

I have pastored two A/G in the southern Missouri district. I have sincerely thought about leaving the Assemblies of God because I'm tired of the drift toward liberalism and apostasy. The ecumenical movement within our ranks is an abomination that is leading us into the camp of Rome. With the backing this movement has within our ranks, I doubt we can turn this trend back, but we have an obligation to hold on to all the truth of God's Word as long as we can before we either have to leave or are driven out. Right now I am between ministries, and my wife and I are seriously seeking the Lord as to whether we should remain in the A/G.

Leading A/G ministers, teachers, theologians, and executive leaders are embracing the Emerging Church Movement (ECM)—the next logical step toward Rome and apostasy. Dr Earl Creps at AGTS² is a huge promoter of ECM. He apparently operates with impunity and immunity. I recently wrote a letter to Superintendent Thomas Trask about the errors of Rick Warren, ECM, and the Ecumenical Movement. He wrote back to tell me how he and our other leaders were doing everything in their power to preserve and promote sound doctrine in A/G churches. A few days after he wrote that letter to me I discovered that Creps is involved in this stuff up to his eyeballs right under the noses of the folks on Boonville Avenue.³ I try to give people the benefit of the doubt as much as possible, but I find it impossible to believe that Trask and others at the General Council headquarters are not aware of the activities of Earl Creps. If Trask is indeed aware of this—as I strongly suspect, then he is either deceived into accepting these false teachings, or he lied to me. I think we're in trouble either way.

Dr Creps has just published a book titled, *Off-Road Disciplines* that promotes many of the errors of the ECM. Leonard Sweet endorsed it and Dan Kimball wrote the foreword, both of whom are major players in the Emerging Church Movement. In fact, Leonard Sweet is as much New Age as he is anything else.

When Tony Campolo spoke at Valley Forge Christian College I confronted Superintendent Trask about it. He told me that I should talk to the college president before I talked to him. He quoted Matthew 18:15-17. I wrote back to him that this was not a Matthew 18:15-17 issue. The issue was that a rank heretic would be speaking in one of our colleges over which our leaders had the responsibility to protect the minds and souls of young people. This put the responsibility back on him to stop it, but he didn't stop it. Yet these same leaders have destroyed the A/G ministries and ministers who have done nothing immoral, unethical, or unlawful but simply refused to go along with the political correctness now coming from Springfield.

Academia has operated without restraint for at least the past 15 years. I had the opportunity to confront a lesbian who was an Evangel University graduate when she was attending SMS⁴ now

MSU⁵ as a graduate student. I was the Hebrew Editing Assistant, working on the Old Testament Complete Biblical Library project for World Library Press, and she was presenting a paper on "Feminist Theologies". We were in a meeting of theologians, students, and researchers. She referred to "Gay Theologies". During the question and answer period I listened quietly for as long as I could stand it. Finally I asked her a few short questions including whether her interest in and familiarity with "Feminist" and "Gay" theologies was due to the fact that she herself was a lesbian. She did not answer outright, but she did sheepishly confirm my suspicion. Amazingly, those who gave me the most grief for my questions were fellow A/G ministers and professors. However, they found that I was in my usual recalcitrant mood when dealing with wolves that are perverting and destroying the flock of God. I have never been easily intimidated, and the more I am around backslidden and unsaved ministers the worse it gets. I'm just plain intolerant!

I will continue to address these issues as the Lord gives me opportunity, but I suspect that I will find myself in trouble eventually. Again, I thank you for your work—keep it up! It is an encouragement and a great resource to all believers who love the Lord and His Word.

JL, Missouri USA

Brother I want to give you an update on what's been happening here locally with the PDC/PDL Movement. I am so thankful for your books; "Whose Driving The Purpose Driven Church." They have been so helpful. Thank you. My former church of which we had spoken about in our first phone conversation has split and is on the verge of falling apart. This church went down from an average Sunday congregation of about 2000 down to what is today about 600 or less. The senior pastor has resigned and the new pastor is a Rick Warren follower. I have started a church, "The Joy of Jesus Christian Centre", and I am preaching against this destructive movement. The Lord has led me to host a conference on the 21st of this month to openly discuss the problems associated with the PDC/PDL. Dr Noah Hutchings has agreed to join me that day and speak on the same subject. If you have any other information you can send, please advise. I thank the Lord for you and your ministry. Keep up the good work and may the Lord richly bless you now and forever. Sincerely Yours In Christ,

JG, Oklahoma USA

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Open Letter to Thomas Trask

On January 11, 2007 Steve Svendsen wrote a letter confronting AG-USA General Superintendent Thomas Trask with the spreading departure from sound doctrine within Assemblies of God as evidenced by the use of the evolving Seeker Sensitive, Church Growth teachings of Robert Schuller, Bill Hybels and Rick Warren. Mr Trask responded but failed to answer the most important question and hedged the entire issue.

You can read both letters at: <http://contending.org/traskletter&response20070112.htm>

Steve Svendsen is a former long-term member of Bethel AG, who has been conducting a survey among AG-USA state superintendents, pastors and members on this matter of growing concern. CETF plans to keep you informed.

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THEOPHISTIC COUNSELLING Elijah House Prayer Ministry – being sued

Editorial Comment: *Some time back CWM issued a warning about Theophostic Counselling which had been adopted by "DUNAMIS" (Brisbane, pastors Shawn Hanson and Trevor Chandler) and by others. We believe that the following report justifies our warning:*

Go to: www.lyingspirits.com/news2006.html — for an interesting summary of law suits originating in British Columbia, Canada, involving the so-called "Christian prayer counselling" ministry of Elijah House, founded by U.S. residents John and Paula Sandford.

They use "inner healing" techniques drawn from occultism, especially the "recovery" of repressed memories in order to heal those memories (as they say). This is sometimes called "Theophostic Prayer Counselling" (TPC). Elijah House counsellors are, among other things, taught to help people recover emotional wounds and hidden memories in order to "apply the healing power of Jesus" through prayer. In my book *True to His Ways*⁶ I compared this practice with kundalini yoga (which is actually orthodox Hinduism). In yoga, practitioners uncover repressed memories and then apply the healing power of kundalini (i.e., the serpent). Eastern thought, not the Bible, is the source of such practice.

In the early 1990s a Canadian lawyer, under the tutelage of John Sandford, left her law practice to head up Canadian operations for Elijah House. However, they closed down the Canadian offices in the early 2000s. Around that time a man sued for divorce, saying his marriage was torn apart as a result of counselling that caused his wife to have false memories of sexual and satanic abuse. Recently, the wife apparently realised that she had been deluded and she sued Elijah House. More information is in linked statement.

In 2005 one of the leaders of Elijah House personally told me they were planning to send representatives to carry their teaching into individual churches, especially in the USA, having decided that they need to take their practices directly into church congregations.

Christians beware: www.lyingspirits.com/news2006.html
Ruth Davis, Baruch House Publishing Co, *True to His Ways: Purity in Christian Spiritual Practice*. <http://www.truehishways.com>

2 AGTS stands for the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, located in Springfield, Missouri, USA

3 The address of the Assemblies of God headquarters located in Springfield, Missouri.

4 SMS stands for Southwest Missouri State University, located in Springfield, Missouri

5 MSU, which stands for Missouri State University was formerly SMS and is located in Springfield, Missouri.

6 *True To His Ways* available from CWM AU\$24 plus post—see front cover for contact details.