

EXPOSING SATAN'S POWER MINISTRIES, INC.

EVANGELIST BEN ALEXANDER

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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India Trip Report



MID-INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION

**327 INDIAN CHRISTIAN LEADERS ATTEND
E.S.P. MINISTRIES SEMINAR**

India

It all began at the 2005 National Missionary Convention when a young man visited me at my booth. His name was Vivek Lall. He told me he was a native missionary in India and invited me to speak in India. I must admit I wasn't that enthusiastic to go half way around the world at 86 years old. Besides that, I wasn't an authority on Hinduism. He said you may be surprised what Hinduism really is. I told him I would pray about it.

I was astonished when my brother, Vivek Lall, through emails and telephone conversations, explained the doctrines of Hinduism. Below is a letter describing the beliefs of this Satanic religion. It is absolutely no different to the higher levels of Spiritualism. During my discussions with my brother, I was re-living the darkness that I encountered when I was in the séance room with the demonic spirits in control. When I became a Christian and read God's Word, I realized the abyss and darkness of Spiritualism.

Millions of dear souls in India are enveloped in pitch black darkness of occultism; this startling fact made it quite clear of the desperate need for Miranda and I to go to speak to several hundred missionaries in India.

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Christ from your brothers and sisters in India!

We at Mid-India Christian Mission are excited by the possibility of having Mr. Ben Alexander with us here in India. *Hinduism*, the main religion of India, shares many areas of commonality with *Spiritualism*, a subject about which Mr. Alexander has so much to teach us. This is why a visit to our country by Brother Alexander is so very important.

United in darkness: India is an incredibly diverse mosaic of cultures, languages, and philosophies wrought by wave after wave of invasions of the subcontinent over thousands of years. Unfortunately, the one unifying thread for 80% of its population is the poly-theistic *Hindu* religion.



Inside a Hindu temple.

A brief summation of Hinduism for those who are unfamiliar with the religion: Hinduism has evolved over thousands of years into its present confederation of various religious practices and mystical philosophies (i.e. scores of mythological and philosophical texts, countless styles of idol worship and animistic beliefs, and various superstitions) all bound by four essential ideas: *karma* (deeds that effect one's future life); *reincarnation* (rebirth into higher or lower socio-religious classes called castes, or even into animals, depending on previous life's karma); the *universal force* (an impersonal force that pervades the universe and "is all things" animate and inanimate); *maya*, (the illusion that is this world which souls must overcome through periods of super consciousness via yoga, and chiefly, through the accumulation of upward reincarnations; *moksha* (freedom from the wheel of rebirths, attained when a soul has reincarnated through the highest and last level). We can see that this is a religion dependent on "works." But works for what end?

No light at the end of the tunnel: What the weary pilgrim ultimately encounters upon *moksha* is not a joyous reward, but rather a cessation of existence: Like a drop of water into a vast ocean, the emancipated Hindu soul at last only dissipates into everything/nothing. *For a Hindu there is no hope of life after death.*

How many are lost in this well of darkness? India is only 1/3 the size of the US land wise. Yet, while the US has a population of roughly 250 million, India's population is four times that. With over one billion people India rivals even spacious China! *Imagine, 80% of this billion plus people are bound within the spiritual darkness of Hinduism.*

Like the blind leading the blind: Hindu priests daily "guide" the people from ancient texts with endless and elaborate rhetoric along a false path to peace. They perform rituals over their idol gods. They consult the stars to determine auspicious days for events such as weddings. Ouija boards and other forms of divination are integral to the life of the common man, as are mediums for "contacting the dead," palm readers and fortune tellers. Demon possession is real.

The shadow of Hinduism pervades every aspect of the culture at large. For example: Even in our day and age there is a nationally recognized "federal" holiday for worshipping the cobra. Children are off from school. Government buildings are closed. It is often difficult for Christians to clearly divorce themselves completely from all elements of Hinduism.

Discerning dark from light is crucial for the purity of Christianity in India. It is vital that our Christian leaders be firmly established in the reasons why God forbade participation in spiritualism, divination, astrology, superstitions, etc. Leaders must be able to recognize these elements in Hinduism and also the culture at large so that they can weed any concepts or practices out of their own lives and be able to help those converts who are coming out of Hinduism. Of similar importance is the need to illuminate occult like practices existing within the professed church itself. Modern Charismatic/Pentecostal influences and mystical Catholic ideas and practices are common among what few "Christians" there are within India's vast population

Hindu attending to a shring in the home.



