

## Newsletter for February 2020

**Dear Church Family,**

What you are about to read is something that so many have experienced— involvement with what one thought was an authentic moving of the Spirit of God only to find, and often years later, that it was less so, far less so, to the point of being caught up in a cultic organization. The book, *False Prophets Among Us*, and an earlier essay on the New Apostolic Reformation, have resulted in a number of people contacting me who were struggling to recover.

Yet vivid to me is that day when the major professor for my doctoral program had the courage to tell me that the church I pastored, and I myself, had a cultic mentality. This was in 1978, and I was floored; I think I am still recovering from the experience. In response, from 1988 to 1994, I offered a recovery program for people who had come to the point where they admitted they had embraced a cultic mentality—twelve 26-week sessions. Here is the core of it: we thought we were more spiritual and in line with the Holy Spirit than others. We were “movin’ and grovin’ in the Spirit, **and you weren’t**. There it is.

I was guilty of evangelizing error. Over the years I have been confronted by my error, and yes, it continues to this day. This is the reason I went to law school, wanting nothing to do with church and ministry, though I still followed Jesus, and entered into other work. That changed when I realized I was called to preach and teach, but I am still sensitive to that weird mentality I had so strongly embraced.

There is presently a huge number of Christians out there who have been captured by the cultic mentality at the heart and core of what is called the New Apostolic Reformation. Some time ago many who had been part of it realized their error and walked away. Yet they left with a burden and a sorrow, which has crippled them both spiritually and emotionally. This is why I wrote the book: *False Prophets Among Us: What is the New Apostolic Reformation and Why is it Dangerous?* This book has become our best seller, and this continues. For me the great tragedy is that those caught up in the NAR are brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the lessons I learned was to watch carefully how I viewed myself and the ministries I engaged in. The devil creeps up on us, and we usually become aware of it only after considerable damage has been done. Our large battles are always with the demonic powers, against the god of this world, Jesus said.

Now then, let me move the newsletter to another topic. Can anyone recall a time when I talked about money? Hate to, and rarely have had to, but I must now. We have put on a new roof over the chapel, right around \$20,000. We have had the big furnace for the hall replaced, around \$10,000. We have to replace the roof over the kitchen soon, and larger yet, we have a mold problem and the latest estimate to fix it is around

\$22,000. Both furnaces for the chapel need work, no idea of the cost but I think only around \$1000. And that does not count the cost of replacing a lot of carpet. The heater in my office has not been operative for at least two years, and the device to warm the water for the baptistry, well who knows. And the entire church needs to be repainted, and by real professionals.

We do not have the money to do this: our building maintenance fund is around \$20,000 and there is our reserve or emergency fund, that we have had in place for 30 years, is \$20,000, and this money I hate to have to spend.

So, what shall I do but my job, and that is to ask folks to help with this. Most of us practice tithing, yes the 10%, but there are also offerings biblically speaking. I must challenge us to see what we might be able to do.

CWC, our Church for Those Without a Church, is very close to going public. By that I mean inviting others to become real members with a certificate and a means to give tithes and offerings, plus having a prayer partner to speak and pray with. By this time next month you will see. Please go to: [milleravenuechurch.org](http://milleravenuechurch.org) and see the progress.