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FOR REFORMATION AND REVIVAL

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How PROPAGANDA changes Perceptions and People

"Then Jesus said: … 'And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.'" John 8:31-32

First Casualty is Truth

As my history teacher in Rhodesia reminded us: *Beware the victor's version!*

As early as 1930, John Dewey observed that: *We are exposed to the greatest flood of mass suggestion that any people has yet experienced.*

Propaganda is to Democracies what violence is to Dictatorships.

Propaganda, the calculated manipulation of public opinion to serve political and ideological interests, is pervasive. We are also exposed to commercial propaganda: Marketing and Advertising.

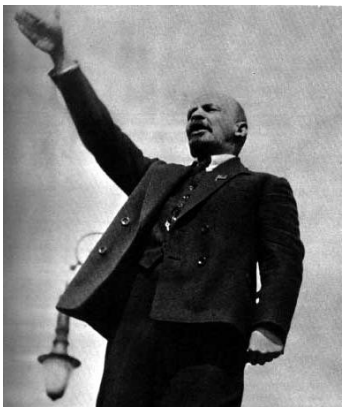
Propaganda aims to do other people's thinking for them.

Propaganda today has moved into prop-agenda, not only controlling what we think, but how we think, and how we feel about it.

Propaganda uses highly selective images, devious and prejudicial language. Dubious linkages, confusing issues and distorting reality with disinformation is a daily reality.

George Orwell wrote: *In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.*

Karl Marx declared: *The first battlefield is the rewriting of history.*



Deceit is Justified

In his book, *What is to be Done,* published in 1902, Vladimir Lenin defined propaganda as the use of historical and scientific arguments to indoctrinate the educated and intelligent masses. Agitation was described by Lenin as the use of slogans, stories and selective half-

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Animism, Ancestors and ANC

The centenary celebrations of the ANC and their dedication of the country to ancestral spirits sparked nation-wide controversy. *How are we as Christians to respond? What does the Bible say concerning the spirits of our ancestors?* To whom should South Africa be dedicated? *Are there examples in history of other nations that have invoked the spirits of their ancestors?* What were the results in those cases?

Celebration

The African National Congress started off the year by throwing itself a lavish birthday party in Bloemfontein. To celebrate its journey from anti-apartheid movement to ruling party, they scheduled a golf outing, champagne toasts, and an inter-faith service which involved slaughtering a bull and

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invoking the ancestral spirits.

Ritual Slaughter

With drums pounding and chants filling the air, the ANC president, Jacob Zuma, initiated the traditional cleansing ceremony by ritually sacrificing a bull, killing it with a spear, while it was tied to a tree.

ANC secretary general, Gwede Mantashe, explained: *"traditionally the act of slaughtering has different meanings. All nations have a way of celebration through slaughter…"* Despite the ANC, secretary general's assertion that *"all nations have a way of celebration through slaughter…"* journalists could not think of how the Queen of England, for example, marks national events by ritual slaughter of a helpless animal. The inter-faith service included messages and blessings from representatives of all major religions, including Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Rastafarian, and traditional Animist witchdoctors.

Opposition Prayer

Dr. Kenneth Meshoe, opposition leader of the African Christian Democratic Party, turned down his invitation to attend the festivities, declaring that invoking the spirits of dead leaders will have *devastating consequences* for the country. Instead Rev. Meshoe joined other Christians outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria for a prayer and worship ceremony to dedicate South Africa to the Living God, Jesus Christ.

Intolerance

In response, the ANC chaplain general, Vukile Mehana, criticized Dr. Meshoe for his *"fundamentalist Christian beliefs"* declaring that he was *"practising religious intolerance"*. Vukile Mehana condemned Kenneth Meshoe's position as *"totally unacceptable and a direct contravention of our constitution as well as the fundamental values and principles of Christianity."*

Venerating the Ancestors

Mehana declared that it was *"mischievous and misleading"* to suggest that the ANC favoured any one particular faith over others. He insisted that the centenary celebrations did not involve the worshipping of ancestors, but the venerating of the spirits of those who were part of its history. The distinction between ancestor worship and *"venerating the spirits"* would seem to be a fine line.

Confusion and Distortion

The position of the ANC chaplain general seemed confused and self-contradictory. On the one hand, he condemned Dr. Meshoe's *"fundamentalist Christian beliefs"*, and on the other hand maintained that Meshoe's position was in direct contravention of *"the fundamental values and principles of Christianity"*! It was not clear how Dr. Meshoe's position was a violation of the Constitution. One would have thought that freedom of religion, freedom of opinion, freedom of speech and freedom of association were guaranteed by the Constitution.

Love for Country

Dr. Meshoe declared: *"Because I love my country I cannot associate with dedicating it to dead people."* He urged all who love South Africa to join him in prayer *"to do what is right, because what the ANC is doing is wrong."*

A Cursed Nation

An example of a country which has been dedicated to ancestral spirits is Haiti. As the Wall Street Journal noted in its article: *"Haiti and the Voodoo Curse: The Cultural Roots of the Country's Endless Misery"*, that despite Haiti having received billions of dollars in foreign aid over the last 50 years, it remains the least developed country in the Western hemisphere. Haiti has defied all development predictions. Operation World reports that Haiti is the poorest state in the Western hemisphere with over 75% of the population living on less than $2 a day. Effective unemployment is around 70%. 98% of the island is deforested. Haiti has some of the worst pollution, drought, famine, rapid rise of drug abuse and spread of AIDS in the Western hemisphere. An estimated 75% of the

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population are actively involved in voodoo. Haiti is at the top of the corruption index. A full 25% of the police are in the pay of drug lords and gangs. The massive earthquake in 2010 was one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit the Western hemisphere, with over 300,000 dead. At its inception in 1803, Haiti was dedicated to satan. In 2003, voodoo was declared a national religion of Haiti.

Obstacle to Progress

The Wall Street Journal quotes Cameroonian development expert, Daniel Etounga-Manguelle as observing that voodooism is *"one of the principal obstacles to progress in Africa."* Daniel Etounga-Manguelle observes that *"Haiti's culture is powerfully influenced by its religion, voodoo. Voodoo is one of numerous spirit-based religions common to Africa. It is without ethical content. Its followers believe that their destinies are controlled by hundreds of capricious spirits who must be propitiated through voodoo ceremonies*." Animism is a *"progress-resistant force"*. The Wall Street Journal observed: *"A Haitian child is made to understand that everything that happens is due to the spirits. He is raised to externalize evil and to understand he is in continuous danger. Haitians are afraid of each other. You will find a high degree of paranoia in Haiti."*

Understanding Animism

Animism is spirit worship. It involves necromancy – the worship of the souls of the dead. The witchdoctors or shamans are regarded as *expert mediators* who know the proper incantations and sacrifices to placate the spirits. Animism is a religion that sees a spiritual force behind every event, and many objects in the physical world have some spiritual significance. Animism seems obsessed with invoking good luck and avoiding bad luck. Each community is seen as having its own set of gods and spirits. These are territorial.

