

**The Third-Wave incarnation of the
Manifest Sons of God Heresy
in the 21st Century Charismatic Church.**

**Copyright © 2004, William D. Fawcett
June 28, 2004
All Rights Reserved**

The Manifest Sons of God

In 1948 a movement was born that remains a blight on the church to this day. It sprung out of a revival that was known as the "Latter Rain" revival. Heresy crept into this movement which shortly thereafter condemned by the Assemblies of God upon which it had a great effect. The erroneous doctrine known as the "Manifest Sons of God" (or Manifested Sons of God) was embraced by these "Latter Rain" proponents. This doctrine teaches an extreme post-millennial view that the saints would be "glorified", even "deified" right here on this earth. Other names by which this system of beliefs is identified include "Kingdom Now", "Dominion Theology" or "Joel's Army". Proponents of this heresy believe that the end-time move of the spirit (prophesied by Joel) started with the Pentecostal movement, then the Charismatic Movement (which is now passé) and is now finally at what is being called "the Third Wave."

One of the hallmarks of this movement is a de-emphasis on the scriptures and of doctrine. The Bible becomes allegorical, and interpretations become subjective¹. Many within the third-wave movement have been conditioned, by the lack of sound biblical teaching, to believe that doctrine is unimportant. Leaders will often state that "relationship" is far more important than doctrine.

Who are they today?

It would take a book to document the connection between various players in the Manifest Sons movement today. Suffice to say, it would read like a who's-who of conference speakers who are feeding the third-wave church (and especially the leadership and the elite) today.

Vineyard is one movement that has appropriated these beliefs. John Wimber, who in the early 70's was a Quaker pastor, is credited with starting the Vineyard movement. Quakers teach that "every man has an inward light that was sufficient in itself to lead him to know God."² By 1977 Wimber had started the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, which initially was associated with Chuck Smith's Calvary Chapel. They left that association (because of their de-emphasis of the Word and various doctrinal problems³) and joined with seven other churches in the Vineyard Fellowships. Wimber became the leader of that association in the early 1980's and remained leader until his death.

Wimber later became leader over a group known as the "Kansas City Prophets" at a time when they were under attack for their doctrinal positions and practices⁴. This

¹ For instance the popular concept (and book title) "You May All Prophesy", taken from 1 Cor 14:31, is used to promote the idea that everybody should prophesy. Verse 29 is left out of that discussion, which says "Let the prophets speak two or three.." The meaning of verse 31, which says "you may all prophesy one by one" is that all (three) should take turns and not all speak at the same time. Proponents of the belief that all should prophesy will respond by stating that they are not talking about prophesying during a service, neglecting to note that the scripture they use to support this notion is talking about decorum during the assembly of the saints.

² Bill Randles : "Weighed and Found Wanting", St. Matthew Publications 1995. pg 77.

³ Problems included reports of levitating, aura reading, along with other occult practices to which Wimber responded "God is above His Word" and "God is not limited by His word", both Quaker beliefs.

⁴ See <http://www.banner.org.uk/kcp/Abberent Practises.pdf>

major confrontation was resolved when Wimber stepped in and said he would deal with the problems and take them under his covering. As is typical within the third-wave movement, those problems were never dealt with.

The Kansas City prophets include such internationally known "prophets" and conference speakers as Mike Bickle, Bob Jones, John Paul Jackson, Paul Cain, and Bob Jones. Affiliated with them, especially through his close working relationship with Bob Jones, is Rick Joyner of Morningstar. Francis Frangipane, Bobby Conner and Jill Austin are in close association with all of the others. Prophecies from these persons are frequently shared on e-mail lists.⁵

Paul Cain is revered by the others as the most significant, or true, Prophet. Cain was closely affiliated with William Branham, a proponent of the oneness doctrine ("Jesus only") which denies the trinity. Branham is known as the father of the Latter Rain movement.

Also identified with the Kansas City Prophets and the Vineyard movement is Randy Clark. Clark was instrumental in bringing the "Laughing Revival" to Toronto.⁶ Clark was told by Rodney Howard-Browne to "lay hands on everything that moved".

The connections between these various "prophets" are well known and established. Reportedly, most, if not all, are part of the annual secret "Prophetic Roundtable" meetings hosted annually by Joyner⁷. Core to their belief is the belief that they alone are to be trusted with God's revelation. This is the same spirit of elitism seen in the sword rituals. Joyner himself likens the rest of the church to prisoners:

"The darkness from the cloud of vultures made it so hard for these prisoners to see that they naively accepted every-thing that happened to them as being from the Lord. They felt that those who stumbled were under God's judgment. The only food provided for these prisoners was the vomit from the vultures. Those who refused to eat it simply weakened until they fell ... After drinking the bitter waters they would begin to vomit on the others. When one of the prisoners began to do this, a demon that was waiting for a ride would climb up on him, and would ride him up to one of the front divisions. Even worse than the vomit from the vultures was a repulsive slime that these demons were urinating and defecating upon the Christians they rode."⁸

Although this quote was taken from one of Joyner's works of fiction, Joyner himself does not call this book a work of fiction, but claims that it was given to him by divine revelation direct from God.

⁵ Commonly by small private email distribution lists. These "prophetic" words are also available on-line at www.elijahlist.com, although it now appears that the false prophecies concerning Y2K are no longer archived.

