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HOW WOULD THE DEVIL TAKE OVER THE CHURCH?

Tom Broadway

If I were the Prince of Darkness I would want to engulf whole earth in darkness. I'd have the majority of its real estate and well over NINETY per cent of its population, but I would not be happy until I had grabbed off the ripest plum of all--the earth. So I would set about, however necessary, to take over the United States and a few other small countries where people are allowed to worship as they believe God would have them to worship, although these are but small pockets of resistance as compared to the U.S.A.

I would begin with a campaign of whispers here and there in subtle ways as the Corner Stone of my work.

With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve, "Do as you please."

To the young I would whisper, "The Bible is a Myth, or that it really should be taken lightly." I would convince them that "man created God in his own mind", rather than man being created by God; I'd whisper that "what is good is square or old fashioned, and what is bad is good."

In the ears of the young people I'd whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be "extreme" in religion, in family patriotism, in moral conduct. That FORNICATION could "actually be a thing of beauty." (As so stated by a national council of churches in a recent publication.) To the old I'd say, "relax your vigilance and let the young take more of the load from your shoulders even though they may not be as anchored in the TRUTH as they should be, and their judgment may not be as sound as it needs to be."

THEN I'D GET ORGANIZED!

I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull, uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa.

I'd infiltrate congregations and urge more loafing in church work and less effort made in studying and meditation of God's word. Also I'd discourage brethren from discussing the Bible when they are visiting one another in their homes because they really think they "know enough about the Bible anyway; besides it is old, and gets to be rather boring and not nearly as interesting as a choice bit of gossip." As the old saying goes, "Idleness is the Devil's workshop."

I'd sell people on the idea of changing the worship by causing them to think they need to keep abreast of the times and that keeping things up to date (modernism) will be more appealing and will cause the Church to grow. The rest I'd tranquillize with pills of Apathy so that they would offer no resistance. I'd encourage congregations to send potential young preachers to a so-called Christian College that they could learn to teach people the things they want to hear. Yes, they should refine the young intellects, but neglect to teach the discipline of emotions; let those run wild.

I'd designate hypocrites here and there in different congregations to front for me so that this laxity and indifference would propagate my cause by allowing these workers of mine to do some real damage at every opportunity. By their false sincerety they will be able to get honest Christians to say, "they must be right."

Thus I'd evict God from the Home via the courthouses and easy divorces, then from the minds of the children by teaching them in the schools that they descended from monkeys instead of being created by God; besides the parents are too busy to teach them the moral principles of the Word of God and the origin of man, the purpose of man, and the destiny of man.

Yes, in God's own Church I'd substitute the Reasoning of man instead of Scriptural Truths. This way they will be intelligent enough to conduct a form of worship, but not wise enough to rightly divide the Truth.

If I were Satan I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg, cause people to hold a mass for Christ (Christ-mass) on December 25th, and make the symbol of it a bottle.

I'd encourage older women in the Church to visit relatives who lived in places where there is no true Church so that they would "forsake" the Worship of the Lord's Church on the first day of the week. As they are the examples looked up to by the younger, this should be a fine piece of work in my favor, especially if they are not disciplined for it.

In addition to this, I'd encourage others to take vacations, or hunting trips, or all-night singings, and in addition to this, I would write a book of excuses, "For staying away from Church" because these things help immensely to weaken the members at large and the Church in general! Yes, if I could continue to influence the young in these ways and encourage immorality, without fear of being disciplined, and in consequence weaken the influence the Bible could have over them, then I could very well take over the Church!

If I were the Devil I'd just keep on doing what he is doing, and the whole world would go to Hell, everlasting torment, as sure as the Devil and his angels.

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Editor's Note: The above article by Bro. Broadway seems to describe many churches today and the majority of their members. In Rev. 2 when Christ was speaking to the seven churches of Asia, He told them that Satan dwelled in their midst and He knew where he sat. Does Satan have one seat in your church, or does he control the larger part of those filled each time you are called together for worship? And what about your home and your everyday life?

Do you think that maybe the reason this exists in our midst is for the simple reason that we never take time to read God's Word? Pick up your Bible today and begin to read from the inspired Word of God and things will change both at home and in church.

ROY

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TOM BROADWAY - 155 No. 'C' St., Tustin, California

ANYBODY FOR SWORD PRACTICE?