Pervasive Fear

Fear plays a major role in the life of Animists. They see the world as full of spirits, omens, spells and forces. Through magic, divination and sacred rituals, they seek protection to appease the gods, the spirits and the ancestors. They observe numerous taboos and prohibitions and observe sacred places. For example, in Haiti there is a sacred tree where a pact with the devil was signed over two centuries ago by witchdoctors. Animists see a whole host of objects as sacred things with sacred power. They recognize sacred persons and observe sacred actions. One of these is the circumcision rituals on young men in the Xhosa tribe. Many hundreds of men have died from these dangerous circumcision rituals.

Ritual Murder

The High Court in Pietermaritzburg found 28 year old Smangaliso Ngubane guilty of murder for having slaughtered his 17 month old baby daughter in a ritual killing. Amini Xaba was stabbed by her father six times in what state witnesses described as *"an offering to his ancestors"*. Ngubane testified that he had heard voices that had told him to do this.

Child Sacrifice

In Uganda the government is setting up posters in playgrounds and on roadsides warning of the danger of abduction by witchdoctors for child sacrifice. Police have investigated hundreds of cases of child sacrifice in Uganda. The mutilated bodies of children have been discovered at roadsides. The Anti-Human Sacrifice Task Force reports that there is a growing belief that when you sacrifice a child, you get wealth. There are people willing to buy these children to be sacrificed for the prosperity of their business.

Powerful Spell

The UK based charity, Jubilee Campaign, reports that they know of over 900 cases of human sacrifice in the country. Churches are singing a song: *"Heal our land, end child sacrifice."* A BBC undercover reporter filmed a local witch doctor who explained how the sacrifice of a child is *"the most powerful spell"*. The witch doctor was recorded saying: *"there are two ways of doing this, we can bury the child alive on your construction site, or we can cut him in different places and put the blood in the bottle of spiritual medicine."*

Haunted Roads

Sindephi Spogter-KaMcina of the National Executive Committee of the Traditional Healers Association claimed that

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the roads of South Africa are haunted because whites have not *fetched the spirits of their dead* from roadside accident scenes. He explained that the growing Christian tradition of putting up roadside memorial crosses and placing flowers at the scene of an accidental death, *stops the soul of the deceased from departing*. He claimed that roadside memorials cause accidents because the white people did not appease their loved ones' spirits. He explained that in African traditions the spirit of the dead is *brought back home* from the scene of the death. Some use a branch from a young tree to seep up the spirit and take it to the body, which must be buried in the ancestral area.

Animism is Serious

These and many other examples remind us that Animism is real and the consequences of dedicating a nation to ancestral spirits are very serious. The Scriptures are clear: *"You shall not… practise divination or soothsaying… give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them; I am the Lord your God."*

Leviticus 19:26, 31

What the Bible Says

"When you come into the land which the Lord your God has given you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practises witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you." Deut 18:9-14

Dead Communication

The Scriptures are clear that we are not able to communicate with the spirits of departed ancestors. It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the Judgment (Hebrews 9:27). There is a great gulf set between the living and the dead and communication between them is impossible (Luke 16:26). However, many people who think that they are communicating with ancestral spirits are actually communicating with deceptive demons, unclean spirits (Matthew 10:1), evil spirits (Acts 19:12), fallen angels who rebelled and are now in darkness bound for Judgment (Jude 6). Their power is limited (2 Peter 2:4). They serve the devil, the prince of darkness, the prince of this world (Matthew 12:24; John 12:31).

Occultism

Occult practices honour satan rather than God. Occultism makes the enemies of God the guiding forces and the source of knowledge. Those who are *"giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons"* actually *"depart from the faith…"* 1 Timothy 4:1. We are commanded *"Do not learn the ways of the heathen…"* Jeremiah 10:2

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Tim 1:7

Dedicating Country

The only one to whom South Africa should be dedicated is our Creator God, the only Redeemer and Saviour, as was done when the Afrikaners established the Day of the Covenant. Jesus Christ is the King of the nations. He is the Creator, the Eternal Judge, the only Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). There is no other Name given under Heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

"Therefore submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7

Dr. Peter Hammond

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truths to exploit the grievances of the un-educated and ignorant masses.

Every unit of the Communist Party was to have an Agit-Prop section. Deceit in propaganda is justified because the end justifies the means. As Vladimir Lenin regularly said: *Treaties are like pie crusts, made to be broken. To tell the truth is a petty bourgeois habit, but to lie and to lie convincingly is a sign of superior intelligence.*

The aim of propaganda is to rally people behind a cause. If this requires exaggerating, misrepresenting, or even lying about the issues, in order to gain that support, *the end justifies the means.*

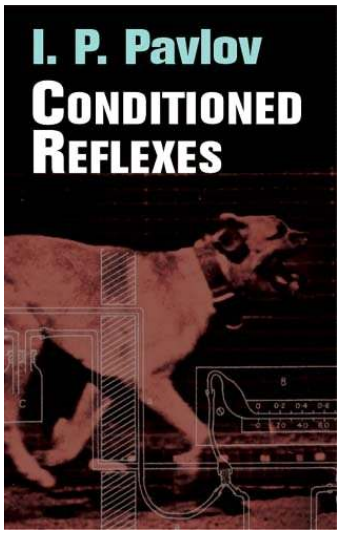
Tactics of Propaganda

Common tactics used in propaganda are:

- Ignoring the context
- Using selective stories
- Utilising a narrow source of *experts*, who tow the line
- Demonising the enemy
- Using a narrow focus (the zoom lens, rather than the wide angle lens of context.)

Truth Surrounded by Lies

Winston Churchill, the British prime minister during World War II declared: *In war time, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.*



Propaganda in America

Mark Twain, in 1916, described the rise of propaganda in America: *Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.*

Nazi Propaganda

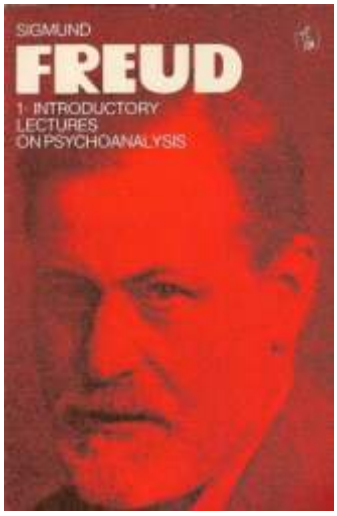
Many people know that Joseph Goebbels used propaganda to advance the aims of the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler. What few people realise is that Nazi propaganda was based and modelled upon Allied propaganda against Germany in WWI. Joseph Goebbels was an ardent student of American public relations pioneer Edward Bernays.

