

Translation Dutch letter nr.20

Kampen,

November 13th 2000.

Dear brothers, sisters, pastors and elders,

In the previous three letters we have been studying in detail the position of demons in the lives of Christians. This is a very important subject in which we need to gain as much clarity as possible. As you read this letter you will notice that wrong teaching has far-reaching consequences. In our last letter we explained that it is necessary to cast out demons in those who are possessed but this is not the case with born-again Christians, as they cannot be possessed. We also looked at the subject of family demons in connection with Christians and the possibility of a Christian being influenced by a family curse from the past. Our conclusion was that a born-again Christian is set free from the past at his conversion. Some of you have commented that in practice this doesn't always seem to be the case. We realise that churches do come across difficult situations, which don't seem so clear-cut as this. In such cases the pastor and church members can become desperate. Demon possession or oppression can then seem to be the likely explanation for the abnormal behaviour of the one in need. We don't find however, much support for this in the bible. We must place more value in the Word of God than in our own experiences, no matter how wonderful these experiences seem to be. To find the right solution to the problems, we believe professional assistance is necessary in combination with a pastor who offers help based on the bible. This will demand from all involved a lot of effort, perseverance, faith, and trust in the Lord.

In this letter, we will concentrate on the subject of waging warfare against demons in the heavenly realms, by breaking their power over cities, areas, and lands. Before doing this we will begin with a clarification of what really happened on the cross at Calvary.

Did Jesus' death on the cross bring us redemption from sins and/or victory over demons?

Sometimes a hymn writer can express a truth in such a deep and moving way which is a help to us who are "less gifted". The following translation is from a well-known Dutch hymn:

*"Jesus, life of my life,
 Jesus, death of my death,

 Lord, the Atoner for my sins,
 Saviour, who sought me
 And freed me from bondage
 You paid the price that set me free,
 I who was once unclean, guilty and dead,
 Am now born-again by Your Spirit.
 All my thanks and praise
 I offer Lord to You. *1*

Another old hymn writer says the following:

NO FAMILY DEMONS

GOOD EXPERIENCES

OLD HYMN WRITERS

*I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.*

*Jesus the prisoner's fetters breaks,
And bruises Satan's head;
Power into strengthless souls He speaks,
And life into the dead. *2*

A modern hymn writer, who faces the same world situation as we do, expresses it like this:

*Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb,
Slain for our guilt and sin.
Seated on the throne for ever,
O God clothed with majesty and splendour.
Hallelujah! *3*

MODERN

We could mention many more hymn writers but this will be sufficient. In these songs the depth and richness of the gospel is expressed. They write about, man's guilt of sin before God, the divine solution for this guilt through the death of Jesus as the sacrificial lamb, God's acceptance of His sacrifice by seating Him for ever on the throne, the intense gratefulness that comes from being set free from the guilt of sin, the worship of the Lamb by those who have been saved, and the conviction that there is no other way to be set free from sin other than by the Lamb.

**GUILT AND
SIN**

What was the victory at Calvary? Was it not the victory over man's sin? Some people teach that at Calvary, God fought a battle with satan in which He gained the victory. Although this appears to be true the bible sees it in a different way. Paul writing about Calvary, says the following:

".....having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Col. 2:14-15 (see also Eph.2::4-7)

We certainly read here about a victory over the powers of darkness but this was not a physical (=spiritual) battle between God and satan. In this text we read that He made a public spectacle of them. How did that happen? Firstly, by cancelling on the cross the written code which testified against us. Secondly, He did this by nailing it to the cross. Because Jesus died upon the cross our guilt was also crucified. In this way He disarmed the powers and authorities. There was no fight, no heroic battle between God and satan, but rather a sacrificial offer of the Son of God who thus disarmed him. Satan lost His power to accuse the brethren and had no more rights over born-again Christians. This simply means that God broke satan's power over man by allowing His Son to become the sacrifice for sin. Since Christ's death, satan has no more authority over those who have put their trust in Christ's finished work. Satan was actually made a fool of before everyone in the spiritual realms in such an unobtrusive way. This was a disastrous defeat for the most proud of beings. All who trust in Jesus can see how satan failed completely. If this is what the bible teaches, then why is there such an emphasise on the battle in the heavenly realms? We will look into this further, but first we want to share with you the following testimony.

