

**The Feminist...** *Continued from Previous Issue*

...worship" as a replacement for Christianity. Indeed, not only witchcraft, but goddess worship has become a major component of feminist activity all over the country. Margot Adler, a modern witch, points out in *Bringing Down the Moon* that it is now time for the sisters to go out and do the magic circle and summon the goddess.

Speaking at an event that The Los Angeles Times on March 16, 1982, billed as "Goddesses of Coming New Age Probe the Meaning of It All," Spretnak and other New Age feminists resolved that churches should either adopt New Age beliefs or be shut down. One backdoor approach in bringing this about is to give New Age definitions to Christian doctrinal terms (i.e. atonement means at-one-ment with the divine.)

Modern feminists are rediscovering the great goddess. Certainly nothing can seem to lift a woman's self-esteem more than becoming a goddess. That indeed appears to be one solution to "problems of self-worth and identity." To them it vindicates the feminine in a universe where too much male principle seems to be operative. If the goal is judicial equality in society, then the same alternative must be applied to the cosmos. Followers of the goddess say that a male deity must be counterbalanced with a female counterpart. It only makes sense in an era of judicial egalitarianism. It also brings back androgyny.

Starhawk, priestess of the Old Religion of the Goddess, is one of witchcraft's leading ambassadors. An instructor at Matthew Fox's Institute for Culture and Creation, she and others who share her pagan persuasions have been teaching wiccan rituals and the

"positive" side of witchcraft in church groups and seminaries across the country. "Witchcraft is ... perhaps the oldest religion existent in the West," writes Starhawk in *The Spiritual Dance*, a manual on witchcraft which is also used in Women's Studies in colleges, universities and even in some seminaries.

Increasingly, we see the followers of Wicca, a pagan religion which worships nature, the Earth goddess and so forth gaining respect in society. Wicca followers are changing the public's perception of them. They claim they are not Satanists because they don't even believe in Satan. Despite the fact that Wicca, another name for witchcraft, is indeed occultism, the pagan religion is gaining respect in society because of its respect for the planet and environmental concerns.

Zealous protectors of the environment, witches view the earth as the physical manifestation of the Goddess. To them, the earth is the sacred body of the goddess, whose life-force flows through everything. The model of the Goddess...fosters respect for the sacredness of all living things. Witchcraft can be seen as a religion of ecology. Its goal is harmony with nature, so that life may not just survive, but thrive.

*It would appear that the feminist movement has bought the oldest lie. Like Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit at the invitation of the serpent with the promise that she would become as a god and never die, it is again women as part of the feminist movement, who has again been deceived by Satan, and is trying to pass on the forbidden fruit.*

# Bible Baptist Church Bulletin

*Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set (Prov. 22:28).*

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## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Ministries

1. Bible Studies
2. Tract Drop
3. Door-Knocking
4. Personal Evangelism
5. Missions

### Position

1. Independent
2. KJV 1611
3. Baptist
4. Old-Fashioned
5. Soulwinning
6. Premillennial
7. Non-Charismatic
8. Unaffiliated

### Church Services

#### Sunday:

9:30 am — Sunday School  
10:30 am — Worship Service  
6:15 pm — Evening Service

#### Wednesday:

6:30 pm — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

## CHURCH HOPPING: A DISTURBING TREND

By: Steve Cornell



"Only in Lancaster, Pennsylvania" I thought to myself when I picked up my copy of our local paper.

Where else would you find a front page story titled, *Church Hoppers*? Well-churched areas make fertile soil for the proverbial church-hopper. And, Lancaster, Pennsylvania is an unusually "churched" community. This comes with blessings and curses. The Churches bring many great influences and acts of service. But in well-churched communities, the rule of the area is often the rotation of the saints. The "church furniture" keeps moving. "Fish" move from "fish bowl" to "fish bowl." The "sheep" sample a variety of "flocks." By nature, we tend to take for granted the blessings that surround us.

Church hopping is an example of the overall instability of our culture. It reflects a deeply troubling trend of how easily people slide in and out of commitments. "Commitment" is a revisable term at best and an increasingly negative concept to many. Reflecting the prevailing discontentment in our culture, people are endlessly looking for something better. But *better*, often means more exciting, entertaining; more satisfying to the ruling self. Churches calling for higher levels of commitment should expect to be smaller. Although I pastor a relatively large Church, in 23 years of ministry as a senior pastor, I have often witnessed this disturbing trend.