Group Psychology

Bernays based his methodology on the social science researches of French psychologist Gustav Le Bon in his 1895 book: *The Psychology of the Crowd*; and on Sigmund Freud's 1922 book: *The Analysis of the Ego* and *Group Psychology,* as well as the research of Russian experimental psychologist Ivan Pavlov, as published in his 1926 book: *Conditioned Reflexes*.

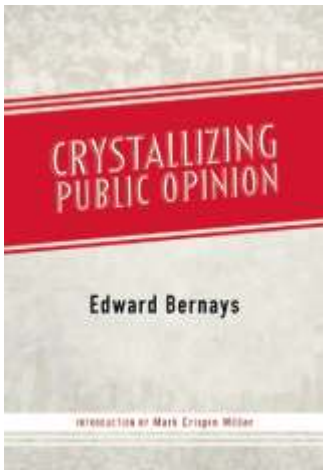
Edward L. Bernays (1891-1995) was a nephew of Sigmund Freud. Bernays

was a theatrical publicist who was employed by George Creel as a propagandist for the Committee on Public Information (CPI). President Woodrow Wilson of the United States, by executive order, created the Committee on Public Information in association with the Military Intelligence Bureau. The CPI was America's propaganda office. The CPI defined propaganda as: *The systematic, widespread dissemination, or promotion, of particular ideas, doctrines, or practices, meant to further a particular cause or agenda and weaken that of another. It is a systematic effort to manipulate attitudes, beliefs and actions by the use of symbols.*



Hidden Manipulators

German philosopher George Hegel, in his 1821 book: *The Philosophy of Right*, explained how in democracies the public is manipulated and persuaded by *hidden persuaders* and *hidden manipulators.* French author Anatole France, wrote: *Democracy is run by an unseen engineer.*



Enlightened Elites

Walter Lippmann wrote about controlling and managing public opinion in *Public Opinion* (1922) and *The Phantom Public* (1925).

Walter Lippmann was a member of US Army Military Intelligence during World War I. Lippmann believed that most people are *irrational* and *act chaotically*. Because people are unable to independently make rational choices, they need to be guided by *a specialised class of enlightened elites.* Lippmann described people as: *simple minded* and *sheep-like,* incapable of formulating or organising their desires, interests and wishes. Therefore *enlightened elites* can lead and educate the masses. As Lippmann put it: *Making one general will out of a multitude of general wishes.* Bernays stated: *The public must be regimented.*

Reversal of Policy

After being elected, under the slogan of *he has kept us out of the war*, Woodrow

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Wilson established the Committee on Public Information which forged the nation (which was overwhelmingly opposed to intervention) into a situation where, anyone who believed that America's entry into Europe's war was a mistake, was branded a traitor!

Changing Perspectives

Most Americans were not connected to the European conflict by blood or capital and were not interested in waging war overseas. The Committee on Public Information (CPI) developed into the most formidable propaganda apparatus in history. A muck-raking journalist, George Creel, was appointed to lead the CPI. With a phenomenal budget, the CPI recruited from the best of business, media, academia and the art world. The CPI blended advertising techniques with a sophisticated understanding of human psychology.

Democratic Propaganda

It was the first time that a modern government disseminated propaganda on such a large scale. Although propaganda came to be linked with totalitarian regimes such as the Soviet Union and Red China, it is a fact of history that it first emerged in a democratic state.

Although, as a journalist, George Creel had been an outspoken critic of censorship, the CPI immediately took steps to limit conflicting information. With the Espionage Act and Sedition Act *Voluntary Guidelines* were enforced on the news media and ensured that the mass media in the United States was flooded with pro-war material and perspectives. On any given week more than 20,000 newspaper columns were filled with material gleaned from CPI press releases.

Mobilising the Masses

The CPI created a Division of Syndicated Features and recruited the help of leading novelists, short story writers and essayists to present the pro-war position in popular digestible format, reaching 12 million readers a month. The Division of Pictorial Publicity had at its disposal the most talented advertising illustrators and cartoonists of the time. Powerful posters painted in patriotic colours presented compelling images throughout the country. The poster propaganda motivated millions to enlist in the army and navy or buy Liberty bonds. The Division of Films ensured that the war was promoted in the cinema. The Hollywood film industry wholeheartedly supported the war effort with movie titles like: *The Kaiser – The Beast of Berlin, Wolves of Kultur, To Hell with the Kaiser* and *Perishing's Crusaders!*

Changing Attitudes

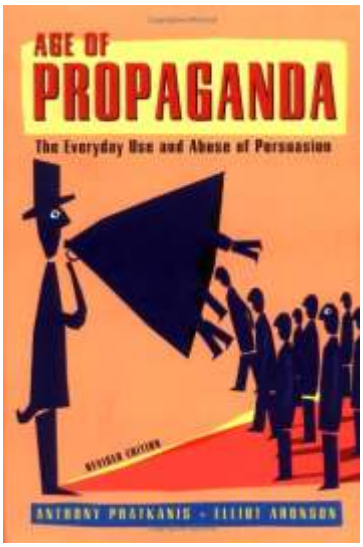
The cause of the Allies was creatively publicised in every available communication channel, including pulpits. Lasswell pointed out that propaganda wins wars, with *words, pictures, songs, parades and many similar devices…* by the *manipulation of collective attitudes.*

Emotional Appeal

CPI propaganda showed the way for future propaganda agencies by appealing to the heart, not the mind. *Emotional agitation* and *skilful manipulation* made use of manufactured atrocity stories and simplistic slogans such as: *Make the world safe for Democracy!*

Will Irwin, a member of the CPI, wrote after the war: *We never told the whole truth – not by any manner of means.*

G. S. Viereck quoted a Military Intelligence officer who declared: *You can't tell them the truth.* Victories were routinely manufactured by American military authorities, while defeats were suppressed. Dishonesty was encouraged.



Sentimentality

The analysts attributed the failure of German propaganda in America to the fact that: *It emphasised logic over passion.* As Count von Bernstorff observed: *The outstanding characteristic of the average American is rather a great, though superficial, sentimentality.* The factual German Press releases failed to grasp this.

Altering Perceptions

As Lasswell observed: *So great are the psychological resistances to war in modern nations that every war must appear to be a war of defence against a menacing, murderous aggressor. There must be no ambiguity about who the public is to hate.*

Made Up Atrocity Stories

Bernays openly admitted that he and his colleagues used made-up stories to provoke the hate and fear necessary to raise war-bonds and recruits for the war. Some of their stories, such as a bathtub full of eyeballs and children being killed by the enemy were fabricated.

