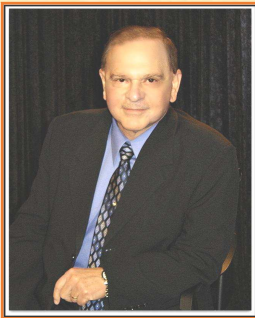


# the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARAGON  
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L (PCAI)  
OCTOBER 2021 – ISSUE 10



## MODERN DAY PROPHETS TRUE OR FALSE?

By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l General Overseer



*“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!” - Galatians 1:8*

The Book of Galatians, penned by the Apostle Paul, is a warning to the church at Galatia not to be seduced into believing the Judaizers who desired to place the assembly of believers back under the bondage of legalism (*the Law*). Paul's response in the Book of Galatians clearly establishes his apostolic authority and the Gospel he preached, since the Judaizers questioned his apostleship. Essentially Paul pronounces a curse (*Anathema*) on the Judaizers who had aspirations of bewitching (*seducing, leading astray*) the Galatians and bringing them back under the curse of the Law. Although churches in America today sometimes get entangled in legalism, I believe the biggest threat is from some “anointed ones” who make certain statements that are in opposition to historical Christianity and sound hermeneutical principles. The similarity is that, as the Judaizers were attempting to bring about bondage (*enslavement*) within the early church, some of today's prophets have the same purpose — to enslave the church. Virtually any doctrine can be accepted by an audience as “biblical” when the prophet claims to have some “mystical anointing” and is operating by “revelation knowledge.”

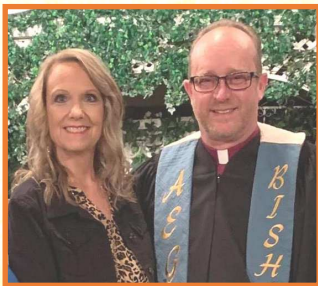
Therefore, it is important to follow sound hermeneutical principles at all times, regardless of how renowned a prophet may be.

At this point, it would be redundant for me to engage in a discussion as to whether the visions, dreams, and prophetic utterances of today's prophets are legitimate. We may never know for sure whether there is a definitive or objective answer to all claims made by modern-day prophets. While it is true that both the Bible and church history record visions, dreams, and prophetic utterances, one should be careful to ingest such phenomena in an objective manner using sound hermeneutical principles. Caution must be exercised in accepting a message from a “prophet” or “prophetess” when he or she claims divine authority (or apostleship). This is especially true when the so-called “messenger of God” instills fear in those who do not accept their message. Even the Apostle John admonished, “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*” (1John 4:1 KJV)

Most (though not all) prophets are members of a select circle who teach “hyper-faith” (extremism), and a “denial of reality.” In fact, the cult of Christian Science follows the same basic belief system. Christian Scientists teach that reality is “an illusion” and that sickness is “abnormal,” yet through positive

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*Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.*  
\_Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it. Unless the Lord helps us, we are finished! Unless the Lord provides, we are going under! Unless the Lord touches, we are going to die!

Unless the Lord builds the ministry He wants us to have, unless He sends the people HE wants us to connect to, unless the Lord sends us the workers He wants us to have.... We will simply continue to spin our wheels in frustration, and anger, and bitterness.

The way we get to the point of being able to say “unless the Lord builds the house” is total surrender! I’m not saying we shouldn’t pray, work and plan for the future; but as people of God and especially as ministers of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries is paramount! Our first responsibility is to stay in total surrender to God saying, “Not my will, but let YOUR will be done.” Then walk out what He tells us in the secret place of prayer.

Then in verse 2 Solomon says: “It’s vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so He gives His beloved sleep.” Faith

# From the Heart of an Evangelist

## Psalm 127:1— Part 2

*By Rev. Dr. David Copeland / Revival Now International President*

does not mean we will have all the answers, faith says, “no matter what, I am His and He is mine!”

I have been a student of the church, church growth, and church governmental order for many years. While I am in no way jealous or envious of ministers and ministries that have had tremendous levels of success and increase, there is a nagging thought that tells me we might have missed the most important thing God wants us to know about ministry “success”. I say it all the time, when I stand before God, He will not ask me how many sermons I have preached in my time on the earth, He will not ask me how many books I have written, how many miles did I travel in ministry, or how many churches I have planted: He will ask me, what did I do with Jesus and the assignments He gave me when I was on the earth? Was I faithful with what He gave me to be faithful over?

Americans focus on the number of people we have on any given Sunday in our buildings. And yes, every number represents a soul. I of all people know that is true. But remembering when I was a pastor, I gained my identity on the number of people we would have on any given Sunday in our Sanctuary. So, when the building was almost filled, I was ecstatic! The next Sunday, when the crowd had dropped off (many times it was a drastic drop off), I became depressed and felt like a failure.