**NO BATTLE
GOD AND
SATAN**

A reader's experience.

Dear brothers and sisters from the workgroup,
Firstly I want to express our appreciation for your enlightening letters. It is so important to hold on to God's Word. It is about a year ago now that I first was introduced to the workgroup "Back to the Bible", on account of the topic, "Praying through". In our previous church the teachings of Ken Thornberg were practised. I had had a painful back, which had been prayed for in the church the year before in a normal fashion and since then I had had no pain for nearly a year. (I do believe in a God who does miracles)

The pain however gradually returned and so I asked the elders to pray with me again. They told me that they would now tackle it differently. I thought it was strange, but felt I should trust my elders. Finally, after two months they found time to pray with me. They placed around me "domes" covered with the blood of Jesus. It was really scary. I started to hyperventilate. This was something, which I hadn't done for the last twenty years. No matter how much they prayed that I would be at peace, it didn't happen. They then began to summon the chief demon whose name was "Legio". That was a terrible shock! Seemingly there was a huge shadow network. After having spoken with the chief demon for four hours they expelled "all the demons" and I was healed. (According to them).

I spent the whole night in prayer, asking the Lord to show me the right way as I couldn't believe that what had happened was biblical. In the morning, I read the Bible and the first thing that I read was: "did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demonsI never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!" (Matt.7:21) I do believe that when we are in trouble the Lord answers directly.

To make a long story short, we had a long talk with the elders and pastor and told them clearly, using the bible, what we felt was wrong with this whole carry-on of Ken Thornberg. God's children should seek the Lord and worship Him and not enquire of the evil spirits with their whispering and muttering, Is.8. We should keep our distance from them.

We used to sing the song "I'm redeemed by the blood of the Lamb". God's Word tells us that we have truly been set free. I don't believe that Christ's finished work on the cross was insufficient, for that's what it would be if some demons could slip through (Actually, I don't believe that someone can just happen to have a demon in them). Jesus said, "It is finished", and that leaves no room for doubt. After a long struggle we left that church. Fortunately, we have found another church, which is grounded in God's Word. We as a family feel at home here and we trust that it will continue so.

Keep up this important work. "Be self-controlled and alert!" My backache has now cleared up, but not because of their doing! Warm greetings and God's blessing. (e-mail July 2000)

"God at war" book by the American Prof. Gregory A. Boyd.

- Old Testament Times. This evangelical writer states in his book that, western Christians need to change their way of thinking to a more eastern one. He explains, the change being one to a "Warfare Worldview" to a "World of constant War". He wants to transform the present Christian philosophy to a philosophy wherein God is constantly at war. From the very beginning God is involved in a war against evil, this is the demon-world headed up by satan. The reason for all the terrible things that happen on the earth is because God is not always successful in this struggle. Boyd writes that we shouldn't think less of God because of this, but we should however take into account that evil sometimes wins from Him. He mentions the Holocaust as an example and an

**DOMES
COVERED
WITH
BLOOD**

**ANSWER
FROM
ABOVE**

**CHANGED
PARADIGM**

explanation for his changed way of thinking to a “World of constant war”. How otherwise could something so terrible as the holocaust have taken place?

- The writer tries, in his book, to explain the reason for the existence of evil and misery in the world. His deep conviction is that it is because of the constant warfare that exists between God and satan in the heavenly realms. Just as there are casualties in an ordinary war, so there are casualties in the war between God and satan. This is the explanation for all the catastrophes, disasters, and wars amongst man here on earth. His views are largely based on the legends and myths of the peoples surrounding the Israelites in the Old Testament. According to him these people always believed there was a battle between the gods, between a good god and bad gods. The reason that the authors of the Old Testament haven’t written much about this is because they took it for granted that this was known. In Israel’s case it was the Lord God who protected them from the evil gods in the heavens above them. He calls this area “the world in-between”.
- Western Christians need therefore to change their way of thinking to the oriental way, just like Israel and the peoples around them did, and become aware of the continual war which is taking place between God and satan. Hence the title of the book, “God at war” *4
- Time between the Old and the New Testament. In this period, which covered roughly four hundred years, no Bible books were written only the Apocrypha books. According to Dr. Boyd it was during this time that the Jew’s way of thinking changed. Up until this time they believed that when evil befell them it was because of the sins of the people. Now they began to believe that the cause of the evil was an apocalyptic one, terrible and disastrous. This meant that the reason had nothing to do with their behaviour towards God but was rather an external one. He writes that this change of thinking, from sin being the problem, to one of an inescapable ramp version can be found in the Scriptures and Apocrypha books. *5
- New Testament. The Gospels and Acts clearly show us that the teachings of Jesus and the apostles are completely in conformity with the “Worldview of constant war”. Dr. Boyd is so convinced of this that he connects everything in this part of the Scriptures with his view, even the crucifixion of Jesus. According to Boyd, Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, walked on the water, fed the five thousand, as acts of war against satan. Christ’s death on the cross wasn’t in the first place for our redemption from sin but to gain victory over satan. The resurrection was especially a critical and important victory over the evil powers. The whole purpose of Christ coming to this earth was to regain the lost ground from satan. Redemption from sin was a secondary benefit from His victory and it was not His top priority in coming to earth. The Church of Christ needs to be aware of the fact that she has to fight alongside Jesus in the heavenly realms to gain the victory over sickness, troubles, and catastrophes in order to change the world. *6