⁶ For \$3640 you can spend two weeks in Africa on a missions trip with Clark.

⁷ The existence of these meetings is well known but it is hard to determine who actually takes part in them even though they make authoritative prophetic declarations to the global church.

⁸ Rick Joyner "The Final Quest" .

What They Believe

Latter Rain theology is a deep, all encompassing theology that can only be fully understood by careful review of the teachings and prophecies of those involved in it. It is not taught by these churches in a systematic manner, in fact all doctrine and theology is de-emphasized in contemporary "third-wave" congregations. Most will belittle those to whom "right thinking" is important. It is likely that many third-wave leaders don't even fully understand their own system of beliefs and how these beliefs translate into practice.

"while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)

Paramount to their theology is a ridicule of those who await the return of Christ, who will return for his church and take it away. This concept is known as the "Rapture", a basic tenet of the Church⁹.

The Manifest Son's position is best defined by "prophet/apostle" Bill Hamon:

"When Jesus comes to translate His Church, it will not be God's heavenly helicopter coming to air-lift the saints all out before they backslide or before the Devil has overrun their camp. When Jesus comes it will not be because the battle is too great for the army of the Lord. Neither will it be to jerk the Church out before the Antichrist system detours it; nor a retreat of an emergency rapture to preserve the Church from extinction... Those who preach the maturity of the Church and restoration of all scriptural truths believe the purpose of the rapture-translation is strictly for the immortalization of the saints."¹⁰

The *promise* of the "Blessed Hope" is not an escapist mentality (just holding out until the helicopter escape), but rather one which should encourage us to share the Gospel with others before it is too late.

Manifest Sons believe that God is establishing a church that will grow stronger and stronger in the last days. It will be an overcoming church. There will be a restoration of the church to all truths that Satan had robbed her of. The offices of the prophets and apostles will be restored to the church. Through this the church would be led into greater truth.

Most alarming is Joyner's belief (embraced by Bob Jones and Steve Thompson) that there are "seven hidden gospels". These gospels will be revealed to the church in the last days. This, of course, explains the need to restore the offices of the prophets and the apostles, as the canon of the new testament was delivered to the apostles (ones who had actually seen Jesus). Naturally, spirit travel will be required for today's apostles to see Jesus face-to-face. Several, including Joyner and Jones, have claimed this authority. Says Joyner:

⁹ A good paper on "the rapture" may be found at http://ag.org/top/beliefs/position_papers/4182_rapture.cfm

¹⁰ Bill Hamon "The Eternal Church", p.114.

"The apostolic ministry that opened the church age will be raised up at the end to complete it."¹¹

Mike Bickle says "I think there will be 35 like unto Paul... There would be 35 whom the Lord would separate in the highest way. The government rests on the apostles and prophets."¹² Contrast this with Isaiah 9:6 ("the government shall be upon HIS shoulder") and you will see where this is going.

Seven Hidden Gospels? Listen to Joyner's own words:

"The 'good word of God' is the message of the kingdom. John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus preached this message. However, just as many of the most important doctrines of the faith were obscured after the first century A.D., the true gospel of the kingdom is yet to be recovered and preached by the last day church. This message is also represented in Revelation 11:15 as the seventh trumpet".¹³

Morningstar's Steve Thompson, who wrote the book "That all may Prophecy", has also made reference to the seven hidden gospels in the context of the seven thunders in Revelation 10¹⁴. This is where John ate the scrolls, sweet to the taste but bitter to the stomach. The belief that more scriptures are to be revealed is behind the doctrines and practices of "levels of prophecy" and the restoration of the office of the apostle.¹⁵ Joyner's most recent book is in fact entitled "the Apostolic Ministry".¹⁶

Bill Hamon states that "the Lord Jesus" gave him a vision in which he was shown a great book. The Book was titled "The Book of the Mortal Church on Earth". He was shown this book so that he could make the progressive purpose of God known to the corporate Church.¹⁷ If not one of the seven hidden gospels, it is still Joseph Smithesque in its nature.

To the Manifest Sons' the rapture will not be *the rapture* (pre-tribulation and pre-millennial) as taught by the orthodox church. It will not even be an actual rapture where the saints are "caught up" into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Allegory, as usual, takes over. Instead of leaving the earth for the marriage supper of the Lamb, the church stays behind and will become increasingly militant. It will become stronger and prevail during the tribulation. John Wimber tells us that this militant "Joel's Army" will overcome opposition to the gospel and will eventually

¹¹ Rick Joyner, "Mobilizing the Army of God" pp.14-215.

¹² Mike Bickle, audio tape "Visions and Revelations"

¹³ Rick Joyner, "Mobilizing the Army of God" p. 45

¹⁴ <http://www.hispraise.com/MorningStar/SThompson.htm>

¹⁵ An excellent paper on the topic of Apostles and Prophets may be found at http://ag.org/top/beliefs/position_papers/4195_apostles_prophets.pdf

¹⁶ Steve Thomson's latest book is entitled "A 20th century Apostle".