Propaganda Kills

So effective was the anti-German propaganda of the CPI in the USA that Dachshunds had to be renamed, 14 states banned the teaching, or speaking, of German in their public schools. Mobs assaulted and murdered American immigrants from Germany.

Appealing to Idealists

The CPI recognised that while emotional appeals and simplistic stereotypes of the enemy could influence many, the intellectuals and pacifists needed different motivation. To them American military intervention in Europe was described as: *a campaign to end warfare forever and establish a league of nations.* To industrialists the war was modified as a conflict to destroy the competition of German industry. The propagandist does not need

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to ask if it is true, but merely, *does it work?*

Propaganda in Peacetime

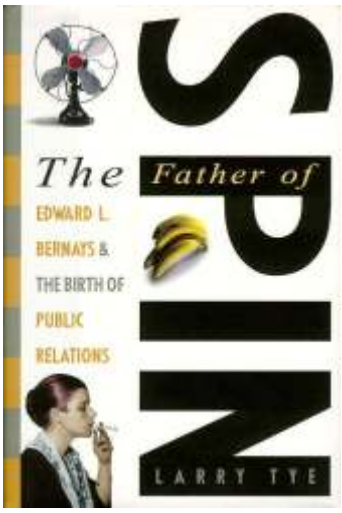
In the final months of 1918, a war-weary American public ousted the Democrats who had led them into WWI. The Republican majority in Congress brought the CPI under increasing scrutiny. The director of CPI's foreign division later reported: *The history of propaganda in the war would scarcely be worthy of consideration here, but for one fact – it did not stop with the Armistice. No indeed! The methods invented and tried out in war were too valuable for the uses of governments, factions and special interests.*

Regimenting the Public

Edward Bernays took the techniques he had learnt in the CPI to Madison Avenue and became an outspoken proponent of propaganda as a tool for democratic governments. *It was of course the astounding success of propaganda during the war that opened the eyes of the intelligent few in all departments of life to the possibilities of regimenting the public mind.* (*Propaganda, by Edward Bernays, 1928)*

Subverting Society

Most Americans came to realise that they had been lied to and manipulated by deceit disguised as news. Many sought to pin



complete responsibility for America's involvement in the ruinous World War on *hate mongering militarists in the CPI.* However, as one noted: *Ultimately their guilt is less important than the questions their activities raised about the role of propaganda in a democratic society.* The whole theory of democratic society was rooted in the belief that free citizens could form their own opinions about the issues of the day to decide their collective destiny. Freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, freedom of association, freedom of thought and freedom of religion are fundamental necessities for any democratic process.

Incompatible

However, during the First World War, America's political leaders decided that their citizens were not making the correct decisions quickly enough. So they flooded the channels of communication with dishonest messages that were designed to stir up emotions and provoke hatred of their long time trading partner, Germany. The war came to an end. But the propaganda did not. Today many who espouse the ideals of democracy behave like dictators and propagandists. The question is whether propaganda is compatible with freedom. Propaganda clearly undermines a population's ability to think clearly and critically about world events. Simplistic, emotional appeals undermine logic and reason.

The Father of Spin

After WWI, Edward Bernays pioneered Public Relations (PR) and became known as *The Father of Spin.* As the PR consultant for the American Tobacco Company, he campaigned to convince American women that they should smoke Lucky Strike cigarettes (*the torches of freedom*) to emancipate themselves!

Public Relations

Today American businesses spend trillions of dollars on marketing. PR firms employ over 150,000 workers.

Betrayal of Trust

Knightley observed: *The media demands that we trust them, but too often that trust has been betrayed.*

Propaganda Strategies

Miren Gutierrez of Inter Press Service summarised propaganda strategies as :

- Incompleteness
- Inaccuracy
- Driving the agenda
- Milking the story
- Exploiting that we want to believe the best about ourselves

- Perception management
- Reinforcing existing attitudes and
- Simple repetitious and emotional phrases.

Words are Weapons

Words are weapons in warfare. Propaganda involves word games. Name calling of the target nation by labelling people, groups and institutions in a negative manner.

Glittering Generalities

Glittering generality with regard to allies, labelling their people, groups and institutions in a positive manner.

Euphemisms

Euphemisms are used to pacify the audience with bland meanings and connotations, such as *pacification, technical incursion*, etc. Civilian casualties are referred to as: *collateral damage.* Murder is replaced with: *liquidation.* Terror bombing of cities is called: *saturation bombing* or *strategic bombing campaign.* Starvation of civilian populations is called an *economic blockade* or *sanctions.* Looting of farms and murder of farmers is called: *dekulakisation or land reform.* Racial decriminalisation is called: *Black Economic Empowerment* and *Affirmative Action.* Sexual perversion is called *Alternative Lifestyles.*

False Connections

False connections are used to transfer symbols and imagery of positive institutions to strengthen the acceptance of the cause. Making use of testimonies from individuals not qualified to make such claims (for example having sportsmen advise on how one should vote in a Referendum!).

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ACTION ITEMS

National Day of Repentance

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.christianaction.org.za/events.htm

15 March 2012
Frontline 30 Year Anniversary Rally
30 March - 5 April 2012
Biblical Worldview Summit
Vereeniging
6 April 2012
Good Friday
8 April 2012
Resurrection Sunday
17 May 2012
Ascension Day
27 May 2012
Pentecost Sunday
Global Day of Prayer
9 August 2012
National Women's Day Outreaches
7 October 2012
International Life Chain Sunday

Christian Action - PO Box 23632 Claremont 7735 Cape Town South Africa - Email:info@christianaction.org.za - Web: www.christianaction.org.za

Biblical Worldview Summit

Reclaiming South Africa for Christ

30 March - 5 April 2012

J.C. Seals Adventure Centre
Vereeniging, Gauteng

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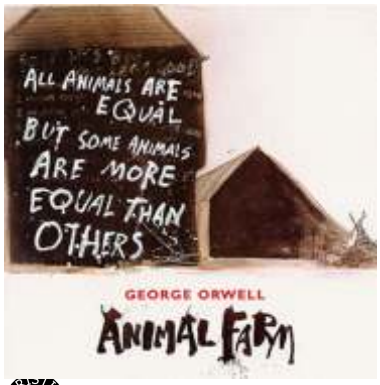
Ordinary Appeals

Special appeals include: the *everybody's doing it, join the bandwagon* argument, through words designed to heighten or exploit fear and an appeal to ordinary citizens by leaders doing ordinary things that the viewer can identify with.