MYTHS

**NOT A
BIBLICAL
SOURCE**

**MIRACLES
ACTS OF
WAR**

Comment workgroup: Dr. Boyds assertions are, to put it lightly, biblically very weak. They are based largely on heathen stories, suppositions from the Old Testament writers, the Apocrypha books, and Jewish traditions. It is clear that he has only picked out the verses in the New Testament, which support his case. This book caused us to despair. Dr. Boyd presents to us in this book a different gospel.

He has distorted the true meaning of the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection and degraded it. This makes us very angry, incensed. It is also blasphemous to assert that God can sometimes be defeated by Satan. We don't want to have any part of this. Fortunately, there are others who agree with us. Some Christian teachers see it however, differently. On the first page of Boyd's book we read the warm recommendations from Dr. Peter Wagner. He writes, "*This is an exceptionally important book for all those who long for the increase of God's kingdom*". He even uses the word ecstatic when speaking about the contents of the book. What does Peter Wagner believe that he is so enthusiastic about Boyd's book? We have set out for you here his teachings under several headings.

Dr. Peter Wagner

- Probably not many of you have heard of Prof. Dr. Boyd. On the other hand Peter Wagner, is well-known, as a number of his books have been translated into Dutch and are to be found in every bookshop. Peter Wagner used to be a missionary in South America. He returned to the States in 1968 and began lecturing in the well-known Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. It was here that he developed the "Church Growth Movement" (in the Netherlands "Gemeentegroei") It was in this seminary that he got to know

JOHN
WIMBER

John Wimber and recognized him as his mentor. He became a member of the Vineyard Church, which was founded by John Wimber. Wagner often mentions him in his books and describes him as friend, advisor and example. John Wimber was one of the first men who opened up his church to unbiblical experiences and regarded them as being from God. These experiences pertained to the "signs of the Spirit" such as falling backwards, severe shaking on the ground, uttering of various animal sounds, etc. In short, the foretokens of the "Toronto Blessing" in Canada and the "Pensacola Outpouring" in the States. *7

- Peter Wagner also began to accept experiences and doctrine which are not based in the Bible. This was probably because of the influence of Wimber. In his case it had to do with spiritual warfare and everything connected to this. He believes that he received the call from the Lord Himself. He says: "*When I was in Manila the Lord spoke to me very clearly, although I didn't hear it literally. He clearly said, "I want you to head-up the area of territorial spirits"*" *8. In 1990 he began to get engrossed in this work and since then he has produced a number of books on this subject. He is a well-known speaker, lecturer at the Fuller Theological Seminary and is at the moment one of the leading figures, if not the leading figure, on the subject of spiritual warfare. In nearly all the books which, are written by others on this subject, you will find a foreword or a recommendation by Peter Wagner. He is also often mentioned in connection with the revival in South America. *9. What does Peter Wagner teach about spiritual warfare and why is he so unique in charismatic and evangelical circles?
- **Peter Wagner's teaching on spiritual warfare.** For the most of us spiritual warfare is not a new concept. Wagner however does have a different interpretation to its meaning. He is convinced that a Christian when he is born-again has to begin a battle against demons. He doesn't mean this figuratively but literally. His view is that Jesus did win the victory over Satan on the cross, but we now have to fight alongside Jesus to cause the demons to retreat even further. Wagner is not the only one who believes this. Several well-known

REVELATION

BATTLE
WITH
DEMONS

people agree with him. For example: Dr. Neil Anderson, Mrs. Cindy Jacobs, Claudio Freidzon, George Otis jr., Derek Prince and “Youth with a Mission”. Wagner bases his argument largely on the words of Paul in Eph. 6:12: *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”*.

