

Angus Buchan and Associates
4/4/2017

Introduction

The zeal and enthusiasm that Angus Buchan and his followers display in the planning of the well-intended Day of Prayer in Bloemfontein, is to be admired. There are underlying factors, though, that are matters of concern that need our serious consideration. Care should be taken that our deductions are founded on sound Biblical truths and not based on personal opinion.

1. It is a matter of concern that Angus displays a lack of discernment by endorsing ministries that adhere to unbiblical principles

In the light of Angus Buchan's association with men like Rick Joyner (false prophecies – Modern Prophets and NAR – www.Beyond the Torn Veil.co.za), Graham Power (mystical spiritual experience), Dion Forster (promoting a Cosmic Christ) and others like Rodney Howard Browne, André Roebert and others who promote the Laughing Toronto Blessing, it is of the utmost importance to do what the Bible says and test the spirits:

“... do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 Joh.4:1).

2. Concern about Angus saying we must put aside our doctrines

On video, while holding the Bible in his hand, Angus Buchan says that we must put aside our doctrines, and by saying so, he disregards New Testament instruction to

“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Tim.4:16).

Knowledge of the basic doctrines of the Bible is the only thing that can enable us to recognize heretical teachings and practices in the world today. Paul has harsh words for those who teach what is ***“contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel...” (1 Tim.1:10-11).***

When it comes to doctrine, who must we believe, Angus Buchan or the apostle Paul?

If we do not apply New Testament doctrine, how are we for example, going to discern whether the Jesus of the Jehovah Witnesses, the Jesus (Isa) of the Muslims, the Jesus of William Paul Young's [The Shack](#) and the Jesus who reveals himself through inner enlightenment during Contemplative Meditation, is the Jesus of the Bible? **(2 Cor.11:4).**

Paul instructed the Corinthians to ***“not go beyond what is written” (1 Cor.4:6)***, because he understood the truth of

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good **work**” (2 Tim.3:16).*

3. Common aspects of Graham Power and Elizabeth Gilbert’s spiritual experiences give reason for grave concern.

At a Prayer Summit in Pretoria, 19-23 February, 2007, Graham Power, director of *Transformation Africa* described how, during an “amazing” spiritual experience, he received the vision of initiating the Global Day of Prayer.

He explained that during a breakfast for men in Stellenbosch in February, 2002, the speaker at that occasion, a former gangster, spoke on the topic of “The Holy Spirit.” The men were invited to go forward and receive the Holy Spirit. Graham said that when he was touched by the young man, he fell down and had an out of body experience and while lying on the floor, he experienced electric-like sensations flowing through his body and he heard a voice speaking to him several times.

At another meeting, referring to the same extraordinary experience, he described it as follows:

“I kept hearing God booming through my body, ‘I am the spine, I am the head of the spine, I am the King of Kings’(six times). The pain up my back felt like pins and needles and a picture of Cape Town formed around my body.” “I saw God's arms reaching around the globe...”

(<http://www.virtueonline.org/cape-town-billionaire-businessman>) (Andre Viljoen, *Business, South Africa*, 24/10/2013, *Special purpose for SA in God’s global revival plan* — Graham Power (My emphasis).

(<http://discernmentdirectory.com/discerningtheworld/articles/Graham-Power-Angus-Buchan-Transformation-Africa>).

Graham acted on this mystical experience and initiated the Global Day of Prayer. Graham said that Christians should go to high places, such as mountains, to pray for revival. He and a group climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro on the 27th of May 2007, to do so.

Contrary to what Graham Power says, Jesus declared that the place you pray from is not of importance, what is important, is to worship God in spirit and truth:

*“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem. Jesus declared, ‘Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father **neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ...God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth’ ” (Joh.4:23-24, my emphasis).***

(Today, some still emphasize certain places as special!)

Angus Buchan endorses Graham Power's ministry and has declared that "*Graham Power has become a very special friend to me and a man whom I esteem highly....*" (Endorsements of Transform your Work Life – Graham Power).

Compare Graham Power's experience with that of Elizabeth Gilbert's.