Thought Control

In 1921, American journalist Walter Lippmann said that the art of democracy requires the *manufacture of consent.* George Orwell described it as *thought control.* As democracies cannot control people by force, they control them by influencing what they think, how they think and what they think about. Propaganda is to democracies what violence is to dictatorships.



Gullibility of the Public

Propaganda tends to work because people wish to believe the best about themselves and their country. It is often very hard to believe that our own leaders could possibly lie to us! From how the media portray them, they seem such likeable people!

Another propaganda tactic is character assassination. Smear tactics are used to discredit or destroy the reputation of someone perceived as an obstacle to the policy makers. The calculated manipulation of public opinion to serve political and ideological interests is achieved by appealing to the emotions to create a reality which demands the action desired by the policy makers.

Holocaust in Rwanda

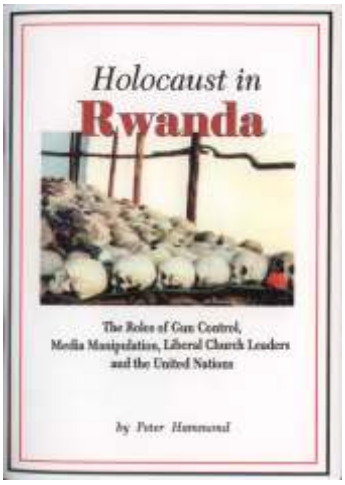
In *Holocaust in Rwanda* I documented the ease with which the orchestrators of the genocide in Rwanda confused international journalists and abused the national media to mobilise the unprecedented concentration of carnage. The massacres were meticulously organised in advance. The MRND government of Rwanda manipulated the international media by portraying the killings as *spontaneous, tribal anarchy, uncontrolled tribal killing, tribalism,* the result of *the war.*

Disinformation

A smokescreen of disinformation allowed the killers to proceed with their diabolical plans and kill over 800,000 people in a mere six weeks. They isolated their victims by imposing a news blackout, cutting telephone links, establishing a dense network of roadblocks and imposing a nationwide curfew. By cutting communications and restricting travel, they isolated their victims and sought to stifle the flow of news. They also timed the genocide to be launched on 6 April 1994, when most African correspondents were in South Africa for the Mandela elections. With most foreign news distracted by events in South Africa, the mass murderers in Rwanda were able to play *the humanitarian card,* pleading for emergency aid, all while they were engaged in genocide.

Mobilising Mass Murder

While deceiving the international news media, the MRND mobilised their national news media to denigrate the targeted Tutsi tribe as *foreigners*, *Hamitic invaders, cockroaches, racial supremists* who needed to be *returned to Ethiopia* by having their bodies thrown into the Nyabarongo River. Wild rumours were recklessly spread by Radio RTLM accusing the Tutsis of sinister plots. Popular poets and songwriters composed songs to provoke the majority Hutu tribe to hate their Tutsi neighbours. By totally dominating the mass media, the Hutu extremists were able to mould minds and fill them with hatred and a lust for blood. Hundreds-of-thousands of Hutu



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people were motivated to murder their neighbours. Hutu teachers murdered Tutsi students. Hutu doctors and nurses murdered Tutsi patients. Hutu priests and bishops murdered Tutsi congregants. The Holocaust in Rwanda was yet another proof that propaganda kills.

Dehumanise the Enemy

Many of the massacres of prisoners and atrocities committed against civilians in WWI and WWII, including the systematic saturation bombing of cities, would not have been possible without the demonization of the targeted enemy and their civilian population by propaganda. The farm invasions in Zimbabwe were preceded by state propaganda vilifying whites in general and farmers in particular. The Mau Mau murders in Kenya and the Simba massacres in the Congo were also motivated and mobilised by propaganda which dehumanised the targeted white farmers and missionaries. The incessant, anti-white propaganda in South Africa has led to over 3,000 brutal murders of white farmers in some of the most torturous ways possible. Songs such as *"Kill the Boer! Kill the farmer!"* sung by prominent ANC leaders are like pouring petrol on a fire.

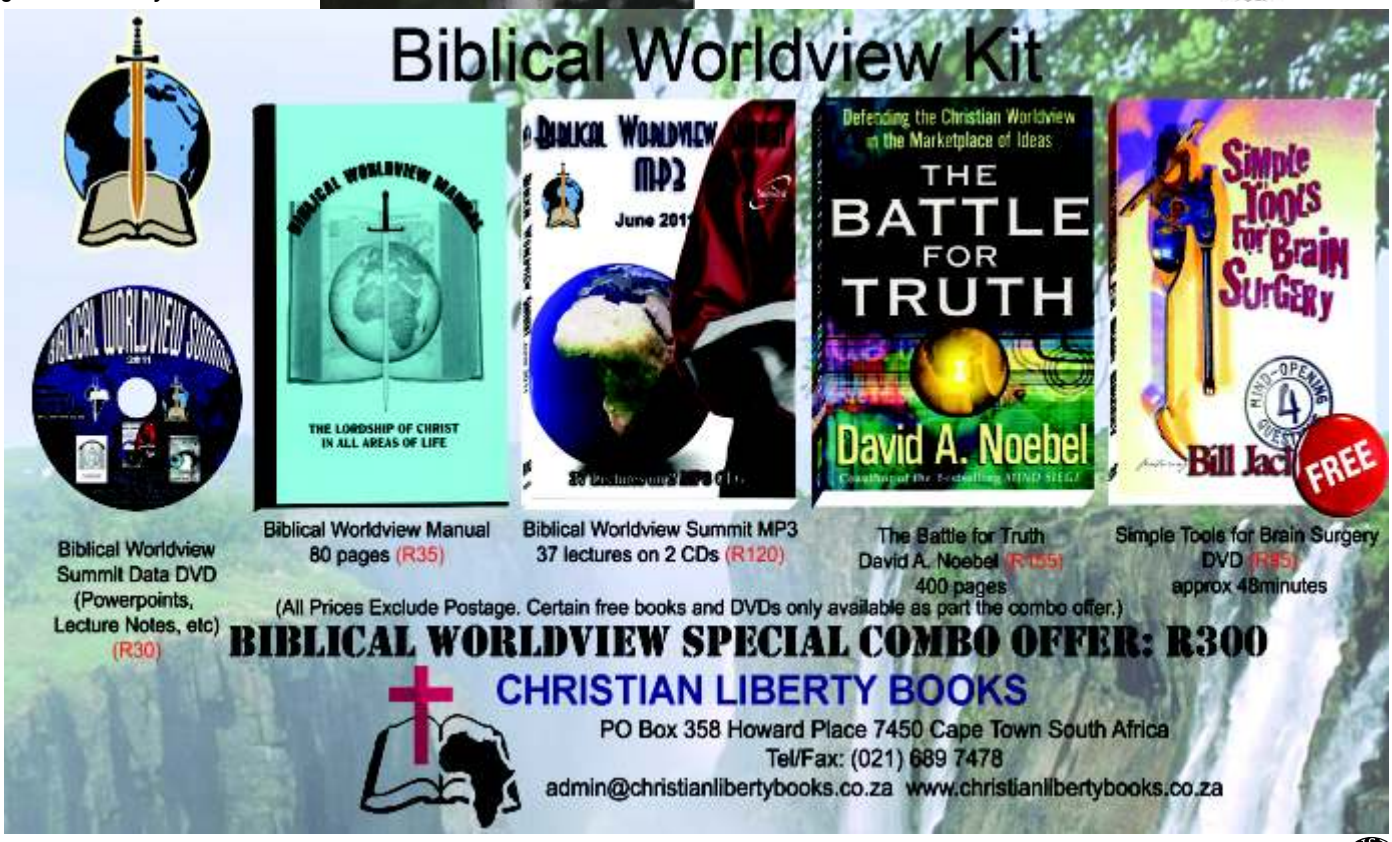
The fact is that propaganda changes perceptions and people.