- He and the others mentioned above believe that this means that Christians are in a constant spiritual battle against demons. It is taken for granted in nearly all of his books that the reader agrees with this. There is absolutely no question in his mind that it could be otherwise. Elaborating on this, he goes into details of war actions and believes that the Christian needs to train himself as a soldier for this. This is the reason why so many military terms are used.

Comment workgroup: We cannot find in the New Testament ground to support this new teaching on warfare. There are only a few texts, which could point to this if interpreted in a certain way. Wagner and others point to Eph. 6:12 as the key verse. The context of this verse however, is one of satan tempting us to sin. (verse 11) The spiritual armour which, is to be put on (13-18) is clearly not meant for attacking. We are told to defend ourselves against the darts of the evil one but not to attack him. The only part of equipment which, is mentioned for attacking is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and that is for the building up of our faith. We believe that as born-again Christians, we have entered into His rest and our task is to resist sin, which takes away our peace with God. Heb. 4:11 says the following: *“Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience.”*

**DEFEND
NOT
ATTACK**

Peter Wagner’s teaching on identifying demons, their order, and rank.

- He believes that it is important that a Christian can identify his enemy and place him in the demon world with name, rank and order. It is important to

discover which demons influence his life. Wagner doesn’t just take into consideration the personal circumstances of the Christian but also that of the neighbourhood in which he lives. As a former missionary he is very interested in knowing which demons hinder the work of God on the mission field. In connection with this he has introduced the term “strategic-level spiritual warfare”. What is meant by this is that the Christian first needs to work out the military strategy before he begins an attack. This involves learning the names but also the hierarchy amongst the demons. In order to support this he mentions a few texts which aren’t very convincing. He is honest enough to admit to this. The majority of his views are not found in the Bible but he believes that they have been given to him by God and so they are acceptable.

***10**

**KNOWLEDGE
OF DEMONS
NAME AND
RANK**

Comment workgroup: In the past we have expressed our opinions about this subject. In letter 17 of 12th October 1999 we wrote that no Christian should get involved in the demon world. If there is anybody that should deal with the devil then that is the Lord Himself. God knows in detail all about the demons and their system. We are warned about getting involved in the occult. In the Old Testament we read the following: *“When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people enquire of their God? Why consult the*

DON’T DO IT

dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.” Is.8:19-20.

We also can't understand what the value is in knowing the rank and order of the demons. So much attention is placed on this. It is seemingly very important during the battle in the spiritual realms. Maybe as workgroup, we are not military minded enough.

Peter Wagner's teaching on special intercessors.

- Special intercessors are needed to obtain information about the demons who are causing the problems and their order and rank. They need to spend much time in prayer and in the presence of the Lord to find out what the situation is concerning the demons in question. Not everyone can do this. Only those who have received from the Holy Spirit the gift of prayer. Wagner regards this gift as one of the gifts of the Spirit comparable to those listed in 1 Cor. 12 and 14. Here also, he admits that this gift is not mentioned in the Bible, but that he has received this revelation from God. *11 These intercessors are chosen by God and are not “ordinary” intercessors. They spend several hours a day in God's presence. After several sessions of “praying it through” God reveals to them the structure and names of the demons. What they receive from the Lord is then shared in the “ordinary” prayer meetings and then the battle in prayer takes place for an ungodly situation in a city or neighbourhood.
- Wagner sees the position of the special intercessors on the “spiritual ladder” as being the highest of all Christians. God showed to him in a dream that it was like a ladder with three rungs. On the top rung are the special intercessors, then the people like himself and on the bottom rung the rest of the Christians. *12 Intercessors are special because they spend so much time in God's presence in the throne-room and receive the revelations from God Himself. Cindy Jacobs calls the special intercessors “prayer-generals”. She is the founder and president of the American organisation “Generals of Intercession”. She also regards them as having a very high function and that other Christians should listen to them. *13
- Alice Smith writes in her book “Within the Veil” on page 77 and 78 how she was chosen to be the special intercessor for Peter Wagner. She writes the following: *“My husband and I were in Yonggi cho, a church in Korea with a seating capacity of 30000 and here we met Peter Wagner for the first time. He was the guest speaker at this annual conference on Church growth.Peter told a friend what happened: “You'll never believe what happened to me! The Lord pointed out to me a lady in the hall and told me three times that she was an intercessor. She lives in Houston, Texas and she prays for me.”* Since that moment Alice Smith became the special intercessor for Peter Wagner. Peter Wagner says in his book “Prayer Shield” on page 151-155 in connection with this, the following: *“Amongst other things the Lord told me that Alice Smith would be my most powerful intercessor.”*