¹⁷ Bill Hamon "Apostles, Prophets, and the Coming Moves of God", p. 131.

subdue the nations until they gain power and authority throughout the world. "The government of the nations shall be upon their shoulders and when all secular authorities, governments, princes and kings have finally submitted to them, Christ will return and they will present the kingdom to Him."¹⁸

The concept of this *dominant church* (Dominion theology) may seem appealing. But is it scriptural? The bulk of the evidence says that it is not. But the theology goes far beyond this. Drawing on Romans 8:19, which talks of the "manifestation of the sons of God", they make the quantum leap into Mormonic theology, where they believe we will not only undergo a translation into immortalization (see Hamon quote above) moreover will become divine.

It is this very belief that we will somehow become a super-race of divine "Manifest Sons" that is the keystone of this apostasy. Strong words? Yes. Listen to the voice of Bob Jones; these words are even stronger:

"They themselves (the church) will be the generation that's raised up to put death itself underneath their feet."¹⁹

Biblical Christianity believes that JESUS has put death under HIS feet. Any other belief denies the completed work of Christ.²⁰ Jones' comment is similar to the earlier one concerning the government being on the shoulders of the prophets and apostles. Both reflect the Manifest Sons belief that we shall attain deity, we (the corporate church) shall become the Christ.

Note an emphasis in third-wave teachings that Christ means "the anointed one" and that we, implicitly, can become anointed and become "Christs". Somehow, in this theology, the church morphs into the Christ, negating the need for Christ's return in any but an allegorical sense. As part of this system of beliefs, they teach that Christ was a pattern (for us), and that we will exceed the example that he set, as we become the "huper"-Christs.

Jesus was the pattern son, the "firstborn son"...the time has come again for the woman to be "delivered", to travail and bring forth" ... In the time of the corporate Messiah- Christ being formed in a people...²¹

And as we shall see, these beliefs correspond with some rather unusual practices, and these practices are being embraced by third-wave churches across the world.

¹⁸ Clifford Hill, "Prophecy Today"

¹⁹ Bob Jones, "Visions and Revelations" Fall 1988.

²⁰ For references see I Cor. 15:27 also vs. 55, Ephesians 1:22 and Hebrews 2:8.

²¹ Kelly Varner, "The Time of the Messiah", p. 75.

What They Do

The following is a distillation of many of the practices of the third-wave church and the relationship of those practices with Manifest Son's doctrine.

The Senses. Regarding the senses, it is taught that it is acceptable, in fact often desirable, to use ALL the senses when prophesying.

According to Mike Bickle, concerning Bob Jones, "When Bob feels pin pricks in his hand, that just show up, that means witchcraft is in this (place)... The Phrase that Bob uses is his senses turn golden...His five senses are literally inspired by the Holy Spirit... He could tell what was happening in the spirit realm from the five senses."²²

And Bob Jones himself:

"I was over there with Jim a while ago. My hands turned blue, and then they turned purple. And when that happens, it means you've got some incense that's gone up. You've got some intercession that's gone up that Papa's saying yes to."²³

The book "You May ALL Prophecy" by Steve Thompson, which has been adopted as the training manual for many prophecy classes, has much to say about sense. Thompson's Morningstar practices include "Spiritual taste", "Spiritual touch", "Spiritual hearing", "Spiritual smell", and "Spiritual sight". Most egregious is the practice of "Spiritual sight" where one is taught to pick up cues when meeting someone that might remind you of someone that you already have knowledge of, and applying that knowledge to the instant situation. Arguably, this technique may render bona-fide results; the practice of "reading" people is common among psychics today.

Spiritual Counterfeits. In the third-wave church it is taught that just because a technique is used by "the dark side" does not negate its use by the church. According to the proponents of this position, only "motivation of the heart" is the crucial issue.

It is pertinent to note that Jones is regarded by Bickle and others as a "seer". More revealing, listen to this encounter as recorded by Rick Joyner when he was in Germany to be knighted into a secret order where Joyner asks Bobby Conner for a "readout":

"I'm sitting in the lobby with Bobby Conner and a few other people there and this guy comes walking in the lobby of the hotel who was an interesting looking guy. And Reed, who was Paul Cain's assistant, was standing behind me. And he said, 'Hey, there's Newman Peyton.' And this guy was Baron Newman Peyton, who Colonel Byrd had told me was looking for me. I said, 'Reed, do you know that man.' He said, 'Oh, yeah, we met him years ago.' And he came over, walked over to me, and said he had been looking to meet with me. And I stopped him right away. I said, 'Bobby, give me a readout on this guy.' And this guy's going, 'What's a readout?' (Laughter.) And Bobby goes, 'Sir, when

²² Audio tape "The Shepherd's Rod" Mike Bickle, Bob Jones. Fall, 1989.

²³ Bob Jones, "Visions and Revelations" 1989.

you came in I just saw something, I saw that you had just come from the office of a man named Kurt Waldheim . . .' And his eyes got real big 'cause he had just come from his (Kurt Waldheim) office. And then he (Bobby Conner) said, 'I saw you or I saw him opening this briefcase and giving you something out of it.' And Bobby described the briefcase. And his eyes got real big then. He said, 'This is incredible!' He (Baron Peyton) said, 'That is the only briefcase like that in the world. I had it custom made for Kurt Waldheim.' And it was a weird thing Bobby had described."²⁴

A more orthodox belief held by mainline Charismatics and Pentecostals is that many techniques used by carnal prophets, such as "reading people", "flow charts", "prophesying off of others" (2 Chronicles 18) and "fishing expeditions" are totally carnal in both motive and application. The term "getting a reading" on someone has become part of the vocabulary within the prophetic movement today. This is carnal. Accuracy is never the sole determining factor. Revelation must come from God, not from technique or other source.