The Truth Sets Free

That is why it is absolutely essential that we know the truth of history to recognise the lies of propaganda. We need to study the truth in the Bible so that we can be freed from the deceptions of the world.

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

Dr. Peter Hammond



Witchcraft Resurgent

by Dorothea Scarborough

Africa for Christ

Many hearts are turning to Jesus Christ, particularly in Africa. Christianity is making great strides on this continent. It is African Christians who, in bold faith, have resisted Western attempts to bring homosexuality into Church and State. Indeed, *"the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."* (Isaiah 9:2) But in spite of all the light, much of Africa is still dominated by superstition and witchcraft. In Tanzania, for instance, the fear of witches is so great, that *"about 20 000 persons are said to have been killed as 'witches' in the decade 1991 to 2001."* And in Uganda, a calculated *"total of 22 000 to 23 000 Africans were killed as 'witches' by fearful neighbours."*[1]

Witchcraft

Even in South Africa, which has enjoyed the light of the Gospel more than any other African country, witchcraft has increased. In Limpopo at least 97 women and 49 men were killed as 'witches' in less than a year (April 1994 to February 1995). In Lebowa it was 312 over 10 years. In Venda, in the early 1990s, more than 400 people accused of witchcraft had to seek refuge in police stations. In Limpopo, in 2000, over 1300 cases of witchcraft were opened.[2] These are surprisingly high figures, for most people surely know that God says: *"There shall not be found among you anyone… who practises divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD… You shall be blameless before the LORD your God."* Deut 18:10[3]

By God's grace, many witches and witchdoctors have, however, been set free from occult powers by the Lord Jesus Christ. *"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them…" (Colossians 2:15)* - The book *"God Among the Zulus,"* by Dr Kurt Koch, documents the power of God over the forces of darkness. It speaks of 60 years of the Mission *KwaSizabantu* in KwaZulu-Natal[4] and is a great testimony to the redeeming power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Without the Gospel

It is a tragedy that in South Africa most children no longer hear the Word of God at school. The vacuum is being filled by Humanism and Animism, and the result is that, as people enter into the main stream of life, Christian ethics go out of the workplace and Christian observance from public life. The Bible says: *"If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* Yet, spiritual bondage has increased and is impacting all areas of life.

Faltering Development

In a revealing article entitled *"Witchcraft and African Development"*, Dr Erich Leistner, former head of the *Africa Institute*, shows why much of Africa is bound up in poverty and strife. It is because of superstition. He writes: *"Africa's problems, and in particular the reasons for its faltering development, cannot possibly be grasped without considering the role of witchcraft. Witchcraft belief is commonly viewed as belonging to the outmoded worldview of primitive societies. Together with other superstitions, it is expected to fade away thanks to education, Christianity, the media… The opposite has, in fact, happened in post-colonial Africa, including South Africa. Recent decades in particular have witnessed substantially increasing fear of witchcraft as well as countless brutal killings of alleged witches throughout the continent."*

Fear of witchcraft arises from a magic worldview, in which man feels himself surrounded by invisible forces, spirits, demons, and souls of the departed. They are all around him – in rivers, fountains, trees, rocks, everywhere. And in order to deal with them, he looks for specialists who can interpret and manipulate them - healers, herbalists, diviners, mediums and witches. Many of these work to good purposes, but *"the line between healing and witchcraft is thin and often crossed,"* says Dr Leistner. *"Thus the Ralushai Commission has found that most traditional healers are also involved in witchcraft-related killings and ritual murders."* Alienated from tribal life, city dwellers are especially vulnerable to fears and dependent on occult help. In 1998 there were an estimated 350 000 healers in South Africa. These *"doctors"* even advertise in the suburbs. They offer treatment to *"remove ghosts from homes," "cleanse houses and cars from Tokoloshe," "control lovers," "control money,"* and solve *"bad luck,"* and *"bewitchment."*

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However, he who trusts the Almighty is not afraid of anything. He does not fear man or spirit, for he stands in God's power and protection. The Bible says: *"God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7) Jesus calls us to a new life, saying: *"Come unto me!"* (Matthew 11:28) and He commands: *"Repent and believe the Gospel."* (Mark 1:15)

Who rules?

At the 2010 Soccer World Cup, when the Cameroon team lost in spite of its well paid attendant witchdoctors, the Cameroon Minister of Sport had to explain the defeat to his Parliament. He said: *"Witchcraft, besides mysticism, internal wrangling, jealousy and disorder had been the cause of the Lions' debacle."* - But not only footballers think on these lines, businessmen and politicians do too. According to Dr Kenneth Meshoe, leader of the *African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP),* witchdoctors also serve South African politicians, including cabinet ministers, and they visit Members in the Houses of Parliament. Hundreds of traditional healers allegedly attended Nelson Mandela at his inauguration as State President. President Zuma threatened voters with the wrath of their ancestors, if they failed to vote for the ANC. For the 2012 centenary celebrations of the ANC, an interfaith night vigil was held (6.1.2012) at which *"the spirits of all our founding fathers and mothers of our movement"* were invoked. *"This very important event was attended by Kings, Chiefs, and Traditional Leaders and healers and also included the leaders of the African National Congress and their allied partners."* [5]