To combat the onslaught of Satan on the Church, I would like to make an urgent appeal to the entire Brotherhood and all interested lovers of the TRUTH to embark with me on a special STUDY mission this year. I don't know if a study of this scope and magnitude has ever been attempted or not. I'm sure all will agree it will do a tremendous amount of good to all who are courageous enough and willing to participate.

Now here it is! Let us all follow a planned study of the BIBLE from GENESIS to REVELATION this year. This will require only 3 or 4 chapters per day on the average. Are you too BUSY? Too interested in other things to be bothered? Too LEARNED in the scriptures already? Too LAZY? The Prince of Darkness is hoping you are, and that you won't be interested in sharing in this worthwhile project. WHAT do YOU say? This includes all you preachers and all you people that have read it thru several times also. How about all you leaders of each congregation making this a project for the congregation this year? Perhaps those that speak could take their lesson TEXT from the previous week's reading. Read

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three CHAPTERS a day starting in Genesis and one each day in Matthew. Come on, let's start! RIGHT NOW! TODAY! Read some extra to catch up if the paper didn't reach you by the first of January. One Sunday afternoon should do it. You will be GREATLY benefited and TREMENDOUSLY enriched in MANY ways when you COMPLETE this little project!!

I would welcome cards from all of you telling me of your progress. In Christian love.....

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OBITUARY

Joseph Garrett Conder was born January 21, 1880 in Hood County, Texas, the son of Joseph and Annis Conder. Bro. Conder farmed in Texas until 1942. At this time he moved with his family to California and there resided in rural Ceres. Bro. Conder passed away on November 19, 1964 at the age of 84 years, 9 months and 28 days.

He is survived by his wife, Lucy Conder of Ceres, two sons, Lucius Conder of Adelanto and Roy Conder of Grants Pass, Oregon, five daughters, Rosa Brown of Ceres, Annis Brown of Escalon, Myrtie Lee Clouse of Los Angeles, Wyoma Cavin of Whittier, and Fern Logan of Modesto, 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Services were conducted November 21, 1964, 2:00 P.M. in the Church of Christ located at Glenn and Dallas Streets, Modesto. Bro. Roy L. Snoderly of La Habra, California conducted the services and interment was at the Ceres Cemetery of Ceres, California.

NOTE OF THANKS....

With this note of thanks we wish to express our gratitude to all of our friends and neighbors for their kindness shown to us in our time of sorrow. We thank everyone for their flowers and the food and every word of kindness. We thank you also for your prayers.

The Conder Family

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EFFIE SPLAWN DIES AT NURSING HOME....

Effie May Splawn, 76, 653 4th Avenue, died Friday at the Yuma County Nursing Home. She had been a resident of Yuma for 45 years. Mrs. Splawn was born March 12, 1888, in Wolf City, Texas.

Survivors include two sons, Joel, of Granada Hills, Calif. and Joe C., of Boise, Idaho, two daughters, Mrs. Gladys Stewart of the Home and Mrs. Lovene Inglett, of Chula

Vista, Calif., two brothers, Walter Sanderson, Yuba City, Calif., and James Sanderson, Oroville, Calif., 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Elmer Hunt, minister, Church of Christ, La Habra, Calif. officiated. Burial was in Desert Lawn Memorial Park, Yuma, Arizona.

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LETTERS AND NEWS

ELMER H. HUNT - Corona, California

There is indeed sadness in death, but I will try to write concerning Sister Splawn of Yuma. Bro. Nelson called me Friday evening and my wife and I drove down Saturday, and I helped lay her away Monday, December 14th.

Sister Splawn had suffered for several months in the hospital and her daughter, Sister Gladys Stewart, was her big help all along. But that time came and Effie May Sanderson Splawn passed from this life December 11, 1964.

Sister Splawn had been baptized into Christ before her marriage in Oklahoma at 18. Her father was a gospel preacher for years in Oklahoma and Texas. She was laid to rest by the side of her husband in the Yuma Cemetery. All will miss her very much but in Christ we have that faith she kept and all of us must keep.

While in Yuma I preached both Sunday morning and evening in Somerton Church, and we visited as many as we could.

Bro. Jack Renick is in the hospital from a heart attack. At both times we saw him, they seemed to have him doing much better. Those of his family and Bro. and Sister Kenneth Baldwin, and other were taking turns being with him. It will be a little longer before he will be able to be up.