No foreign missionaries are allowed to remain in India. Native Christians who lead and evangelize often face opposition or persecution. A visit from Mr. Alexander would provide encouragement to our people. More importantly, many people would gain the opportunity to benefit from his wisdom through a seminar arranged by the Mission. These leaders, having been taught by Brother Alexander, would then be prepared to pass on what they have learned to many others. In addition, audio cassettes and videos of Brother Alexander's lectures can be made for distribution to untold numbers in the future.

Brother Alexander, having literally come "out from darkness," is in a remarkably unique position to elucidate and expound the schemes of Satan at work in India.

Serving our Savior,
Vivek and Angela Lall

So we went.

Miranda and I decided to break up our journey and so we flew into London and were fortunate to be met by a friend whom I have known for more than 50 years. I will be discussing that later in this newsletter. After spending a week in London, we caught our plane from Heathrow London airport and arrived the following morning in New Delhi.

We were relieved when our bags came off the carousel pretty quickly. There were lots of people waiting for friends with signs and then I heard someone shout "Ben!" It was my host, Vivek Lall. He was with another gentleman whose first name is "Joy" and, during the whole time we were there, if ever a name fit a person, it surely was this wonderful bother by the name of Joy.

Miranda and I were delighted as our host put garlands of flowers around our necks and we felt like VIP's (a welcome to honored guests). However, our joy was short-lived. As we stepped out of the airport, we were surrounded by beggars and Miranda, being the person she is, found herself giving dollar bills away. This became a practice of hers as time went on, except for the fact that our host, Vivek, suggested she should change her money to rupees.

The first of the many beggars we saw was a woman holding a baby with a band-aid on its forehead; the next, a young boy about eight or nine years old pointing to his mouth and then his stomach, holding his hand out for money. Another heart-breaking experience was later on meeting a beggar who seemed to have leprosy. He had two fingers missing and his arms were unsightly.

Indeed, we had a lifetime changing experience. Words cannot do justice to describe the plight of much of the poverty we saw in this god-forsaken country. I thought I was brought up in poverty in London, but where I lived would seem like a mansion to these people who have nothing but the rags on their backs. I realize that we have the homeless here in the USA, but when you see the children, along with their mothers, without shelter living a day-to-day existence of begging, it makes you cry. Miranda and I did just that.



One of the beggars to whom we gave money. Possibly he had leprosy. It was really sad.

That was the beginning of our 500-mile trip by road and train as we made our way to the mission. Our first stop in Delhi was at our hotel for the night. As I stepped into the hotel, I was greeted by my first of many of the gods.

In India, a lady wearing a green sari, holding incense, was praying to this god. Vivek told me that there are over 300 million gods in India.

Before we started our journey, we held our first meeting. Ministers, along with some of their wives, traveled from their villages to hear me speak at a nearby room next door to the hotel. My understanding was that these ministers came from villages far away and, in some cases, they felt it was safer for Miranda and I so speak in New Delhi rather than go to their churches. Also, it would have been impossible to visit all the villages where they came from because of time constraints.

The following day was the beginning of our 500-mile trip by road and train to the mission. There were two kinds of roads equally divided by length. I named the roads "Heaven-sent" (those are the ones that had asphalt and the others I named "hell-bent" (those were atrocious -- you bumped from the seat to the roof of the car). Driving in India is a nightmare. The traffic is a sight to behold -- dogs, goats, water buffalo, and cows are everywhere on the road. There are oxen and camels pulling carts, bicycles used as rickshaws, motorbikes often with ladies wearing saris sitting side saddle on the back seat. All this along with your regular traffic of cars, buses, and trucks. They drive on the horn and nobody pulls over until the last second. At first my host let me ride on the front seat. At the first stop I requested I set at the back of the car -- my blood pressure couldn't handle it!



One of the millions of idols. This was at a hotel we stayed.



One of the familiar sights on the highways.



Rickshaw bicycles, a regular method of transport.

On our way to Damoh, the village where the mission base is located, we had to pass through the metro city of Jabalpur. Unknown to our driver, a curfew had been declared in this city. The reason being, clashes between Hindus and Muslims had fought a battle two days prior to our arrival. Mobs had been on the streets and there had been casualties.

Before we reached our final destination, our train was delayed for two hours some miles away. We later learned the reason -- a bomb threat had been thwarted to blow up the station. Thank God for traveling mercies.