Jealousy

Witchcraft is motivated by jealousy and hatred. It aims at diminishing or destroying the life force of the targeted person. *"Inequality,"* says Dr Leistner, *"is a foremost source of tension… If in an egalitarian community someone becomes rich, apparently over-night, witchcraft is the only explanation the neighbours can think of… The very concept of personal advancement and prosperity as the result of personal endeavour, hard work and knowledge is not an inherent part of African culture. Rather, there is the firm belief that all people have the same fixed amount of life-force or 'cosmic good', which cannot be increased other than by stealing it from another person through magic manipulation…"* [6]

He is amazed that this factor is not acknowledged by economists, saying: *"Considering how severely witchcraft impinges on development, it is remarkable that the subject is totally ignored in the vast literature on African development, particularly the host of studies financed by the World Bank."*

Occult beliefs and practices are thus a major cause for preventing God's blessings in Africa. Dr Leistner says: *"The debilitating fear of occult forces has proved largely resistant to modernisation*." And then he rightly adds: *"It would, however, be overcome if people accepted Christ to be stronger than these forces."*

Jesus is Lord

It is a good sign that Africa is so open to the Gospel, which holds great hopes. And this in spite of modern man having become so casual about Christ, Christmas and Christianity, and therefore ignorant of the blessings Christ has brought into the world. The modern unbeliever does not understand the great liberation of mind and soul which, through centuries of history, has taken place in Christ's power and by His Spirit. He fails to see the great benefits in all areas of life. But Christmas tells us again and again, that the forces of darkness can be overcome, that the Lord has reached out to man in his lostness and sin. "*God so loved the World that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Let us, then, not become careless but set our hope *"on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe."* 1 Timothy 4:9

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Footnotes:

1. This letter is based on Dr Erich Leistner's article, Witchcraft and African Development, November 2011.
2. Ibid.
3. Some other passages are: Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:26-28, 31; 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; 1 Samuel 28:7-25; 1 Samuel 28:3, 9; Isaiah 8:19; Malachi 3:5
4. Dr Kurt Koch, God among the Zulus, reprinted 2011 for the 60th anniversary of the ministry of Rev Erlo Stegen, KwaSizabantu, obtainable at Christian Liberty Books, PO Box 358, Howard Place 7450, Tel 021-689-7478; e-mail admin@christianlibertybooks.co.za.
5. Centenary Programme, issued by Baleka Mbete, ANC Chairperson.
6. E Leistner adds: "Even though accumulation of wealth tends to cause envy and arouse suspicion of witchcraft, it is also very much admired…(but) the holder of wealth must share… make gifts, offer sumptious parties and demonstrate an ostentatious life-style that helps to spread benefits."

answers to Prayer

Mavericks Defeated

In answer to prayer, on 3 February High Court Judge Siraj Desai, dismissed, with costs, an urgent application by Mavericks to stop the Department of Home Affairs terminating its corporate permits.

In December last year, several anti-trafficking organisations, including Christian Action and concerned Christians, demonstrated and prayed outside the Mavericks strip-joint in Cape Town.

Like most other so-called strip clubs, it is suspected that Mavericks traffics foreign women into South Africa, mostly from Eastern Europe, for the purposes of sexual exploitation, under the guise of "exotic dancers". This ruling means Mavericks may no longer apply for corporate work permits or "employ" foreign women.

Significantly, the Western Cape High Court ordered the Human Rights Commission to probe the women's inhumane employment conditions. In the final section of judgment, Judge Desai said there was some concern about the living conditions and arrangement of these so-called "exotic dancers", which could constitute human trafficking.

ICASA blocks Porn

We can praise God that on 27 January 2012 the Independent Communications Authority of SA (ICASA) denied TOP TV a license to broadcast three porn channels.

The decision came after a lengthy process of public consultation, after pay TV network Top TV's application to launch three porn channels.

ICASA spokesman Jubie Matlou, said it was decided that women's right to dignity outweighed Top TV's right to freedom of expression, and the rights of viewers to receive pornography on television.

It appears that ICASA may have taken into account points made in the Christian Action Network's written and oral submission.

Worldview Weekend

Over 30 young people participated in a three day Worldview Weekend held in Cape Town. Participants wrote they had benefited from the Worldview Weekend in the following ways:

"I've learnt a lot, especially from the Answering Skeptics sessions, I should be a better debater now. I'm more ready to give an answer"; "Being equipped for this new year through inspiration, the right role models, prayer and study"; "In so many ways, mentally it strengthened my mind, confidence boosting"; "In my spirit and emotions and how to serve the Lord in many ways"; "I have benefited by means of hearing how things were done in history".