John Paul Jackson, who has taught at numerous Toronto conferences uses "auras" and "astrology" in his ministry, as evidenced by this report:

During a week of corporate fasting as Olathe churches were merging with KCF, John Paul Jackson was giving personal prophecies. He picked out seven women with incestuous spirits. He mentioned in his presentation auras and astrology. I confronted him afterwards with Wes Adams, John Heston and others. I suggested these methods were of an occult nature. He said that they originated with God and that he knew how many women had incestuous spirits by their black auras. He recommended the book, *Elijah Task* by John & Paula Sandford...²⁵

The belief that occultic practices are acceptable in the church today stems from the belief that all things were created by God, and that this is an age of restoration. What is specifically problematic about the application of this doctrine is that they're using it to give them *carte blanche* to embrace any kooky occultic whatever that they come across. They have no rigorous doctrinal, theological or even rational litmus test to differentiate the *original creation* from the *perverted*; for example, if our ability to pray is God-given, and our ability to pray to Beelzebub is Satan's perversion thereof, then one cannot simply justify praying to Beelzebub on the grounds that *praying is God-given*. A Scripture-based litmus test that distinguishes the original creation from the perverted must be applied to these strange ideas.

The Manner of Prophecy

The third-wave church says is that it is acceptable, in fact desirable, to couch a prophetic word in a prayer, or counsel, rather than give it as a "thus saith the Lord".

A more orthodox belief held by mainline Charismatics and Pentecostals is that if you have a prophetic word, it is *generally* better to state that it is indeed that. Some will

²⁴ Audio tape, Rick Joyner. See <http://www.pawcreek.org/articles/endtimes/NewWorldOrderPart1PaulCainRickJoyner.htm>

²⁵ Ernest Gruen, "Documentation of the Aberrant Practices and Teachings of the Kansas City Fellowship" available at <http://www.banner.org.uk/kcp/AbberentPractises.pdf>

disguise a word in prayer or by saying "I sense" in order to avoid having it judged. Steve Thompson even criticizes this method of stealth-prophecy but acknowledges that the Toronto stream teaches this and he feels it is appropriate for renewal-type (i.e. soaking) meetings²⁶.

Furthermore, the third wave teaching is that we can take a more casual approach to prophecy and words of knowledge; we want people to grow in these things and we must extend grace and mercy always never making correction that could offend. A more orthodox belief held by mainline Charismatics and Pentecostals is that all prophecy must be judged. There needs to be accountability. An accountable environment is one in which one can safely grow. "Prophecy" and "Words of Knowledge" are dangerous weapons able to destroy as easily as they can build up. Better to not give a word than to treat it casually.

The root of this casual approach to prophecy comes directly from the Morningstar doctrines and practices. According to Bill Randles:

Bob Jones, in the tape "Shepherds Rod" told us that God has revealed to him that the rhema (spoken word) would be two-thirds accurate in the days to come. In other words, up to two-thirds of the time the prophets would be "right on." Why not 100% of the time? If you listen to Bob Jones, you would be glad for inaccurate prophets! Why? God showed Bob, supposedly, that if enough power was released to give us 100% accuracy, we would have dead Annanias' and Sapphiras' all over the place. (How's that for making people actually thankful for inaccurate prophets?) Jones says we shouldn't worry about inaccurate prophecies, for God told him that prophets are like guns and prophecies like bullets and inaccurate prophecies are like blanks. And he also says that God told him, "I'm loading the guns, I'm putting the blanks in!" Incredible. Jones would have us believe that God is responsible for inaccurate prophecies.²⁷

Critical to this belief is the understanding that prophecy is something that you can grow in (learn) as opposed to an outright gift. While the point can be made that you can learn how to use the gift, it remains a gift nonetheless. And one which must be judged. At the Morningstar Church students reportedly sit at tables on the sides of the auditorium and will give you a prophecy (reading) if you ask. Sometimes they miss it, but that's alright, they are learning. Contrast that with a statement from John Bevere, who in his seminal work on prophecy "Thus Saith the Lord" states that "There is no Junior Holy Spirit."

Morningstar prophetic doctrine, as taught by Rick Joyner, Bob Jones, and Steve Thompson is based on the concept of "levels of revelation". Joyner, in his 1997 book "The Prophetic Ministry" outlines these levels to include Impressions, Visions, Open Visions, Dreams, Trances, Other Prophetic Experiences, the Lord's Audible Voice and Angelic Visitations. "Open Visions" for those who are not up to speed on such things, are when you continue to see the vision, like a movie, even as you go about everyday tasks such as driving. Steve Thompson teaches on these levels in his book "You May All Prophecy". He includes in his lists of ways to receive the following: Impressions, Spiritual sight, Spiritual hearing, Spiritual smell, Spiritual touch,

²⁶ Steve Thompson "You May All Prophecy".

²⁷ Bill Randles, "Weight and Found Wanting" p. 64.