My first morning at the mission was interesting. My host, Vivek, and his wife, Angela, live next door to his father, Stanley Lall. (Stanley Lall holds two masters degrees and a Ph.D. His wife, Dolly, holds a Ph.D. in Hindi Literature and is a retired university language professor. They have been missionaries for many years.) Miranda and I stayed in a guest house opposite them, across the compound. The first morning I took a walk and came to a gate with iron bars. I was startled to see a soldier with a rifle. I pointed across the compound to Vivek's house and the soldier saluted me. When I asked Angela who that was, she said the man was part of their 24-hour security. Later on in the evening, she pointed to a man who was walking

around with a pistol on his belt. He was the night security. She went on to say he was a Muslim and they were hoping to convert him. She also told us some of his history -- that he had served his time in prison for three murders, but he was now trustworthy. We securely locked our doors that night! They explained that where they lived was a crime area and, of course, having three children was a concern -- especially the possibility of kidnapping.

We visited most of the different facilities and we were impressed with the teachers and workers who have dedicated their lives to this wonderful work. Miranda and I cried when the blind children sang to us. That was a scene that will stay in my life forever.



Our hosts, Vivek and Angela Lall, with their children.



Miranda hugging one of the blind children.



The blind children at the mission. We cried.

THE CONFERENCE

According to my missionary host, Vivek Lall, "the seminar was an outstanding success." There were over 300 ministers from all over North and Central India. The messages were translated into the Hindi language and filmed. Vivek informed me that the ministers would be going back to their churches, many of them to villages, and his words were that they would reach several thousands with my message. Also he said the filming of the meeting would be shown across India and he expected it will be seen and heard by millions.



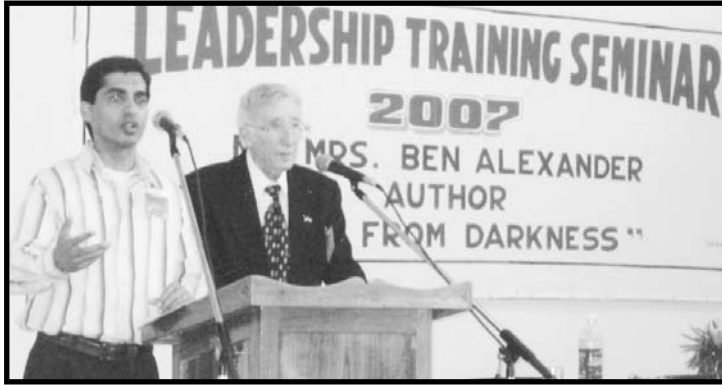
Over 300 Christian leaders attended this three-day seminar.

Added to the above, Vivek said he is determined to have my book, "Out From Darkness," translated into the Hindi language. Please keep this in prayer.

Despite the hardship of the travel and many of the sad scenes we saw, we would have never wanted to miss this wonderful opportunity to witness and have the personal involvement with these beautiful Indian people. It truly was a life-changing experience for Miranda and me. Thank you, Jesus.

I promised the Indian people I would do everything I could to help them financially. This newsletter is dedicated to helping the mission in India. I pray you will find it in your heart to help support the mission in India.

More Snapshots from our Memorable Trip



Ben Speaking with Vivek Lall interpreting for over 300 Indian ministers.



Visiting with David Lall at Good News Productions - India.



Mid-India Christian Mission welcomes Ben and Miranda.



Many cows have little or no grass to eat. This cow was eating out of the trash can.



Coolies carrying our luggage at the train station. The brother on the right is Joy -- yes, that's his name! He accompanied us wherever we went and took care of our needs. He is truly a wonderful Christian man.



Boy begging at our car window.



Ben praying with men who requested prayer.



Ben with lady who had asked for prayer.



Lady asking Miranda to pray for her baby.



Ben teaching with Vivek translating in one of the villages on the way to the Mission.

THE MISSION

A young Hindu woman encountered some early missionaries to India. She decided she wanted to convert to Christ and she shared this news with her relatives. They did not approve of her intention. After overhearing a murder plot by her "disgraced" family, she fled her home with her young son. She traveled all night through the jungle (with tigers and other wild animals) to finally reach the missionaries' home. She was safe, but the new sandal she had worn created a wound that later became terribly infected. She died soon after. Her young son, later named Samuel, was adopted by the missionaries and eventually became a Christian.

In the late 1960s Samuel's son, Stanley Lall (along with another son, Vijai, and daughter Romola's husband, Jay Henry) envisioned the mission work of Mid-India Christian Mission which began in 1969 in Damoh, M.P. India. Dr. Stanley Lall was joined in the mission work in 1993 by his son, Vivek, and his wife, Angela, after their graduation from Kentucky Christian University.

From a one-room school, the mission work has now grown to include many outreaches, managed by Samuel's children and grandchildren. There is a Bible College and other Preacher Training Centers, Christian Media Production and Training Center, an Eye Hospital, a Christian School, and Benevolence and Relief Work (such as in response to the Asian tsunami).