**NEW
ELEMENT**

**PRAYER
GENERALS**

Comment workgroup: We have not been able to discover in the New Testament that there are two kinds of intercessors: the “ordinary” one who just prays and the special intercessor. Prayer is very important in the Bible but it isn't dished out to Christians in different portions. The story in Luke 18:1-8 about the widow and the judge shows us that faith and prayer go together. Our faith should express itself in prayer and our prayers should be motivated by faith. God's Word is the source of our faith. It is a serious, but joyful matter. The widow in the story was simply praying with faith. It is true that one will pray longer than the other will but that

doesn't make the one an "elite" intercessor. It is unbiblical to claim that the one has been given a special gift of intercession from the Holy Spirit. Wagner also admits to this, but adds, that in this case, because of the revelation he has received, it is justified. We do not agree with this train of thought. A great danger with these "special" intercessors is that they believe that they can enter right into heaven itself, to the throne-room and there receive from God new revelations. This leads to "ordinary" Christians being exposed to unbiblical patterns and spiritual confusion is the result.

Peter Wagner's teaching on "spiritual mapping".

- To determine the strategy in spiritual warfare, we need to gain
 - insight into each specific situation. Special surveys are made of a city, an area, or a land. This is called "spiritual mapping" and involves gathering together all the information possible about a certain city. This would include: the history of the city, how it got its name, the religion and rituals of the original inhabitants, the first contacts with Christianity, its sinful past, the situation of the church, the influence of different people in the past and the present, etc. Attention is also paid to terrible crimes, which have taken place in the past. The spiritual father of "spiritual mapping" is George Otis jr., head of the Sentinal Group, who produced the well-known video documentary "Transformations". Otis jr. trained as a missionary with Youth with a Mission.
- *14**

**ANOTHER
NEW
ELEMENT**

Comment workgroup: This is very clearly a matter of a human and rational plan, which is no doubt very interesting, from the point of view of history and sociology, but has no grounding in God's Word. Ez. 4:1-3 is often quoted when stating their case: "*Now, son of man, take a clay tablet, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. Then lay siege to it. Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put up battering-rams around it. Then take an iron pan, place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face towards it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.*" We don't believe that this represents "spiritual mapping" but is one of the last warnings from the prophet of Jerusalem's downfall. We are not capable of removing hindrances but we are called to join together and bring the hindrances before the throne of God and pray that He would clear them away. Our priority as Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, otherwise these prayers are to no avail. In the Old Testament we read how Israel came before the throne of God when troubled with natural enemies and how God gave them the victory. Let's learn a lesson from this.

**NO
BIBLICAL
BASIS**

Peter Wagner's teaching on district demons.

- He is convinced that the world is ruled by demons who each are assigned to a specific city, district or land. It is therefore very important to expose them in order to resist them adequately. The principal argument for this assertion is found in the Old Testament in Daniel and Ezekiel. In Daniel 10 we read about the prince of Persia, who resisted the angel from reaching Daniel with a message from God and the prince of Greece whom the angel would fight against. In Ez. 28:12 we read about the king of Tyre, which we could understand to mean an evil prince over the city of Tyre.

ASSERTION

Comment workgroup: When Daniel 10 speaks about the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece, then we believe that these are dark powers. The same goes for

**NO DOGMA
BASED ON
VISIONS**

the king of Tyre in Ez. 28. There is no hint given that these princes were to be resisted personally by the prophets or other believers. Where a battle is mentioned then that is waged between the angels. It is also very dangerous to base a doctrine upon visions. A vision is always subject to human interpretations and is often viewed by believers differently. Paul writes in 1 Cor. 13:12, in connection with our knowledge of the things of God the following: *“Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”* It is not very convincing therefore, to base one’s belief in district demons solely on Daniel 10 and Ezekiel 28, when this is not mentioned at all in the New Testament.