Spiritual taste, Dreams, Glimpses in the Spirit, Gentle Internal Visions, Strong Internal Visions, and Open Visions. Dreams may include Literal Dreams, Symbolic Dreams and Dreams of Angels or the Lord, which are not visitations but are high-level revelations.

According to this doctrine, Impressions are the "entry-level" revelations. Says Thompson "Many people who receive impressions like this may believe they are unstable because their emotions can change abruptly as they move from one situation to another. They do not understand that God is 'pulling the strings on their emotions' in order to speak to them."²⁸

The highest levels of revelation, according to Thompson and others, are "Trances" and "Caught up in the Spirit". You may be more familiar with the term "Spirit Travel", "Astral Projection" or "Out of Body Experiences". According to this teaching, being caught up in the Spirit is similar to a trance but the individual is actually transported somewhere.

Bob Jones reportedly experiences these (trances and spirit travel) on a regular basis. Third-wave church members have been overheard discussing participation in such activities. One wonders *who* is "pulling the strings on their emotions". There does seem to be a direct correlation between the Toronto-Style of soaking, where one is told to "not pray in tongues or English for you are here to receive and that can hinder your reception" and this type of occultic activity. According to John Arnott "*Don't take control, you can take control later. The whole deal is, you lose control*".²⁹

There is a conspicuous tie between the doctrine of the seven hidden gospels and the levels of revelation. Because canonized scripture was given by a direct form of revelation it only seems logical to require that form of revelation to the additional seven that will be "added to the book". And there is a connection to the restoration of the Apostolic office, as only those who have seen Jesus face-to-face have, to this point, been considered apostles. A simple vision will not suffice; one must have been transported to the throne room for this form of high revelation. Many of the Kansas City prophets claim this level of authority.

In recent months just about everything in the third-wave church has been declared to be prophetic, be it "prophetic evangelism", "prophetic soaking prayer" or even "prophetic flag waving" during the duration of the services. The most common term these days for these third-wave churches within the Manifest Son's movement is "The Prophetic Church".

The Gnostic emphasis on the mystical experience, coupled with the need for a perverse emphasis on personal prophecy (negating the need for each believer to establish a direct working relationship with God) has brought the church to adopt stranger and stranger ways of hearing from God. The doctrines of "inherent inaccuracies" and "levels of prophecy" are now being taught and propagated in the third-wave church.

²⁸ Steve Thompson "You May All Prophesy"

²⁹ <http://www.niksula.cs.hut.fi/~ahuima/toronto/threepoints.html>

The Laying on of Hands

"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." 1 Timothy 5:22

The third-wave church will very often say that "Laying on of hands suddenly" relates only to installing elders (leaders) and does not have a broad application. According to this belief, we must lay hands on all who come without question.

A more orthodox belief held by mainline Charismatics and Pentecostals is that 1 Timothy 5:22 has a much broader application in its original intent and context, that it really does not specifically relate to any installation ceremony, and that one can (and should) exercise the gift of discernment while in the midst of ministry because there are consequences (defilement) to laying hands suddenly (without due consideration).

Amazingly, this viewpoint (defilement) was taught in the early days of the Charismatic Church, as study groups used the Derek Prince *Foundation Series*. Prince states that there are three different type of laying on of hands: Healing, to receive the baptism in the Holy Ghost, and Ordination. He discusses 1 Timothy 5:22 in his chapter on the baptism but does not mention it in the chapter on the installation of leaders or sending out.

I believe that the interpretation of this verse, which applies it *only* to installation, comes from those with backgrounds in churches where the only time hands were laid on was *during* an installation. Third-wavers will allegorize other forms of laying on of hands as just a "point of contact".

Historically, the emphasis on the laying on of hands in the modern spirit-filled church today can be traced back to the Latter Rain revival of 1948. This was one of the things that God was "restoring" to the church, along with "impartation of the mantle" and "sitting under one". Not everyone has bought into this. To paraphrase theologian Fuschia Pickett: "You want my mantle? I don't know what that really is, but if you want one, you should get yours where I got mine— from God."

The practice of "laying hands on anything that moves" (as Rodney Howard-Browne instructed Randy Clark) can be traced directly back to Toronto, the birthplace of Soaking Prayer.

Related to this concept is the common practice of the "Fire Tunnel" where everyone is prayed for in an assembly-line fashion. Aside from the fact that the speed of the conveyor belt alone determined the amount of time that would be spent in ministry to an individual, one of the prime objections to this practice is that ALL who pass through will have hands laid on them. If you believe in the concept of transference (defilement) you can see that this has the potential to spread defilement through out the church.

The problem with laying hands on "all who come" is that some may come with hidden sins or bad motives. Jesus himself did not pray for everyone who wanted prayer. Let's say that an individual has been secretly looking at pornography and comes forth for prayer. In the tradition of the current teaching on prophecy he receives a "safe" word, one which edifies, uplifts and comforts. "The Lord says I see your heart and I am well pleased. You cannot believe the things I have prepared for you. Whatever you set your hand to will prosper..."

The end result is that this person has been encouraged to continue in the manner of living that he has adopted, and in all likelihood the person offering the prayer and "prophecy" has somehow been defiled. It's a downhill spiral from there.