Vivek and Angela's ministry includes Evangelistic Outreach, Translation Work, and Ministry to Disabled Children (blind, deaf, and physically and mentally handicapped). Currently, a Women's Abortion Alternative Clinic is being constructed and a self-sustaining village for disabled adults, called Ashram, is being developed.

We can trace the presence of this expanded mission work back to one woman's brave and bold decision to follow Christ.

THE BEGINNING OF A DREAM . . . Vivek and his wife, Angela, pointing out land and a lake that will be developed as an Evangelistic Outreach, Translation Work, and Ministry to Disabled Children (blind, deaf, and physically and mentally handicapped). Currently a Women's Abortion Alternative Clinic is being constructed and a self-sustaining village for disabled adults, called Ashram, is being developed.



THE FIELD

India is a crowded nation. There are nearly a billion people in a land 1/3 the size of the U.S. Most people live in crowded, polluted cities while many live in rural villages eeking out an existence as simple, usually illiterate, subsistence farmers. The government supplies each village home with some electricity. In many areas, it is just enough for one light bulb and for only a few hours a day.

India is also a religious nation. The ancient reincarnation/karma-based Hindu religion is the mystical system honored by 80% of the population. Another 12% are Muslim. The rest are a variety of minorities, including the 2% who are followers of Christ. This 2% includes Catholics and all Protestant denominations.

Arranged marriages, consulting the zodiac, idol worship, and holy cows are just some of the exotic practices you will find in India. But exposure to the West, thanks to the information age, is fast changing India from the metros down. Some young people are leaving the traditional customs in favor of the latest electronics, jeans, burgers, and MTV. Some changes are favorable. However, many of the "ills" of Western society are adversely affecting a population that has no Christian foundation on which to rely.

In reaction to this foreign infiltration, a strong pro-Hindu (pro-India) party has formed. They are against anything foreign, including foreign religions. In the areas of India where this party is in power, it is more difficult for Christians to live and especially to minister. Sometimes there is outright persecution. There are anti-conversion laws in place. It is in this environment that Vivek and Angela and their three children, Levi (12), Anna (10), and Mary (8) are striving to serve.

A NEED

There are many, many needs a mission has in a land such as India. There's no room to share them all! So, we will focus on just one. **The greatest need that we are currently striving to fill is adequate housing (dorm) and a simple school building for the 109 disabled children whom we are presently schooling or raising.** Many of these children are destitute and neglected by family. They rely on us for food, clothing, medications, and school supplies. They are precious souls Jesus loves. Though they come from a Hindu background, they love Jesus and sing His praises loud and clear and so joyously.

We have a small, but dedicated, staff that ministers to their needs. But the children must also have a place to live. Right now the mission's Eye Hospital, along with some rented buildings, are providing temporary housing for some of the children until we can provide a suitable facility.

What we need are volunteers to minister to these children in His name, by helping to fund the needed facility. The cost of this is estimated at \$180,000. We hope these children will one day bear fruit for Christ. We see the power of one brave life in Samuel's mother. If it were not for her, we would not be here, writing this appeal on behalf of these disabled children. We believe that if all of us Christians do our little part, then we, too, can make a difference for future generations.

Forwarding address for the Indian mission:

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The London Scene

On our way to India, Miranda and I stopped in London and spent a week. I guess this must have been my fifteenth short term mission trip to my old country and, I am sorry to say, the Christian climate has gone colder. I am fully convinced that the United Kingdom and Europe must be the most difficult countries in the world to spread the Gospel.

I was thankful that I had the opportunity to speak on Premier Radio in London while I was there. This powerful station has the potential to reach millions across the UK and the many European countries. We had an excellent response. Alan Marshall is the minister at the two churches where I spoke on the following Sunday. Several listeners who had heard the radio program attended these two meetings as well.



Broadcasting from Premier Radio in London, with host Michael Fanstone.

Alan Marshall is the minister at the two churches where I spoke on the following Sunday. Several listeners who had heard the radio program attended these two meetings as well.

Alan holds meetings, one on Sunday morning in South East London, and another in North East London. Alan is a wonderful brother who loves the Lord and needs our prayers and support for his dedication to one of the most difficult soul-winning missions across the world. ESP Ministries donated 36 copies of my book, "Out From Darkness," to the church in London and India. (There are many people who speak English in India.)



Alan Marshall and Ben inside one of the two churches to which he ministers.