Elizabeth Gilbert's testimony

In her autobiography, *Eat, Pray, Love*, she describes the experience she had while meditating at a Hindu Ashram in India. As result of chanting a mantra¹, she went into a trans-like state and experienced electrical energy pulsing through her body.

She spoke to this energy and said to it: "*I believe in you*" and it magnified in response. In her book she describes her experience like this: "*It's frighteningly powerful now, like a kidnapping of the senses. It's humming up **from the base of my spine**. My neck feels like it wants to stretch and twist...I don't know why my head and neck want to do this...they are insistent. The pounding blue energy keeps pitching through my body, and I can hear a sort of humming sound...I am panting...*"

She goes on to explain: "*To understand what that experience was...brings up a topic rather esoteric and wild – namely the subject of **kundalini shakti...Every religion in the world has had a subset of devotees who seek a direct, transcendent experience with God...Generally their union with God occurs in a meditative state, and is delivered through an energy source that fills the entire body with euphoric, electric light...***" (*Eat, Pray, Love* – Elizabeth Gilbert, Bloomsbury, pp.148-150, my emphasis).

She explains that the Japanese call this energy *ki*, the Chinese Buddhists call it *chi*, the Balinese call it *taksu*, the Islamic Sufi call it *The Beloved* and the Christians call it the Holy Spirit. The mystical Catholic figure Saint Teresa of Avila described her union with God as a physical ascension of light through her inner being, before bursting into God's presence (*Eat, Pray, Love* – Elizabeth Gilbert, Bloomsbury, p. 151).

Many who were "slain in the spirit" describe a similar experience; a stimulation that started at the base of the spine and which flowed like electricity through the body, accompanied by uncontrollable shakings of the body, the hearing of voices, the receiving of visions and the experiencing of ecstatic sensations.

Millions across the world have been influenced by Elizabeth Gilbert's book and by the film, *Eat, Pray, Love*, which features Julia Roberts.

4. How are we to discern between what is of the flesh, what is from deceiving spirits, or what is of the Holy Spirit?

¹ ("*The repetition of the mantra is a way of opening these depths of the unconsciousness and exposing them to light*". (A quote of Bede Griffiths: *The New Creation in Christ: Christian Meditation and Community (1994)*, pg.50).

We can only be guided by the principles we find in the Bible. One of the most important ministries of the Holy Spirit, called the Spirit of truth, is not to give us mystical experiences, but to guide us “into all truth” (Joh.16:13). What truth? Biblical truth (Joh.14:26).

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is **self-control (Gal.5:23)** and that means that the Holy Spirit will act in full co-operation with the will of the believer. Trance-like, altered states of consciousness, will not be induced by the Holy Spirit and all authentic revelations given by Him, will be in accordance with what is written in Scripture. It is for this reason that Paul instructed the Corinthians “**not to go beyond what is written**” (1 Cor.4:6).

5. The alarming association between Angus Buchan, Graham Power and Dr Dion Forster

Dr Dion Forster is actively involved with Graham Power’s **Global Day of Prayer** and the **Unashamedly Ethical** movement. In one of Dr Dion Forster’s books, *Transform Your Work Life*, he and Graham Power share testimony of what God has done for them. He is also the author of two other books – *Christ at the centre – Discovering the Cosmic Christ in the spirituality of Bede Griffiths* and “*An uncommon spiritual path – the quest to find Jesus beyond conventional Christianity.*”

In *An uncommon spiritual path*, he says this about his book: “At its core this book is a discussion of **Fr Bede Griffiths wonderfully rich Christology**” (My emphasis).

Bede Griffiths, Dion’s mentor, was known as **Swami Dayananda** and lived in South India — [http://en.wikipedia.org/Bede Griffiths](http://en.wikipedia.org/Bede_Griffiths)).

The following is a quotation from a review of Dion Forster’s other book, *An uncommon spiritual path*: “This book charts an uncommon spiritual path by examining the non-dual spirituality of Henri le Saux (Swami Abhishiktananda), a French Benedictine monk in India” – *Mobipocket*

Abhishiktananda was born **Henri Le Saux**, a French monk who, having moved to India in 1948 in search of a more radical form of spiritual life, adopted **sannyasa**² and multiple contacts with prominent Hindu saints led him to the **advaitic experience**³...” (My emphasis). (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abhishiktananda>).