Interestingly, at the Brownsville Revival (the revival of repentance) I observed those in ministry would frequently just skip over some in line for "hands on" ministry. One should be very careful when some come forward (during ministry times) wanting hands laid on them, as they seek an illegitimate affirmation of their ministry.

I remain a firm believer that "greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world"; I am not afraid of demons, or their power. But I will not casually lay hands on anyone (without due consideration) simply because the scriptures teach me to be prudent.

Manifestations

The third-wave church often teaches and practices that reactions (or "manifestations") are most often God-initiated and are not to be controlled.

A more orthodox belief held by mainline Charismatics and Pentecostals is that spiritual actions like tongues, prophecies, even shouts-of-joy or cries-of-intercession are under the control of the person. If a prophetic tongue can be stopped in a service, and given later, likewise other spiritual actions, such as screaming out, can yield to control in a service where everything needs to be "decent and in order".

It must be understood that the spiritualized emphasis on "manifestations" and their uncontrollability has a direct tie to the teachings and practices of the Vineyard Movement and the related Toronto (Vineyard) Blessing. Toronto is considered by many a case study in manifestations taken to excess.³⁰

What is pertinent to the discussion is the frequency in which I have talked to people who refuse to come forward for ministry. They are (rightly) afraid of what people might do to them. I have heard from several who have stated that they have emotionally "checked out" of the services. My heart goes out to these people, and they are a significant number.³¹

In my time since leaving the third-wave church, the most notable thing about going to church is the new-found ability to be relaxed while in a service. No longer do I need to worry about what stupid, or even occultic thing is going to happen next. Good worship, Good teaching, no weird things. Two or three prophecies may be given, but no more. Sunday mornings have become a tremendous time of refreshing.

³⁰ Similar reports were documented at the tail-end of the Welsh Revival.

³¹ This excludes the equally significant number that have left the Charismatic church altogether.

Contrast that with this expectation from Morningstar's Steve Thompson:

"prophetic ministry is weird. There is good weird and bad weird, and it is the good weird but it is weird!"³²

Profanity

Bill Randles, in his book "Beware the New Prophets" makes the point that "the Bible is being downgraded, profanity is coming into the churches and that Christians (Charismatic and evangelical) have stopped using their God-given ability to think."

Recently, while at a third-wave church, I saw a film clip from the movie "Seabiscuit" used during a sermon in which a jockey cried out "God D*mn it!" Rather odd for a church that strives for God's habitation, don't you think? No, God is not squeamish about such things. He is emphatically against such things.³³

More perverse was a "prophetic" word once given at a leader's retreat and later repeated verbatim at a ministry training meeting while youth were present. This word, "You can't do a D*mn Thing", was the reportedly the pinnacle of the retreat. Disturbingly, the word energized and excited those to whom it was given. The word was never publicly judged as not being from the Lord, although an apology for repeating it to the youth was made after several months. When leaders of that group were asked if perhaps the "meaning" of the word was correct while the language was not the exact word of the Lord, they emphatically stated that it was a valid prophetic word in its precise language. We disagree

I have not uncovered the doctrinal foundation for the use of profanity within the Manifest Sons movement but apparently the practice is widespread and acceptable. Perhaps it has a close tie with the Toronto practice of "spiritual drunkenness"³⁴, or so it would seem.

³² <http://www.hispraise.com/MorningStar/SThompson.htm>
Thompson also briefly comments on the 7 hidden gospels in this discussion.

³³ See Exodus 20:7

³⁴ Bill Randles, *Weighed and Found Wanting* has an excellent chapter on this subject .
<http://www.believersingrace.com/images/WFW1.PDF>
. Also note the frequent Toronto image of "sticking one's head in the wine barrel" as on page 20 of *Spread The Fire* magazine Issue 1, 2004.
http://www.tacf.org/portals/57ad7180-c5e7-49f5-b282-c6475cdb7ee7/stf_10-1.pdf

Swordplay

One of the issues we became aware of at the time of our departure from the "third-wave" church was the issue of "Swordplay." This often-secret practice of spiritualized knighting has cropped up in third-wave churches worldwide. The practice frequently involves Scottish Claymore swords as in the legends of Arthur and his sorcerer Merlin. These swords may now be seen on the platforms of many churches such as Morningstar as if they were some sort of religious relic.

Typically the knighting ceremonies involves elite participants sitting in a circle. A leader, stands in the middle of the circle. One at a time, participants slowly move into the center of the circle and solemnly kneel while the leader knights them, tapping them with the sword. This has occurred at third-wave churches in many places and was documented to have occurred at Morningstar, as reported in *Charisma Magazine* (April 2001):

Joyner's connection to the Knights of Malta has troubled some in the prophetic movement who can't reconcile their Christian faith with membership in a group they consider secretive or elitist. "I have a concern about it. It's a secret society," says one former Morning Star staff member who left in 1999 and requested anonymity when interviewed.

A student of military history, Joyner finds rich Christian symbolism in the Knights of Malta: Brave warriors, armed knights defending the Holy Land--and plenty of swords. On occasion he has given decorative medieval swords to his closest friends. The weapons--which are mentioned often in his books--symbolize the power of the prophetic Word of God.