Peter Wagner’s teaching: examples of “spiritual mapping”.

- In his book “Breaking strongholds in your city” several of his sympathisers tell their story. Mark McGregor and Bev Klopp are two of those who share about their spiritual mapping of the city of Seattle in the state of Washington. Here is the result of their survey and how they further dealt with it. *“ We believe that we have together with the other intercessors been able to identify the head demons. Most of the demons are mentioned in the Bible: Apollyon Rev. 9:11; Jezebel; Beelzebub Matt.12:24; Asmodius Apocrypha book Tobias; Belial 2 Cor. 6:15; and an Indian demon “Great Spirit”; the demons Androgyny and Dragon; a district demon Mount Rainier.”*
- *“We were quickly convinced about what we should do when we saw how satan had blinded the people in such a shameless and impudent manner. We put into practice the principles found in Jer. 1:10 and began to uproot and tear down the demons who were behind the following sins. These are: lust, opportunism, deceit, pride, rebellion, independence, orgies, fornication, sensuality, perversity, drunkenness, addiction, pornography, sodomy, murder, racism, desperation, poverty, indifference to religion, influence of the freemasons liberalism, rivalry, conflicts, suspicion, egoism, self-glorification, domination, injustice, alienation and oppression. We put into practice the principles found in 2 Cor. 10:4-6 and began to demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. Our faith increased when we announced the authority of Jesus Christ and prophetically proclaimed, in song, the Word over darkness. *15*
- Eduardo Lorenzo gives another example of “spiritual mapping” in the book “Revival in Argentine” compiled by Peter Wagner and Pablo Deiros. Eduardo Lorenzo, a Baptist minister in Adrogué, a suburb of Buenos Aires says the following: *“God revealed to an important and prominent man in my church what the seven heads of Leviathan, a sea monster are (mentioned in the O.T. Is 27:1; Ps. 74: 13-14; Ez. 29:3-4). With this information and the support of this influential brother we entered into combat with the seven heads. The most of them had mythological names such as: Thor, Mercury, Minerva, etc. During each of these battles the Lord gave the victory and caused many other aspects in the city to be brought under His authority..... Business interests of third parties, the local council and sometimes simply the weather hindered the church in holding open-air meetings. It looked as if all our activities were being blocked. Through prayer we were shown that Thor, the spirit of conflict and weather was the obstacle. We immediately used the power which, we had acquired to resist this power and the result is that we no longer have any problems with our out-of-door activities. “ Peter Wagner has recently opened a large establishment to improve the functioning of the*

SCARY

WORKS OF THE FLESH

“spiritual mapping”. In this centre the most advanced techniques are available for gathering together all the information. He runs this establishment which is called “World Prayer Centre” with George Otis and Ted Haggard. *16 Peter Wagner’s comment is: *“This electronic nerve centre connects the intercessors and makes it possible for each one to know what the Holy Spirit has been telling the other.”* A great number of churches in America are connected-up to this centre and via the telephone, fax and e-mail receive the information that they need for “spiritual mapping”.

Comment workgroup: Both of these examples present a completely different theology. The preaching of the gospel used to be important, but now it is fighting in the heavenly realms. People used to be told that they needed to repent from their sins, but now they are told that it is the fault of demons, described as mythical figures. We now need to resist the Scandinavian god, Thor, before we can organise an open-air meeting. We now need to take into account Leviathan, the coiling sea monster with seven heads before the gospel can have free course. Jesus’ last words were not: Go and make war with demons, but: *“All authority in heaven and on the earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Matt. 28:18-20. Why do we not just do this? There are a lot of things slipping in, which look good but are definitely not.

ANOTHER GOSPEL

Peter Wagner’s teaching on guilt confession for city, district and land.

- Part of the job of the “spiritual mapper” is to make investigations into the past to find out if any atrocities took place for which forgiveness is needed before the gospel can take effect. Reconciliation is first required. In our next letter we will deal more extensively with this section of Peter Wagner’s teaching, as the concept, reconciliation involves a number of aspects.