One of the main points I see concerning apostolic training centers is a ministry becomes

more focused on what God is doing in people’s lives than in the number of people we have in the pew on any given Sunday. Are people being trained in the word to the point that if another shut down occurs, will ministry continue? As a pastor, are you the only one who can do ministry in your church? Or do you really believe in the priesthood of every believer? Solomon was speaking to our day when he said, “*it’s vain for you to rise up early, stay up late, to only eat the bread of sorrows.*” You are not the one responsible to build God’s church! That’s the Holy Spirit’s job! You are only responsible to hear from the Lord, obey Him, love His people, and leave the details up to Him.

A few months ago, while reading the Gospel of John, I came to the place in Chapter 3 where the disciples of John the Baptist came to him saying, “Everybody is following Jesus! Your ministry is collapsing. What are you going to do about it!” John looked at them as only a true spiritual father could do and said in 3:27: “*A man can receive nothing unless it has*

*been given to him from heaven.*”

That verse finally set me free from the fear of men and the pressure to perform as a minister. I am very thankful for every opportunity to preach, every opportunity to write, I am very grateful for every video that is touching and blessing someone to continue in their walk with Jesus. I am thankful for the opportunities: I am also thankful that it’s HIS responsibility to do the work in people’s lives.

Jesus still saves, He still heals, He still is baptizing people with the Holy Spirit and Jesus IS coming again. This is His church not mine. Revival Now International is His work not mine. Revival Now Schools of Ministry is His, not mine. I will be faithful to pray, study, to preach, to write, and to declare what I am hearing the Spirit of the Lord say. But He gives His beloved sleep.

So, if that’s the case, I’m going to take a rest.

You should too. ♥

## Conscience Protection Act

*Excerpt from Christian Law Association*

The Conscience Protection Act is a federal bill intended to protect the conscience of healthcare workers, including health insurance plans, from government discrimination if they decline to participate in abortions. It was originally introduced in 2019 and was recently reintroduced in 2021

by Senator Lankford and joined by many other Senators.

The Church Amendment of 1973 prohibits the coercion of those with religious and moral objections from being

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## Modern Day Prophets... continued from page 1

confession, positive mental attitude, and denial of reality, all diseases will be healed. With the majority of prophets, the message is central to their teaching on faith, prosperity, and healing — sometimes referred to as the “*Name It and Claim It*” theology. To this select group, nothing else matters. I would term these prophets as “Pentecostal Exclusionists” — a group claiming to possess supernatural knowledge of the spiritual sphere. However, such teaching places them in a precarious position, in that the “Gnostic cult” of the second century taught similar views and claimed “secret knowledge” held only by an elite few. Likewise, if we listen carefully to the vocabulary of today’s “prophets,” we hear repetitive usage of the term, “*God told me... God told me...*” This statement not only captivates and convinces an audience; it confers authority upon the prophet concerning the Holy Spirit’s inspiration of his or her teaching. We must remember, however, that any “prophet” is the same as other believers, in that in his/her most enlightened and holiest moments of illumination, he/she can never claim that everything said is “all from God” and “none of himself/herself.”

Hebrew prophets were very different from modern-day prophets. They were distinguished from pagan prophets because they delivered their prophecies with an enduring sensitivity that they were human, frail, subject to the wrath of God, and desperate to know what God wanted to say to His people. There was no presumption in their words,

even when they pronounced oracles of judgment from the Lord. And above all, Hebrew prophets never took advantage of the people through manipulative and abusive methods. Unlike prophets in the Bible, some modern-day prophets and pastors often frivolously say things that may be potentially harmful to people who are eager to “hear from God.” In my opinion, the most unfortunate effect of this is that most people in the Body of Christ are unable to recognize inaccurate or potentially harmful theology when they hear it. As an example, each year in the United States of America, approximately two hundred children die from lack of medical treatment because “Christian” parents refuse to allow its use. In many cases, the most basic medicine could have easily remedied the condition, and cured the diseases of the children. Yet in an effort to be “super-spiritual” and “full of faith,” these misguided parents were taught to keep “confessing the Word” until God “healed” their children. Even more distressing, when the anguished parents asked the prophet what went wrong, the answer is always the same: “You didn’t have enough faith.” The question is: *How much faith does God require to heal a sick child?* Nobody seems to know except the “prophets.” If you have found yourself asking questions about strange doctrines, perhaps the following information may help.

### BE CAUTIOUS OF THE FOLLOWING **TEN** BELIEFS

(excerpts are from the book *Toxic Faith: Understanding and Overcoming Religious Addiction*, by Stephen

Arterburn and Jack Felton-Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee-copyright 1991)

According to the referenced book, the “Hyper-Faith” movement demonstrates **Ten Toxic Faith** elements:

1. **Instant Peace:** “When tragedy strikes, true believers should immediately have peace.”
2. **Guaranteed Healing:** “Positive Confession and faith are a guarantee that God will listen and act on your behalf.”
3. **Irreproachable Clergy:** “Teachers, pastors, and prophets of “hyper-faith movement” should never be questioned; they are God’s anointed servants.”
4. **Monetary Rewards:** “Material blessings are a sign of spiritual maturity and faith.”
5. **Investment Tithing:** “The more money you give to God’s anointed man or woman, the more God will give to you.”
6. **Spiteful God:** “Problems in your life such as poverty and sickness are a result of a particular sin.”