In an article entitled "Confessions of a (Recovering) Church-hopper", John Fischer acknowledged that, "In our free-market, commodity-rich society, it's understandable that we would approach church as we would a shopping mall of spiritual products and services. This is the way

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**CHURCH TIMES**

**Sunday:**

- 9:30 am** — Sunday School
- 10:30 am** — Worship Service
- 6:15 pm** — Evening Service

**Wednesday:**

- 6:30 pm** — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

**Saturday:**

- 8:00 am** — Door-Knocking & Tract Distribution

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS**

- This BBC Bulletin can be downloaded online on [biblebaptist.net.au/bbcbulletin.html](http://biblebaptist.net.au/bbcbulletin.html)
- Tract-Drop and Door-knocking on Saturday.
- Sunday & Wednesday Church services.
- Wisdom for Bro. Robert Javapro leading the Friday's Bible Study for PNG folks in Kalgoorlie.

**Church Bulletin**

For those who have prayer requests, Christian articles, poems, or announcements for inclusion in the next issue of the Church Bulletin, please ring or email Ethel Macale.  
 Deadline: Friday, 5:00 pm.  
 Phone: (08) 9022 8323  
 Email: [ethel@macale.org](mailto:ethel@macale.org)

- Need for church car
- Church services at Bible Baptist Church, Kalgoorlie.
- Pastor Eugene Macale's ministries' financial needs: Bible Baptist Mission (Liloan, Southern Leyte, Philippines).
- Dondoy (Pastor Macale's brother) from alcoholism.
- Baptist Fellowship Meetings, September 29 - October 1, 2009, Calvary Baptist Church, Armadale, WA.
- Edna, Pastor Eugene Macale's sister-in-law, for complete healing of her stage-4 cancer.
- Kylie Mell's (Chris' wife) healing from multiple sclerosis.
- Financial needs of Bible Baptist Church, Talisay, Cebu under Pastor Gemmo Suberano.
- Pray for Pastor Romy Macale's teaching job's security in KBCHS.
- Pray for Bible Baptist Church (Kalgoorlie) membership application of Bro. Jerry Penie & his wife.
- Pray for our new Christians for baptism.

**Websites worth visiting:**

- <http://www.biblebaptist.net.au>
- <http://www.oldkjv.org>
- <http://www.macale.org>
- <http://www.av1611.info>
- <http://www.biblebaptist.ph>

**Church...**

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...our culture operates. In our hymnals we can still find those great hymns of the church like 'A Mighty Fortress' and 'The Church's One Foundation,' but in our worship and practice we are probably more consistent with the Motown hit 'You Better Shop Around.'"

Fischer describes the following scene from a church-hopping family: "Where shall we go this morning, dear?" he says. 'The music is great at Calvary but I like the teaching at Grace.' 'Don't forget the kids,' she says. 'The youth program at Bethany is the best of all.' 'I've got it. We'll drop the kids off at Bethany and go to Grace for teaching, and then we can start going to the Saturday night worship and praise services at Calvary.'"

What's wrong with this picture? Fischer suggests at least three things: *First*, we become critical consumers. "As consumers we reserve the right to pass judgment on the products and services we use, and the companies that service us begin to cater to our demands. 'The customer is always right' may work well at McDonald's, but in a church it undermines the authority of the Word of God and the leaders God has called to represent Him. We do not go to a particular church to decide whether that church is doing everything right, but to hear from God and humbly find out where we went wrong that week in our own lives and what we need to do to make it right."

*Second*, we become invisible spectators. "Church-hopping turns you

into a nondescript pew-sitter. A number. A statistic. When you're shopping around, you never stay in one place long enough to know anybody or be known. We like this because we have gotten into a habit of being anonymous in our culture. Church-hopping helps protect anonymity we already possess, and it keeps us alone."

*Third*, we become detached from what we are. "When you were a child, did you ever make a church with your hands folded together, forefingers pointed up like a steeple and all your fingers interlocked inside? Remember opening your hands to see all the people? Well, that's exactly it. We are the church. You and I are the fingers and toes and eyes and ears of the body of Christ. To be only a spectator in church is to detach yourself from who you are — like cutting off your fingers."

Are there ever good reasons for leaving a church? Yes. False doctrine, unqualified leadership, absence of accountability for righteous living, lack of commitment to evangelism and discipleship — these are issues which should be considered. However, leaving a Church should not be taken lightly. Even when one has good reasons for leaving a Church, it should be done in a respectful manner. Pastors should also be careful about receiving those who "hop" their way. When church hoppers hop your way and gush praise all over you (while criticizing their former church), it's often only a matter of time before they leave your Church with the same critical attitude. Church-hoppers should remember the old advice, "If you find a perfect church, don't join it because you'll ruin it."