Final conclusion and topic of next letter.

- If the apostle Peter had lived today, he would not have agreed or been a part of the above mentioned spiritual warfare. He writes in his letter the following: *“This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise (heavenly) authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.”* 2 Pet.2:10-11. The angels (good ones) do not accuse the demon-world but leave that in God’s hands. Jude says the same: *“But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”* Jude 9. In Rev. 12: 7-12 it is not the children of God who fight against the dragon but Michael and his angels. The children of God overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, the cross of Jesus Christ and the word of their testimony, and did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. It is therefore wise to stay far away from the demon-world and to humbly act as the Word tells us, through Peter, Jude and John.
- We discovered during our investigations that there were a number of things which we hadn’t touched on yet. We hope to deal with those in the next letter. These are, amongst other things: reconciliation marches, prayer-walks, community transformation, etc. some have also asked us to comment on the

PETER JUDE JOHN

TO BE CONTINUED

use of flags in services. If we have enough time and space in the next letter then we will do this.

Departure of treasurer.

Mrs Ankie Voerman has been our treasurer for the past five years. Much to our regret she resigned from this post on the 1st of September. We do respect her decision although we will really miss her contribution in the team and all her help with the finances. Thanks Ankie for everything. For the present our secretary will also take on the responsibility for the finances. The bank and giro numbers of course haven't changed.

On behalf of the workgroup,

Pastor Rien van de Kraats.

“Deliverance courses” in abundance.

If you read all the papers and magazines which are available in the Netherlands then it will strike you how many offers of courses for “deliverance” there are available. *17 As workgroup this really troubles us. Is this a trend amongst Christians in the Netherlands or are there really so many born-again Christians who need to be “delivered”? If the second option is true, which we don't believe, then there is an urgent need for every Christian to do some deep reflection to see if he isn't possessed or oppressed by a demon. The Canadian speaker Ray McGraw shared in a session, before a three-day seminary in the Netherlands that he had delivered more than three thousand people from demons. The well-known preacher and pastoral worker Jan Sjoerd Pasterkamp, even believes that it is possible for the one who is ministering deliverance, to discover during his ministry that he himself is possessed or oppressed. His advice is to carry on with helping the other person and then find help oneself in getting rid of your “own” demon by having others minister to you. *18

Would it not be better to turn aside from this and concentrate in reaching the lost in our neighbourhood and abroad? Jesus' last words on earth were: *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned”*. Mark 16:15,16. Should we not take more seriously this important commission and spend less time on our own personal spiritual welfare? Why is it that the annual missionary conference, which used to be held in the Netherlands is no longer held because of low attendance, whereas the abundance of conferences, which are self-centred are filled to capacity?

Facts that should trouble us.

- The Evangelical Broadcasting Company has decided to open their doors for Roman Catholics to join their board of members. This board consists of 67 members divided amongst different churches. In connection with this they have removed the word Protestant, from their statutes. It doesn't seem very wise to us, to work together with a church who teaches that one's salvation depends on works, instead of by faith in the finished work of Christ. This church also believes that Mary was without sin and that she ascended, just like Jesus did to heaven and that she is now seated next to Jesus, as mediator before God and Christ. (Mary Co-Redeemer). The Roman Catholic Church

A PITY

**THE ONE
MINISTERING
CAN ALSO
HAVE A
DEMON**

**BACK TO
BASICS**

**EBC and
ROMAN
CATHOLICS**

also teaches that when a believer dies he doesn't go immediately to Heaven but first has to spend some time in Purgatory. *19

- A very clear objection to this change of policy has been published in the paper "EO-koers", (EBC course). The prayer group "Middelburg" has also, via their spokesman Mr. A.P,Geelhoed, expressed their concern. In the "Visie" (Vision-EO magazine) of 15-21 October 00 Mr. Klomp also spoke of his worries about the way things are going. *20