But the imagery has troubled some of his supporters. Another close ministry associate who requested anonymity said he raised loud objections to the Knights of Malta when Joyner announced that he had joined the order. "I wouldn't touch that stuff. I absolutely came out strong against it," the man said.

Another former ministry staffer told *Charisma* that he got concerned when Joyner began urging friends to be knighted in an inner circle. "I never felt a peace about it," the former employee said. "It is an elitist club. People started vying for position so they could be knighted. The ones that were knighted had a special bond with Rick."³⁵

Gary Bergel, the leader of *Intercessors For America*, has spoken out against this practice on at least one occasion in which I was present. Bergel makes a rational, compelling argument. Joyner's response to rational thought, which I believe was spoken concerning Bergel: *"I understood this well because of a recent conversation I had with a leader of a prayer ministry based in Washington. I do not think that I have ever talked to anyone who was not more deceived by extreme reasoning that leads to wrong conclusions."*³⁶

³⁵ Cedric Harnon, "God's Lightning Rod", *Charisma Magazine*, April 2001.

³⁶ Morningstar Prophetic Bulletin, June 1999

End Times Nonsense

There have recently been many "Joseph Company" conferences hosted by Mike Bickle's church in Kansas City. The Joseph Company is designed to provide a financial base for the end-time church. You can pay \$4,425 to take their basic course, pay additional monies for additional courses, and if you meet the qualifications (spiritually discerned) you can actually take part- by invitation- in their business incubator program Those qualifications are not unlike those required by your typical multi-level pyramid scheme: *"you will have to be skilled in business, have access to capital and a large talent pool, and be a skilled mentor"*³⁷.

The origins of the Joseph Company concept can probably be traced to a prophecy by Manifest Son Bill Hamon, who prophesied:

"God has released his Holy Spirit to bring His revelations and activation to the end-time Church. This will bring forth the last generation of mortal people, unlimited power, new products and more places dedicated to fulfilling God's present-truth purposes...delay shall be no longer concerning the final preparation necessary for the kingdoms of this world to become the kingdoms of Christ Jesus and his Church... God is activating the second phase of apostles and prophets and is fully restoring them to their rightful place of power and function...Jesus is maturing and motivating the five-fold ministers to intensify their training, and equipping those who will be the soldiers in God's end-time army...the Holy Spirit has been commissioned to accelerate his restorational work in the Church..it's now time to activate the Joseph and Daniel company of apostles (Joseph) and prophets (Daniel) within the business field and political arena...God is preparing an apostolic and prophetic company of Christian businesspeople. They will not only bring the wealth of the wicked into the Church, but will effect the economy in many nations of the world...Jesus chose twelve men from the business world and ordained them apostles. He did not choose men from the religious Rabbinical schools or the Levitical priesthood...the mortal church is in transition and preparation for becoming the immortal Church."³⁸

This clearly states the intent of this program which is Manifest Son to the core. Note the subtle references to a perverted view of the rapture which does not believe that individuals will be caught up, but rather that the church will stay here on earth and be transformed from mortal to immortal. I suppose this will happen in the "twinkling of an eye".

³⁷ <http://www.josephcompany.org/faq.asp>

³⁸ Bill Hamon "Apostles, Prophets, and the Coming Moves of God" p. 18-20.

The Manifest Sons' doctrine is further elaborated on in the *Vision Statement* of the Joseph Company³⁹:

Premise

God will release unprecedented judgments on the earth. Scripture is clear that will release unprecedented judgments on planet earth. His goal is not to destroy, or to cause suffering, but to “remove everything that hinders love” for God.

God will also release unprecedented “Josephs.” At a time when God sent judgment upon the near east, God raised up Joseph to “preserve life.” (Gen 45:5) In this hour God will raise up modern day Josephs through whom He will supernaturally supply food, shelter, and help. In judgment God remembers mercy. (Hab 3:2)

In judgment, God will make His Bride the epicenter of supply and sanctuary. In Is. 60:1-8, the emergence of the Bride of Christ (the glorious end-time church) was accompanied by the release of abundant supply.

God has already raised up thousands of “Josephs” for this hour. There are many Christians who are in places of wealth or influence with a deep prophetic heart cry to discern the “times and seasons” and their own role. Though they have been greatly blessed, they know God has a greater purpose for their lives.

Purpose and Vision

Releasing the “Sons of Issachar” (1 Chron 12:32) — the “strategic prophets” who “understand the times and know what Israel should do.” This speaks of strategic understanding of the purposes of God. Joseph was such a prophet. He interpreted Pharaoh’s dream and knew exactly what should be done with that knowledge. God’s new Josephs are also “strategic prophets” who know how to plan and mobilize on a global scale. Joseph oversaw the transfer of wealth and power according to the purposes of God.

13 About Joseph he said: 17 In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth. (Deut. 33:13,17)

Mercy deeds to the nations. During Joseph’s famine, perhaps millions of people were delivered from starvation. God’s desire in judgment is to also offer mercy. Modern day Joseph will lead many “miracles of compassion” which God will orchestrate to “preserve life.” (Gen 45:5)

Impacting world leaders. Pharaoh was greatly impacted by Joseph’s wisdom and leadership. Joseph said God “has made me a father to Pharaoh” (Gen 45:8).