7. **Biblical Exclusivity:** “If it’s not in the Bible, it isn’t relevant in today’s world.”

8. **Bullet-Proof Faith:** “A strong faith will always protect you from problems, pain, and sorrow.”

9. **Divinely Ordained Happiness:** “More than anything else, God wants you to be happy.”

10. **Possibility of Becoming a God:** “If you focus on all that you are and can be, you will gradually discover that you can become a god yourself and control your fate.”

In conclusion I pray this article will help you become aware of the dangerous teachings of today. I do not believe all prophets are false, but I do believe that true prophets today are “few and far between” as the old adage goes. So be careful as you listen to prophets and faith teachers. Study the Bible carefully and read books by reputable authors. Then ask God to instruct you in sound doctrines that have stood the test of time. Let’s be like Paul when it comes to teaching and following sound doctrine which in the end protects the saints of God. ♥

## Conscience... continued from page 2

forced to participate in abortions by providing that hospitals and individuals who receive federal funding will not be required to participate in abortion. Even though federal law provides these protections, some states receiving federal funding are violating the law and healthcare workers who do not want to participate in the abortion need help.

Because these workers are left without a remedy or a way to

get relief from being forced to participate in abortions when it is against their sincerely held religious beliefs, the Conscience Protection Act was introduced to provide healthcare professionals a stated and reasonable legal remedy to defend their freedom of conscience when infringed upon. This bill would allow healthcare workers not to have to choose between their jobs and participating in an act that goes against their religious beliefs. □





## It Is What It Is: It's On

By Rev. Mike Taylor /  
Raphah Ministries President

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’ And they said to him, ‘We have here only five loaves and two fish.’”

—(Matthew 14:14-17, NKJV)

Just a few weeks ago, I watched the Preakness horse race from Baltimore on TV. The favorite in the race looked good and all seemed well at the start. Suddenly dark clouds formed over the area and it began to rain very hard. It got so dark and rained so hard you could hardly see the jockeys on the horses. It seemed almost surreal. Normally the sun would be shining, the ladies would have on their fancy hats and the crowd in the infield would close in on the fence to get a look at the race. None of this was taking place. In fact they decided at the last minute to clear the infield of spectators for their safety. It was at that moment when I heard the announcers discussing if the race would go on or be canceled. Then, one announcer in particular said regarding the weather "It is what it is, the race is on."

I felt at that moment I had received a word from the Lord concerning where we are prophetically as a church and as a people of faith. We see from the scripture above that Jesus was teaching His disciples a similar lesson about going forward even when it looks bad in the natural. The disciples saw that it was late and they had no means to feed so many people. In their natural mind they said send them away, let them go and find food. But Jesus said in so many words, no you feed them — "it's on": They are here now, so you feed them. Of course we know the story of how Jesus fed the multitudes with just five loaves and two fish.

However, what I really want you to see here is how we must learn to believe and move forward regardless of the circumstances. More than ever the body of Christ must move in signs, wonders and miracles if we are to do the greater works of which Jesus spoke. At times it may seem risky. In the natural it may look impossible, but with God all things are possible.

You could tell at the end of the Preakness race that the trainer of the favored horse and his wife were visibly shaken. Why not, as they could well have imagined their dream being destroyed by the sudden storm. Yet all went well, with no injuries on the track and their horse winning — despite what looked like possible disaster just moments prior to the race. Friends, I don't know what you are facing. It may look bad in the natural, but I sense God telling me to tell you "It's on — go for your dream." ♥

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**DEADLINE**  
**OCTOBER 1ST**



Reminder for those who have not turned in their renewal form yet, there is \$100 late fee if received after October 1, 2021

YOU CAN:

1. Complete the credential renewal form mailed to you, OR
2. Go ONLINE—you can fill out the renewal form by going to our website: <https://paragonchristianalliance.org/renewals/>

# Welcome TO



# PCAI

PCAI Clergy Association extends the warmest welcome to the newly added Ministers and their Ministries since last month. Thank you for partnering with us in expanding God's kingdom. We love you all!!!

**The INFORMER Newsletter** is a free monthly publication of P.C.A.I. (*Paragon Christian Alliance International*) & PCAI Clergy Association

2149 Highway 139, Monroe, Louisiana 71203  
1-866-268-5600 | FAX (318) 345-0350

Website: [www.paragonchristianalliance.org](http://www.paragonchristianalliance.org)  
Email: [Info@paragonchristianalliance.org](mailto:Info@paragonchristianalliance.org)

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00AM to 4:00PM

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