The finding of *self*, as taught by most Eastern religions, is contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ; instead of finding self, Jesus said that one had to die to self:

“If anyone would come after me, he **must deny himself** and take up his cross daily and follow me. **For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it**” (Luk.9:23-24, my emphasis).

² “The goal of the Hindu **Sannyasin** is moksha (liberation)” – *A Bhattacharya (2009), Applied Ethics, Hokkaido University*, pages 63-64.

³ “**Advaita** is the teaching of nonduality, The Self is that which is always and already present... The love, peace, and happiness we have all been seeking is already here and is, in fact, who we are...” (<http://endless-satsang.com/advaita>).

For those who call themselves Christians and teach that there are many ways to approach God and that He is in every one and in everything (Eastern Pantheism), the Bible has a stern warning:

*“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the **doctrine** of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son”*
(2 Joh.1:9, my emphasis).

One of the most important doctrines of Christ which contradicts the philosophy that says that there are many ways to find God, is:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (Joh.14:6).

6. Concerns about ecumenical statements made by Angus Buchan

The influence of some of Angus Buchan’s associates is reflected in a statement he made at a media conference where he announced that people of all faiths were welcome to come to the meeting in Bloemfontein on 22 April. He stated that it would be a day of prayer and not a gospel meeting ([Netwerk24](#), Nico Gous, 22 March,2017).

His statement can cause many of his followers to accept the unbiblical philosophy that all faiths worship the same God.

7. The concern that Angus repeatedly misinterprets Scripture

A Text out of Context – 2 Chron.7:14

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

This is usually the scripture that is quoted when prayer meetings are organized to pray for our country. Applying this Scripture to countries in our day shows the influence of Replacement Theology, which proclaims that Israel is no longer God’s chosen nation and that all the promises of the Old Testament have been carried over to the church age.

To proclaim that God will heal our land on the basis of what is promised in **2 Chron.7:14**, is to mislead people. In the context, it is the nation of Israel that is being addressed. Neither South Africa, nor any other nation, has the same covenant relationship with God that Israel has. The covenant and its conditions are applicable to Israel only and it is hermeneutically incorrect to make them apply to any other country. In the dispensation of the New Testament, apart from Israel, God does not work with covenant nations anymore, but calls on individuals to repent. To apply this Scripture to the conditions in South Africa, is no guarantee that change will take place.

In the same way, it is misleading to quote **Is.66:8**, like Angus does, apply it to South Africa and then imply that this nation will be changed in one day! In its Old Testament context it is a reference to Israel's repentance in the days after the Tribulation.

Also, contrary to what Jesus said, *"My kingdom is not of this world"* (**Joh.18:36**), those involved in Kingdom Now Dominionism, ignore Biblical eschatology and are trying to transform society by human effort. Our hope is in what Paul writes:

*"... we eagerly await a Saviour...the Lord Jesus Christ, who, **by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control**, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body..."* (**Phil.3:20-21,4:1**, my emphasis).

8. Concern about subjective claims about hearing God "speaking"

All believers have the mandate to evaluate the things that people claim to have heard from God:

"Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said" (**1 Cor.14:29**).

The believers in Ephesus did this and they were complimented, because they ***"...tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false"*** (**Rev.2:2**).

Are we to esteem Angus' subjective *"God spoke to me"* and his declaration that God gave him a mandate to say to Satan: *"This far and no further"* (As heard on Radio Pulpit), as being more authoritative than "It is written?"

I asked him in a friendly e-mail to please explain to me how it happened that God gave him a mandate to speak to Satan in such a way. The reply was that it was through his relationship with the Lord and through systematically reading through the Bible (E-mail, *Shalom trust <info@angusbuchan.co.za, 23/3/2017*).

In the light of having to test everything that is said, the intimidating terminology "God spoke to me" and "God told me", so often heard in conversations and announcements, will have to be curbed, for one cannot question God!

9. Concern about spiritual deductions based on the emphasis placed on numbers

If Angus had just appealed to all Christians to pray together in their homes and churches for peace on the 22 April, I would have had no problem, but his manipulative statements, putting words in the mouth of God, is of great concern. He even tells young women who have plans to get married on the 22, to cancel them and come to his meeting, because, he declared, that that is what God instructed (stated on Radio Pulpit).