Redeeming the Marketplace. Today the marketplace is not understood as an integral part of God’s Kingdom. Just as Joseph took the people of God into Egypt — a type of the world system — modern day Josephs will lead the church into the marketplace, establishing the marketplace as a place of His Presence, a place of spiritual passion, divine purpose, fellowship with God, Kingdom activity, and harvest.

³⁹ <http://www.josephcompany.org/vision.asp>

Building “Cities of Habitation.” God will raise up “cities of refuge”, or “cities of habitation” (Ps. 107) — cities preserved by God as places of sanctuary, healing, worship, self-government, culture, education, and industry, thriving in dark times, like spiritual and natural oasis’s.

Sounds a lot like the plans made by many of the same people in the time before the “Y2K” non-event, does it not? This statement also brings out the “Cities of Habitation” doctrine espoused by Joyner and others. Joyner has already bought large amounts of property in North Carolina with the help of Amway’s Dexter Yeager. Joyner’s publishing operation (and this large property base) has grown so big that his tax-exempt status is being challenged by local government officials.

While “redeeming the marketplace” may sound admirable, the true motive (aside from money, which is always a motive) is to set up a supply chain to operate during the tribulation. The fallacy behind this reasoning is that the true church (and any Christians who are in “places of wealth”) will be raptured from this earth to partake in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Certainly there is nothing in the Bible that even suggests that God will raise up ones with a so-called “Joseph anointing” in the last days. As to the Glory of Zion spoken of in Isaiah 60, if that has application to the church (and not Israel), it is most likely referring to what will be established during the Millennial reign, seven years after the present-day church has been raptured. By that time, in fact shortly after the Rapture, others will be enjoying your “places of wealth”.

How to escape.

Leave. Don’t let tradition bind you- that is what is known as religion. Don’t wait for God to speak a plain word as to where you should go- be willing to leave, destination unknown, in an act of faith. He is able to keep you. He will speak to you, but you may not be able to hear clearly until you have removed yourself from a place of spiritual confusion. Don’t let friends or family bind you – “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” – these are the words of Jesus.

Can the third-wave church be changed? Time and time again, it has been confronted and has refused to respond. God is less concerned about the continuance of the third-wave church than He is about the bondage of her people.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Appendix

Further Thoughts Regarding Submission

The third-wave church frequently will cite Hebrews 13:17 and related scriptures to their congregations. Because of that, some may be afraid to even discuss these issues, fearing that they may somehow be dishonoring their leadership. Our plea is that you evaluate the direction that the third-wave leadership is taking the church and determine *if that* is what you truly want to submit to. The choice, quite simply, is yours.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

One should be less concerned about “dishonoring the leadership” than “dishonoring the Lord.” You dishonor the Lord when you do not take 2 Timothy 4:3-5 seriously, which states: “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

“Keep your head” is rendered “But watch thou in all things” in the King James Version. It means: “Don’t get snookered.”

Acts 17:11 tells us of the Bereans who “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.” This testing did not dishonor Paul, nor was it an indication of a lack of *biblical* submission. It is required of all believers.

On the topic of submission as taught in the church today, it becomes necessary to question if the full circumstances of Hebrews 13:17 even applies to the concept of the typical third-wave leadership. Are they actually *keeping watch over you* in any manner other than a “spiritualized positional” sense⁴⁰?

The point of the scripture is that submittable authority is authority which “keep(s) watch” over you. Authority that is disinterested, or unwilling to be exercised (unless of course the “authority” is challenged), is not what God intended for His sheep. The concept that authority exists solely by virtue of it being declared to be so by the church⁴¹ (positional authority) is a vestige of the Mumford Discipleship/Shepherding heresy that had a great impact on the early Charismatic church.

⁴⁰ i.e. “we are elders therefore somehow supernaturally we are keeping watch over you”. The supposed positional filling of office responsibilities is a critical issue in this discussion.

⁴¹ “The apostolic anointing provides a covering (protection) for those who submit to it” John Eckhardt “Moving in the Apostolic” p. 117

Al Dager writes:

“In spite of extreme abuses against personal freedom in Christ, the thought control that characterized that movement continues to rear its ugly head among Kingdom Now groups...Shepherding-Discipleship as the movement it became...is nothing less than spiritual child abuse. Through intimidation by the instilling of fear and unfounded guilt, it bludgeons babes in Christ into obedience to the wills of the “shepherds” in authority. And not only babes, but many “mature Christians” have fallen prey to this evil due to the misuse of scripture to establish “coverings” over every member.”⁴²

Without going too far on the topic of authority, it is necessary to state that blind-calls for submission, as have been recently made, often eclipse the fact that we are called to a “priesthood of believers.” No one should expect a leader, or a prophet for that matter, to hear from God for themselves. God can, and will, speak directly to anyone who is a believer. The differences in understanding this issue is a critical core-issue in defining the role of prophecy in the church, and in retrospect was one of the key issues leading to our departure.

A balanced view of submission is presented in Dr. Michael Brown’s book “Revolution in the Church” in a chapter entitled “The Pastor is not the Pope”. I would highly recommend his book to anyone.

May God Bless you as you seek to follow Him with your whole heart.

Background information used in compiling this report is posted at

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~fawcetwd/>

⁴² Al Dager, “Kingdom Theology – Part Two”, pp. 20,21