**THE ONLY
TRUE
CHURCH**

- The Roman Catholic Church has once again and in public announced that she is the only true Church. The Vatican wrote to the bishops, in July 2000, about “Sister churches” and in September 2000, about “Jesus Dominus” that the Protestant churches are not true churches “in the true meaning of the word”. The reason given is that, the office of bishops and the Eucharist have not been preserved. This document has been drawn up by Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Congress for the Doctrine of Faith (until 1965 the congress for the Inquisition). The cardinal pointed out to the bishops that it is not proper to recognise protestant or eastern-orthodox churches as “sister-churches”. “It must always be clearly understood that the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church can never be a sister, but the mother of all other churches”. “It is at variance with our faith to suggest that the Roman Catholic Church could be one of several ways for salvation, alongside all the other religions”. These statements shocked the ecumenical movement throughout the world. No one could understand how the official Congress for the Doctrine of faith could state that they are the only true church when there have been so many “Encouraging” discussions with Rome in the last years. *21
- In the light of the above, it amazes us that the Fellowship of Pentecostal Churches is still in discussion with Roman Catholics. According to the report in their magazine, “Parakleet” in the third quarterly of this year, their dialogue is fruitful. The next meeting will take place in a Roman Catholic convent. Would it not be more logical and wiser for the Pentecostal Fellowship to seek closer relationships with the Reformed or Dutch Reformed Churches or at least a Protestant church? *22

**STILL
CONTACT**

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- *2) Song 562 Joh. de Heer
- *3) Song 199 Opwekking (Revival)
- *4) chapters 1-5
- *5) ditto 6
- *6) ditto 7-10
- *7) letter no 6 18th June 1996 page 5
- *8) Paper Berean Call, quote from book “Confronting the powers”, Peter Wagner.
- *9) Book “Revival in Argentine”, Peter Wagner
- *10) Book “Confronting the powers”, Peter Wagner, page 98
- *11) Book “Prayer Shield”, Peter Wagner, page 127
- *12) ditto page 161-162
- *13) Book “Bezet de Poorten van de vijand” (Possess the gates of the enemy), Cindy Jacobs.
- *14) Sentinal Group, www.sentinalgroupp.org
- *15) Book “Breaking the strongholds in your city”, Peter Wagner, pages 218 and 220
- *16) Book “Revival in Argentine”, Peter Wagner and Pablo Deiros, pages 161-163
- *17) Paper “Christianity Today”, Jan. 1998, page 55
- *18) Youth with a Mission, folders with different courses; Shiloh Ministries, Mr. and Mrs. Koning

several seminaries; paper Promise, report of conference in the Free Baptist Church in Drachten; Christian Therapeutic Centre “Neshoeve” Ridderkerk, several folders; Mr. and Mrs. Pasterkamp in paper “Herstel (Restoration); Ray McGraw in folder Ray of Hope Ministries and advertisements in Charisma, October 2000.
- *19) Paper “Herstel” (Restoration), July/August, page 33 by Jan Sjoerd Pasterkamp
- *20) See our letters no 13-15, 28-03-98 to 25-02-99 about Roman Catholic doctrine.
- *21) EO-koers (EBC course) no 2, Sep. 2000, page 8. This paper has been started by a group of concerned people because of the EBC’s policies. Information: tel. 0342-414479; internet

www.bga.nl/eokoers; address: Postbus 2158, 3800 CD Amersfoort. There is also another group of concerned people headed up by A.P. Geelhoed, Sleedoornlaan 1, 4334 CB Middelburg; tel. 0118611545; e-mail: apgeelhoed@solcon.nl; internet: <http://www.solcon.nl/apgeelhoed>.

*22) Dutch Newspaper 5, 8, 12 September 2000; Roman Catholic Churchpaper "Een Twee Een" (One Two One), Sep. 2000.

List of books read, videos and cassettes.

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"Evangelical Missions Quarterly", April 2000, article Don N.Howell and Alex Luc about the book "God at War".
"Macht ohne auftrag", Wolfram Kopfermann 1994, ISBN 3-928093-35-5.
"Do demons rule your town?", Mike Taylor 1993, ISBN 0-946462-29-1.
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"Revival in Argentine" compiled by Peter Wagner and Pablo Deiros, 1999 ISBN 90-74115-28-4.
"Het voorhangsel voorbij" (Beyond the veil) by Alice Smith 2000, ISBN 90-75226-26-8.

Foundation: Workgroup "Back to the Bible"

Mailadress: Populierenstraat 51, 8266 BK Kampen, The Netherlands.

Tel.038-3328234

e-mail: byblos@solcon.nl

website : www.backtothebible.nl

Local board: president - pastor R. v.d. Kraats
secretary/treasurer - A.A. Doorn