This tendency to put words in the mouth of God has caught on and is reflected in all the messages from people on the social media that claim that God has spoken to them.

With Angus and his supporters, I am also concerned about conditions in our country, and I, like many others, are continually in prayer doing what Jesus instructed:

“when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”
(Matt.6:6).

10. Concern about the unbiblical declarations that the spirits of crime, corruption, murder and rape will be bound

The erroneous idea that Satan and demons can be bound is based on what Jesus said in **Matt.12:24-29**:

“...how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?”

The main point of this parable is that Jesus is saying, that because He is stronger than Satan, He can drive out demons from people who are possessed. The emphasis is on the power of Jesus and not on any prescription on how believers are to bind demonic forces. This is confirmed by the fact that nowhere in the teachings of Paul and the other New Testament writers do we find any teaching concerning the binding of evil spirits.

Moreover, if Jesus did bind the devil in **Matt.12:24-29**, who untied him so that he could again, on a later occasion, influence Peter to thwart the purposes of God? (**Matt.16:23**). He, Satan, was also free to enter Judas and cause him to betray Jesus (**Luke 22:3**). Why does Peter and James, instead of instructing believers to just bind the devil, encourage them to resist him by submitting to God? (**1 Pet.5:8, James 4:7**). Furthermore, why did Jesus not bind the devil when he tried to tempt Him in the desert? (**Matt.4**).

We find the answer in **Rev.20:2** where it is written that the devil will only be bound at the beginning of the millennium, when God Himself will do it before throwing him into the Abyss.

What about Matt.18:18?

“...whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

The correct translation of this verse in the Amplified Bible explains itself:

“...whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.”

The context of **Matt.18:18** shows that it has nothing to do with the binding of demons; it is applicable to the way in which disputes in the congregation should be dealt with.

Conclusion

The influence of the false teachings of Dominionism can be seen in the fact that every now and then a different ministry organizes something to try and bring change to South Africa. So, under the influence of teachers like Joy Dawson, Christians were involved in the *Taking Cities and Towns for Jesus* movement.

In more recent years, a large gathering was organized with the purpose of dedicating the Free State and South Africa to God. The goals of the leaders were set out in a newsletter that was issued. The following is a quote from it:

"Dedication of the nation to Christ will facilitate evangelism, fast track answers to prayers, increase the possibilities of righteous and ethical political leaders and generally provide the spiritual infrastructure necessary for transformation. South Africa as a nation, can then be listed as a sheep nation and an official agent of Christ's coming kingdom"

(Newsletter of Institute for Christian Leadership Development, 15 February 2012).

Today, five years later, and after other attempts, like the *Fire Trails* (Angus Buchan, Graham Power, Elza Meyer, Cape Town, 6/3/2011), where they "proclaimed" the Word of the Lord over South Africa, conditions remain the same.

Why did the early apostles, who nearly all died as martyrs, not know anything about these modern methods that could have enabled them to save themselves and "heal" lands?

We all would like to see change in our country and many are praying for Godly intervention, but we cannot ignore the Word of God that warns us about the fact that we are "*strangers and pilgrims*" in this world (**Heb.11:13**) and that we are to prepare ourselves spiritually for what lies ahead (**1 Tim.4:1, 2 Tim.3:1-4**).

In these desperate times, it is the duty of every believer to warn people about the coming judgements of God on a sinful world and that the only escape is in repenting and accepting the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

P.S.

Angus Buchan's latest declarations

"It is not good enough to just go to your house and pray with your family" (Front page, Bloemfontein Courant, 20 April, 2017).

This statement undermines the ordinary believer's confidence in his own prayer life.

The Word says:

James 5:17 - "*Elia was a man just like us...he prayed...*"

Matt.6:6 - "*...go into your room, close the door....*"

Matt.18:20 - "*Where two or three....*"

On video Angus quotes **Is.66:8** and declares that the nation of South Africa will be changed in one day!

How misleading! In its context this verse refers to Israel that will repent and accept their Messiah in one day in the last days after the Tribulation.

"The Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (**Acts 17:11**).

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