign' structures. By this term we mean economic, social and political structures which do not at all conform to Christian moral standards." The report called for a "reordering of personal and corporate lifestyles, relationships and the overall economic system". It attacked "economic materialism" and "achievement-orientated individualism" as "hidden ideologies" "which aggressively break up the liberative values of the Two Thirds World."

Another report urges WCC members to address divisions of language, race, sex, cast and economic status which contradict the "inclusive love" of God. The Assembly also approved the substance of a report *Spirit of Truth - Set Us Free* which refers to "contradictions and imbalances prevailing in the world economic system" and calls "racism one of the terrible sins of humankind." It asks members to be alert to the potential dangers of increased racial tension.

"Today the Spirit is leading us to a new understanding of community which transcends the barriers of culture, race, sex and other factors that divide us" (*Let the Spirit Speak to the Churches*). For "transcends", read "destroys"!

Do you get the picture? All divisions (language, race, sex, economic standing) are bad and must be removed. So must the desire to get ahead in life ("achievement-orientated individualism"). Ambition must be replaced by the utopian Marxist concept that everyone will labour selflessly for the good of society. And how must the economic system be changed? Why, to the failed socialism, of course! Listen to another WCC book: "We are for socialism. ... We also learned that socialism is a global movement. ... Our

attempt to build a socialist society is part of a global struggle for an alternative to the capitalist society" (*A Community of Clowns*). And all this is done in the name of God!

The ultimate goal of the WCC was summarised in the closing words of the Assembly's message "to all churches, Christians and peoples". "As we continue on our journey to the unity of the church and of humankind under God's rule." "The unity of the church and the unity of human kind" means a one world religion and a New World Order!

The Assembly sees the United Nations as the enforcer of world peace, initially in the Gulf conflict raging at the time the Assembly met, but also on a broader scale. Referring to the Gulf war, the United Nations was asked "to reassert your role as peacemaker, peacekeeper, conciliator and negotiator." The statement also refers to visions of a "New World Order".

The United Nations position "as a guarantor of a comprehensive international peace order" should be strengthened "for the sake of world peace, for the sake of the rule of law", said an earlier draft on the Gulf war. It said the war was "not in the interests of an international order of peace based on law."

A booklet produced to prepare churches for the Assembly regretted that the New World Information and Communication Order, promulgated by UNESCO and endorsed by the United Nations in 1980, did not take off. It is hardly surprising, therefore that in its recommendations, the Assembly called for a new world information and communication order and for the United Nations to promote peace and justice among the nations of the world!

WCC CALLS FOR SANCTIONS TO BE MAINTAINED

The WCC Assembly called for sanctions against South Africa to be maintained "until such time that all apartheid laws are abolished and the demise of apartheid is declared to be irreversible." It promised to consult SA member churches, among others, to determine criteria for lifting sanctions. The resolution came after a number of South Africans at the Assembly supported continued sanctions.

"Exciting and painful" is how Rev Frank Chikane, general secretary of the SA Council of Churches, described the situation in South Africa during the WCC Assembly. He saw the government's failure to agree to an interim government and a constituent assembly as a barrier to progress.

Current township violence is not tribal war but a politically based conflict, he said. "It is not a simple ANC-Inkatha matter either. ... We have a culture of violence in South Africa that has been created by apartheid." The majority of South Africans have had no right to differ peacefully with the government; those who have done so have been imprisoned, tortured and killed.

On the other hand, he reviewed what he described as the African National Congress's "extraordinary decision" to suspend the armed struggle. In the ANC's view, this is a ceasefire, but the government misunderstands it as an end to the war and expects the ANC to disarm the people.

Sanctions should not be lifted until meaningful change has been effected by the South African government in scrapping the system of apartheid, Rev Jameson Buti, moderator of the NG Kerk in Afrika and Rev Jameson Buys of the NG Sending Kerk told an Assembly press briefing.

Prof Johan Heyns, former NG Kerk moderator, said sanctions should be removed now. His presence as an observer marked the first time in 30 years that the NGK was present at a WCC Assembly. Three factors contributed to his church's change of heart on apartheid, he said. These were pressure from outside, criticism from within and isolation from the world church. Prof Pieter Potgieter, the current moderator, also attended.

During the Assembly, the NG Sending Kerk was welcomed as a full member church, bringing to 10 the number of South African churches which are WCC members. Other South African organisations with close ties to the WCC are:

- the South African Council of Churches, an associate council;
- the National Conference of Churches, to which the WCC and related ecumenical organisations sent 22 observers and with whose confession of guilt the Assembly identified;
- The South African chapter of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP).

The WCRP is recognised by the United Nations as a Non-governmental Organisation which makes important contributions to the UN. Among its international officers, who include Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews and Shintoists, is Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It aims at getting members of different faiths to work together for peace and justice. WCRP representative, William P Thompson, was one of the speakers at a special WCC Assembly session on the Gulf war.

Gerrie Lubbe, a Christian, is president of the WCRP's South African chapter and Faried Esack, a Muslim, is vice president. The executive council also includes Hindus, a Jew and a representative of African Traditional religions. Among the trustees

PORNOGRAPHY AT WCC ASSEMBLY!

"Wandering round the foyer of the convention centre before one of the sessions, I found a table set up commending a feminist book, which was surrounded by pornographic cartoons, including a couple performing an unnatural act," reported Rev Austin. "I managed to overcome the temptation to overturn the tables of those who sold porn and simply removed all the cartoons - to the fury of the woman who was on duty at the stall. I took them to the WCC information desk and they simply handed them back to the woman who claimed to be in charge of them."

But far worse was to come at the Assembly. A Romanian churchman asked a Canadian woman delegate to perform an unnatural sex act with him, according to *The Sunday Times*, London (24/2/91). When she refused, the man beat her about the head until she complied. A WCC spokesman confirmed that the police were investigating the complaint, but the Romanian had already left. He could thus not be asked whether the cartoons inflamed his passions!

"It emerged too," continued *The Sunday Times*, "that there had been other incidents; so many, in fact, that a special tent called Womanspace had been set aside as a sanctuary for women fleeing the attentions of the self-styled men of God."

The WCC has chosen to lay aside the doctrines of the Bible which alone provide the foundation for moral conduct. It is now reaping the logical results of its decision.

are Mrs Dorothy Boesak, Rev Frank Chikane, Dr Beyers Naude and Archbishop Tutu. In addition to providing information on interfaith activities, its goals include speaking out against "the draconian measures that accompany apartheid."

The NCC is already under pressure to follow the example of the WCRP and WCC and open its doors to non-Christian religions.

"BIBLICAL SOLUTIONS TO CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS" by Rus Walton

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