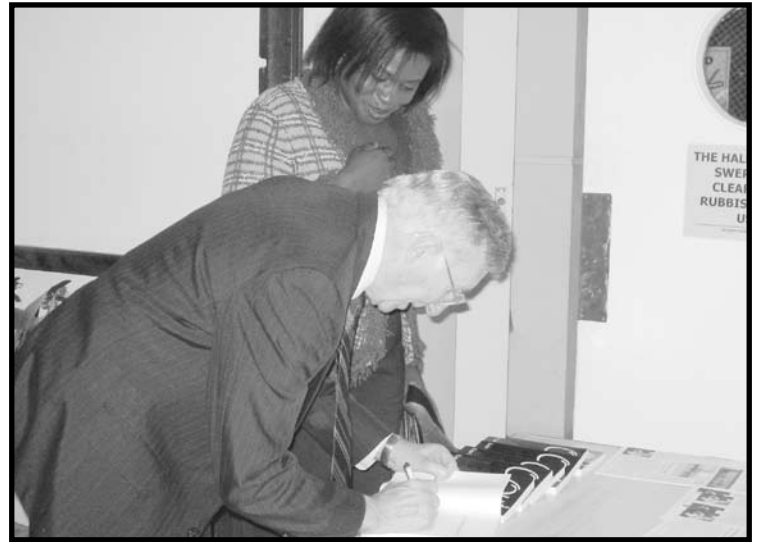
Recently, Alan phoned me from London and reminded me of a couple who came to the meeting because they heard me on the Premier Radio program. He said from that day onwards they haven't missed a service. Previously they were involved in a cult. I discussed the matter with them and, praise God, they found the truth!



Alan and Ben visiting with some who came to hear Ben speak.



Ben preaching in London.



Book signing. We gave several of our books "Out From Darkness" free to visitors who attended the meeting.

THE CHANGING FACE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Miranda and I stayed with friends in London (they live close to the airport). Surrounding the airport are suburban districts that are middle class homes. My friend drove me around the area. In one town called Southall, I never saw an English shop -- they were either Pakistan or Indian. One newspaper shop that I went into had dozens of newspapers in different languages. London is no different to any Muslim capital. Unfortunately, the immigrants never assimilated. I regret the British culture is being lost. Worse still, according to British intelligence, there are over two thousand home-grown terrorists. Crime has worsened over the past several years and killings are taking place not just in streets, but in homes as well. Great Britain needs our prayers.



One million children in Britain are living in violent homes, says report

By Sarah Womack,
Social Affairs Correspondent
(Filed: 15/08/2006)

The exam results of at least one in 14 children could be adversely affected by domestic violence, says a report published today. It estimates that a million children in Britain live in violent homes, which have a "devastating effect" on their emotional health and academic achievements.

"Seven percent of under 18s may receive exam results that do not reflect their academic ability but are the result of living with domestic violence," says the report.

"Exposure to domestic violence threatens a child's physical, emotional, and social development.

"Children may have more trouble with school work and show poor concentration and focus, they tend not to do as well in school. In one study 40 percent had lower reading abilities than children from non-violent homes."

The report, published by Unicef, the United Nations, and Body Shop International, is based on national crime figures from around the world. It estimates that 60 percent of domestic violence is witnessed by children.

The authors said the report, *Behind Closed Doors: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children*, was the first global effort to document the extent of domestic violence on young people. They said there were up to 275 million children across the world whose lives were blighted by physical, sexual, and psychological attacks.

Research in Britain shows one in four women and one in six men will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime.

On average, two women a week are killed by a current or former male partner. Domestic violence accounts for 16 percent of all violent crime. Criminologists say the most accurate estimate of the extent of domestic violence comes from a British Crime Survey self-completion study involving a nationally representative sample of 22,463 people.

It shows 26 percent of women and 17 percent of men have experienced at least one incident of domestic violence since they were 16.

The BCS estimate says that there were about 401,000 incident of domestic abuse in 2004-05. However, a special BCS study pointed to more than a million victims each year, with 15.4 million incidents involving threats or

force happening each year in England and Wales. In a third of cases, violence started during pregnancy. If the man was already abusive, pregnancy often escalated the violence.

Today's report says that anything between 240,000 and 963,000 children were exposed to domestic violence in Britain.

The report says children may suffer from a range of effects including low self-esteem, aggression, behavior and adjustment problems.

Young people who grow up with violence are more likely to be abused themselves and may suffer some of the same behavioral problems as direct victims. According to the Home Office, children in violent homes are three to nine times more likely to be injured or abused, particularly in the defence of one parent.

Anita Roddick, the founder of the Body Shop, said the statistics are "appalling."

"Domestic violence is one of the biggest human rights challenges of our time," she added.