From the Mailbag

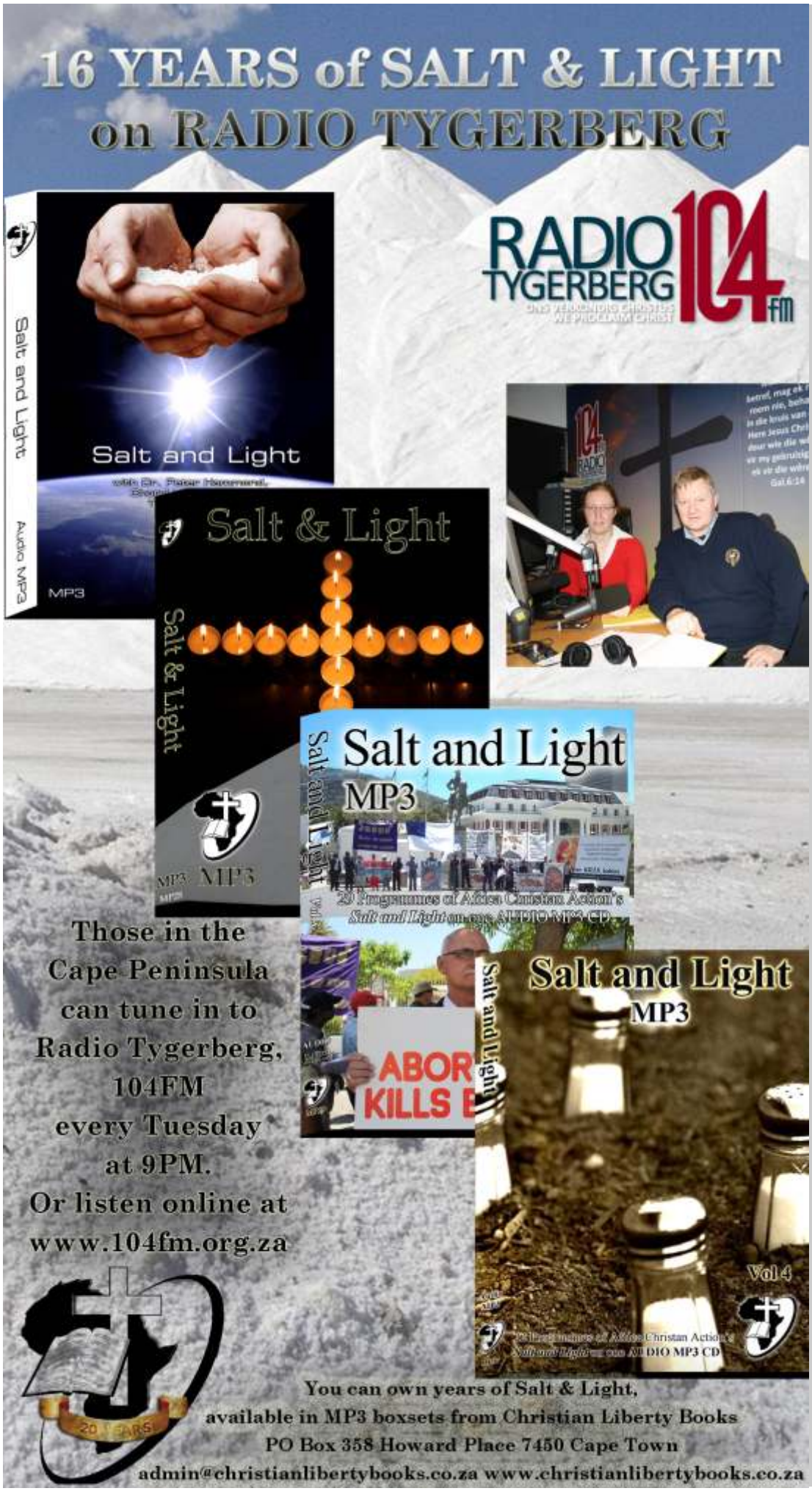
"I just wanted to express my thanks for your article Arguments Against Abortion. I am attending a workshop to review the code of conduct and discipline for doctors in Kenya. The entire workshop is being funded by the Ministry of Health, but with the backing of organizations that are pro-abortion (IPAS). They had included among the considerations that are to be considered by the medical practitioner in determining whether to terminate pregnancy, things like 'non-judgmental counselling' 'consumer rights' 'right to information' and that health should be considered 'broadly' - that being an allusion to the World Health Organisation definition. We are thus trying to ensure that this clause is removed from the new code of conduct at all costs. I would sincerely appreciate any information you could forward in this regard especially the studies that you have referred to in the article on your website."
Dr. B Bisem, Nairobi, Kenya

"I go to schools and show them the God's Miracle of Life DVD about baby development and what an abortion is. The kids love it, and the teachers and those who had an abortion sometimes come and speak to me."
M Preddy, Durban

"I saw your pro-life pamphlet in a hair salon this morning, took one and read it when I got back to the office. It is an enormous disgrace that human beings, that love life themselves, can be so cruel! We need to pray for them so that the Holy Spirit converts their lives to real believers."
Ps. H Smit, Polokwane

"I read your website and decided to join your Action Group. I especially want to get involved in the pro-life movement, as I see abortion as a major problem, and cannot believe how ignorant we as South Africans have become after I read some of the shocking statistics. I have become aware of the high rates of teenage pregnancies in this area, the abortion clinic in Evander, and the drugs related to abortions."
M. Venter, Secunda

"After we had positioned ourselves outside the main gates of Frere Hospital and begun handing out pamphlets, more and more people joined us and we ended up with close to 40 - a record for East London! We handed out hundreds of flyers, all graciously received, and when our picket came to an end, many of the participants took wads of flyers to distribute at their work places. One nurse took plenty over to the ward where the abortion patients sleep, prior to their having their babies killed."
J. van Aardt, East London



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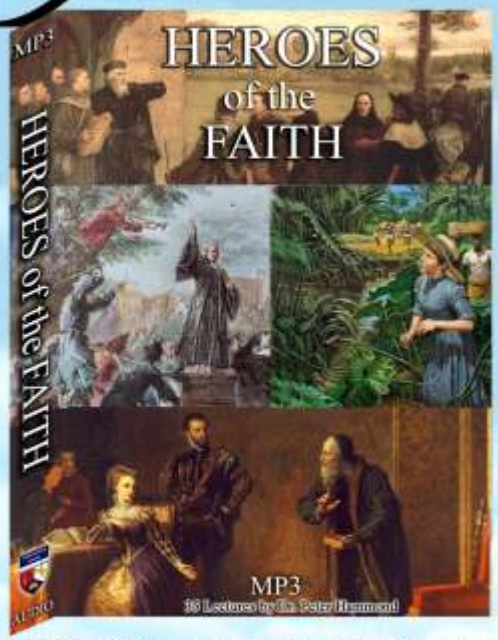

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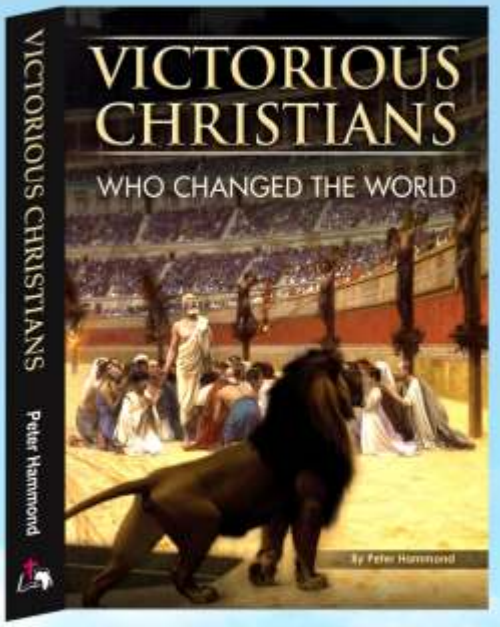

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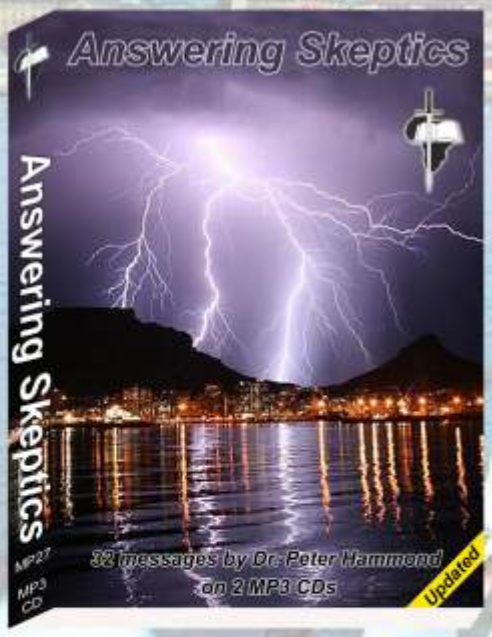

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