"It is a global phenomenon of epic proportions that knows no geographical boundaries. "If we don't take action now, then, without a doubt, society will continue to suffer as these young victims become adults."

BROTHELS TO BE LEGALIZED

THE law is being changed to allow three prostitutes to legally work in a brothel, the Government announced today.

Minister Fiona Mactaggart hopes this will mean an increase in safety for women who previously had to work alone if they didn't want to break the law.

Only women working alone are allowed to charge for sex under current legislation.

The Government also wants a new loitering penalty introduced so the courts can direct prostitutes to programmes to help them with drug or alcohol addiction and encourage them to leave the trade.

And police will be encouraged to work more closely with "safe houses."

The new Home Office document, which applies to England and Wales, highlighted the need for kerb-crawlers to be prosecuted more rigorously.

This makes a u-turn on previous plans to license specific red-light districts.

However, prostitutes' groups have claimed any kind of crackdown will put women in the sex trade in more danger, due to nervous clients and prostitutes taking risks for fear of being caught.



Teenage girls are 'out of control'

by STEVE DOUGHTY, Daily Mail
19 May, 2006

TEENAGE GIRLS ARE NOW MORE LIKELY THAN BOYS TO DRINK, SMOKE, STEAL, AND TAKE DRUGS, A SURVEY HAS SHOWN.

Violence, aggression, and self-destructive behavior has spread alarmingly among girls over the past 20 years. While boys appear less likely to be drawn towards crime or drugs than they were, psychological and social problems are stacking up among teenage girls, who are now expected to compete on equal terms with boys for education opportunity and jobs.

The study of 14 and 15-year-olds was conducted by questionnaire, in schools under exam conditions, and the results compared with a similar one from 1985.

Professor Colin Pritchard, who led the research, said: "Girls now significantly smoke and binge-drink more than boys. They truant, steal, and fight at similar rates, and start under-age sex earlier than boys."

He said binge-drinking, which was admitted by nearly a third of girls in their early teenage years, drove other anti-social behavior such as stealing, fighting, taking drugs, and engaging in risky sex.

"There is an element of following role models set by the media," he said. "We can look back to the Spice Girls where girls were set an example in which aggressive behavior was considered praiseworthy."

The study comparison found that the number of boys admitting to smoking has nearly halved to just over a quarter, while the number of girls who smoke has risen to nearly half. The number of girls who admit having smoke annabis has gone up nearly four fold, to one in five.

In 1985 around half of all boys and girls drank alcohol on a regular basis. Last year the numbers had shot up to 68 percent of boys and an astonishing 85 percent of girls.

The research, produced by academics from the Institute of Health and Community Studies at Bournemouth University, suggested there had been improvements in behaviour among boys.

Professor Pritchard said: "One thing we found among teenagers of all backgrounds was that those who said they liked school were the least likely to binge-drink, take drugs, or otherwise engage in bad behaviour. That is a challenge to schools and parents to make sure pupils are interested."

Moira Plant, co-author of the book "Binge Britain," said many young women drink because it gives them a sense of power, and teenagers will often see drinking and even hangovers as a "badge of honour."

On Religion

By Jonathan Petre,
Religion Correspondent
(Filed: 21, September 06)

The latest research into the nation's churchgoing habits makes dispiriting reading. The top line of my news story in Monday's Daily Telegraph was that the long-term decline in Sunday attendance had been significantly stemmed by the influx of Christian migrants, which was certainly one of the most intriguing findings of the research.

This was hailed in many quarters as heartening evidence that the Churches are pulling out of the free fall they have been in for several decades.

But a deeper analysis suggests that this may prove a blip rather than a permanent turning of the tide: the underlying figures in the 2005 English Church Census are far less cheering, at least to the leaders of the mainstream

denominations.

The Census is a serious piece of work, and provides the most accurate snapshot of the state of the nation's religious health available. Every one of the 37,500 churches or congregations in England was sent a questionnaire by the independent Christian Research organization and asked to complete it on an average Sunday in May last year. Just over half responded.

Christian Research has, in the past, been criticized by some in the Church of England for underestimating Anglican churchgoing by omitting figures for those who prefer to worship during the week.

But others have praised it as one of the few organizations that is actually carrying out the statistical analysis required for Church leaders to plan their strategies.

The hatchet appears to have been well and truly buried as the Archbishop of Canterbury, no less, has written the forward to the Census -- a reflection, perhaps, that such arguments are the equivalent of rearranging the deck chairs

on the Titanic.

Despite growth in a number of areas, particularly among the black-majority Pentecostal churches, the mainstream denominations have taken big hits.

Overall, Sunday churchgoing continues to fall at a rate of 2.3 percent a year, an improvement from the 2.7 percent decline in the 1990s but still a very alarming slide. Just 6.3 percent of the population is now in church on Sunday, a staggering shortfall from the 70 percent who described themselves as Christians in the 2001 National Census.

The Roman Catholics have recorded the largest drop; between 1989 and 1998 (the dates covered by a previous Census) it declined by 3.2 percent. Between 1998 and 2005, the latest figures, it lost a further 4.2 percent. In other words, on the measure of Sunday attendance, it has halved over the past sixteen years.

The Church of England, which has fewer worshippers in church on Sunday than the Catholics but a growing number going midweek, was

not far behind. It lost 2.6 percent of its Sunday attendees between 1989 and 1998, and a further 1.6 percent between 1998 and 2005. The Methodists fell by 2.9 percent and 3.4 percent respectively.

For every 1,000 new worshippers who joined a church, 2,500 left. So where are the biggest areas of concern?

The percentage of 15 to 29-year-olds attending has fallen from 15 percent in 1998 to 12 percent. The overall drop in the 20 to 29 age group was a staggering 29 percent, the highest of any age group.

Women are abandoning the pews twice as fast as men (an intriguing finding given the ordination of women). The average age of churchgoers is 45, against a population average of 40.

These are alarming trends. There is a danger that headlines proclaiming signs of hope in the figures may obscure the crises. For those who are in the business of preserving Christianity in England, there can be no room for complacency.

Netscape News with CNN

Violence part of life for girls in French suburbs

SAINT DENIS, France, Nov 10 (Reuters) -- With nightly scenes of rioting beamed around the globe, the world has learned that France's bleak suburbs are enclaves of gang wars and macho rules. The girls living there have known this for years.

Even before the riots, Ophelia, 16, used to run home from school every day because she was afraid of being attacked in the maze of high-rise buildings in her suburb northeast of Paris.

A series of gang rapes in these bleak housing estates shocked France a few years ago. In 2002, a 17-year-old girl was set alight by an 18-year-old boy as his friends stood by.

Walking near a burned-out garbage bin, Ophelia's twin sister Sandra says the riots came as no surprise. Violence against and pressure on women is part of daily life in the suburbs, where boys can dictate how girls should dress.

"You have to behave like a guy and look like a guy. If you wear a skirt, you get into immediate trouble. You're a slut," says Sandra, wearing a baggy sweatshirt and jeans.

Sandra and her sister grew up in the nearby Clichy-sous-Bois suburb, where the riots broke out after the accidental death of two teenage boys on October 17.

The violence spread across France, with young men venting deep anger about racism, unemployment, and a bleak future.

But not many girls have taken part, and many say they are fed up with consecutive nights of violence.

Apart from poverty, feminists say the dominance of traditional cultures among families of Arab and black African origin, combined with the growing role of Islam in the suburbs, have contributed to the harsh treatment girls get there.

Pressure is mounting for Muslim women to wear veils. Forced marriages that snatch them from college and career -- where they do much better than their male schoolmates -- are on the rise.

The support group "Ni Puetes, Ni Soumises" ("Neither Whores nor Submissives") says the number of forced marriages has risen in recent years, with roughly 70,000 girls pressured into unwanted relationships each year in France.

Letters

from the Mailbox



Hi Ben,

Have you ever noticed that countries who are entrenched in the occult, are poverty stricken, and full of disease? Take a look at Africa, for instance. They are starving from drought, AIDS is killing off the population, and they are ravaged by pestilence. There is witchcraft everywhere. When nations are in line with God's Word, they prosper. America is in for a rude awakening if she keeps going the same course. When all religions are welcome, and people like that guy who does crossing over are more popular than the one true God, things like Katrina, etc. start occurring. I pray that repentance happens here. This is just a thought that I had, when I heard of the plight of the Indian people. God bless and keep you, Ben. And thank you for being a vessel for God's purpose in this life.

Asa Rockwell

Letter from our Host in India

Dear Ben and Miranda,

I am very thankful that you made it home safely, and the feeling is mutual -- I miss both of you. Please convey by "thank you" to your daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren who gave you up for such a time, and such a distance so that you would come here. I know we are just two out of thousands you have met, but I have a very special place in my heart for you and always will. Your visit was a blessing to so very many here. Just as prayed it would be, and I find it was a great blessing to me also. It is such a joy to think heaven will be filled with such wonderful brothers and sisters as you. I can't thank you enough for your willingness to make the long and tiring trip. I have done it many times now and I know just how hard it is even for someone half your age.

With regards to your seminar, I can't remember a time when people were more appreciative of the subject matter and of the person giving the messages. One recent convert from Hinduism, who is now an effective evangelist and has been beaten more than once, told Vivek's brother that, because of what you shared, he will be able to be even more effective in his ministry.

Angela Lall

Atheist Criticizes the Bible

I always praise God for the wonderful opportunity to witness through our web page. Thousands have been reached, warning of the dangers of the occult. Also, the opportunity to witness to those without hope on a regular basis is a blessing. From time to time we have atheists who criticize God's Word and below is a case in point. He headed his letter "Hypocrisy." I have printed his argument and my reply. Some of his grammar is confusing, but his way of thinking is clear -- he despises Christianity.

Dear Sir,

I would humbly suggest a application of rational, logical, open minded critical thinking about your own belief system may just reveal some major flaws and as a atheist I find Christianity and all it's subgroups patently absurd to the rational thinking man you sir are in a poor position to criticize others as a non believer both the Koran and Bible tell you the believer that I the infidel must be smitten/judged/stoned/ etc. murdered as a non-believer I just want you to embrace reality. In closing could you enlighten me as to a Biblical proportion type miracle I may use to demonstrate the reality of "god" (parting ocean, planet, feces on every door) you know, utterly undeniable proof, repeat undeniable your god fares poorly when compared to other explanations of all we see around us, oh yes one more thing why did he create (hem) also why is your loving omnipotent figurehead starving babies in Africa and India? He has made the lives of many a living hell (sorry) for no good reason? As I'm getting older the flaws in my body's design are becoming evermore evident, poor workmanship indeed, respond if you like at your convenience of course.

My reply:

Thank you for your email and I will do my best to answer your questions. First, I am not aware that I have criticized any unbelievers. I merely state the position that I believe the Bible is the inspired revelation of God. It begins with a picture of Paradise lost and terminates with a picture of Paradise regained. The Bible is simply the history of Redemption. It has one theme throughout and that is the redemption of fallen man through the auspices of the Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ.

Secondly, you are correct to condemn the Koran. It teaches that an unbeliever must be stoned or beheaded. However, that is not what the New Testament teaches; in fact, Jesus taught us to love our enemies.

Your accusation of God being responsible for starving children in Africa and India goes beyond the pale. The reason for their sad plight is because of man's greed and dictators. If you studied the Bible you would see that Christ tells us to feed the poor. There are dozens of scriptures commanding us to feed the poor. We have Christian missionaries all over the world helping the poor. I have just returned from India and saw firsthand the wonderful work that Christians are taking care of the sick, the blind, the unwanted children, giving them an education.

With reference to the miracles of God is clearly seen in nature itself, the whole of creation, human beings, animals. Science itself has proven that there is an intelligence. If God created the universe why should it be difficult for Him to part the Red Sea?

Let me share with you a few scientific facts that show the handiwork of an intelligent creator. How do you think the whole of creation came into existence? There had to be a Creator; the universe was designed and executed by a great engineering intelligence. That intelligence was God. Here is what A. Cressy Morrison wrote in his book, "Man Does Not Stand Alone." He was the president of New York Academy of Sciences.

The earth rotates on its axis one thousand miles an hour. If it turned one hundred miles an hour, our days and nights would be ten times as long now, and the hot sun would then burn up our vegetation each long day while in the long night any surviving sprout would freeze.

Again, the sun, source of our life, has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and our earth is just far enough away so that this "eternal fire" warms us just enough and not too much! If

the sun gave off only one half of its present radiation, we would freeze and if it gave half as much more, we would roast.

The slant of the earth, tilted at an angle of 23 degrees, gives us our seasons. If it had not been so tilted, vapors from the ocean would move north and south, pulling up for us continents of ice. If our moon was, say only 50,000 miles away instead of its actual distance, our tides would be so enormous that twice a day all continents would be submerged: even the mountains would soon be eroded away. If the crust of the earth had been only ten feet thicker there would be no oxygen, without which animal life must die. Had the ocean been a few feet deeper, carbon dioxide and oxygen would have been absorbed and no vegetable life could exist. Of if our atmosphere had been much thinner, some of the meteors, now burned in space by the millions every day, would be striking all parts of the earth, setting fires everywhere.

Because of these and a host of other examples, there is not one chance in millions that life on our planet is an accident. There are many examples, too numerous to mention that proves our universe was designed and executed by a great engineering intelligence -- Almighty God.

One other aspect -- I know firsthand there is a spirit world. I suggest you really pray for truth. Remember, this life has very little to do with this life. It has everything to do with eternity.

Thank you for helping me reach these people. One never knows that his person may think twice and turn to the Lord.

Love in Christ,
Ben

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