God grants much goodness and grace to all--though it may be through suffering.

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HOWARD McCAY - 1615 So. 27th Ave., Yakima, Washington

Enclosed please find two checks, one for gospel meetings and one for the paper. It has been some time since I have written to you. The church here is coming along nicely. We have had both joy and sorrow since I last wrote. We are saddened by the passing of Bro. Adolph Young who died October 18, 1964 after a long illness of cancer. Bro. Adolph was only 43 years old. He is survived by his wife, Sister Maxine, and four children.

We rejoice that three have been baptized since I last wrote. My foster daughter, Alyce Jacobson, age 14, was baptized Sept. 27, 1964, Adolph Young, Jr., age 13 was baptized Oct. 28th, and Paul Newberry, age 15, on Nov. 15th.

Bro. Bever and family visited here over two Lord's Days, the 8th and 15th of November. On Nov. 15th Bro. Bever brought us an excellent lesson. Bro. and Sister Dale Roberts and daughter, Sister Karen Greenway, visited Nov. 8t

We are always glad to have brethren visit us. We are especially looking forward to our meeting in June. We hope a large number will come. I hope you are planning to be here for the whole meeting. Will close for now.

Your brother in Christ.....

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MRS. LAURA E. WILLIS - 205½ S. Olive, Carlsbad, N.M.

I hope you and your family are well. I am O.K. and I believe the rest of the members here are well.

I am happy to announce that the Paul Bruce family have moved back to Carlsbad. We are very glad to have them. They add three more members to our little group here, and their teenage daughter, Anita, is a regular attendant at our services. Of course we all look forward to seeing her added to the Lord's church some time.

Yours in Christ.....

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HAYSE MORRIS - 662 Butler Route, Kingman, Arizona

Thought I would write you a few lines in regard to the church here in Kingman. We had with us last weekend Bro. Ken and Sister Verla Baldwin of Delta, Colorado. They were enroute to California to their daughter's, Sister and Bro. Ted Drysdales. Bro. Ken taught for us Lord's day and we all enjoyed having them with us and his lesson he brought for us. They went on to Brawley, California after worship. It started snowing right after they left and we had four inches by Monday morning. We are a small crowd, only three families--we welcome anyone passing through Kingman to stop and see us. We are six miles East of town in the Butler Subdivision on Areale Street. We are trying to get in shape to build a church house. Bro. Roy, I agree with the Brother that there should be more written on the first principles in the paper instead of so much to digressive brethren, since a lot of times non-Christians read it and wonder. Bro. Don Dabbs and family were with us two weeks ago for worship. It strengthens us to have folks from other places to be with us in worship. Sorry we missed the Delta meeting. It would have been worth a lot just to have met you and all the rest from other places which we have never met. Sincerely,

Your brother in Christ.....

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LLOYD TREAT - Broken Bow, Oklahoma, General Delivery

I will write the news of the church here, but late as usual. We are up and around. My wife has been sick but is a little better. We have been doing better here in our church work with three baptisms and three returned to the

work of the Lord. I hope all is well elsewhere in the churches. I was up to Barron, Okla. for the close of their meeting. We had a wonderful meeting over the 5th Sunday of Nov. here at Broken Bow. I wish you could have been here with us. We had several visitors--Bro. McKinney and Bro. Elmer Forsman from Washington, Bro. and Sister Paul Ferguson of California, Bro. and Sister Howard Studer of Texas, Bro. and Sister Sammy Boen of Arkansas, Bro. and Sister Earl Atchley of Okla., Bro. and Sister W. E. Daniels of Okla., Bro. and Sister Paul Auslam of Arkansas, Bro. and Sister George Vanderpool and son of Arkansas, Bill Brown family of Okla. and a sister from Wicks, Arkansas whose name I can't recall--also her husband, and Floyd Camp and wife of Oklahoma City.

I think these were all who visited with us here--I hope I haven't overlooked anyone. All our regular members were here except a few who were sick. Bro. Paul Auslam preached here again this Sunday and brough us a wonderful sermon. We have completed some repairs on our building here and have built restrooms for our building. If any of the congregations would like to help us meet these expenses, we would greatly appreciate their assistance.

Yours in Christ.....

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Editor's Note: The church at Broken Bow is not a wealthy congregation and could use what help they should receive. I say send them your help. This is a worthy cause. I am glad their meeting was a success and I am sorry I was unable to attend.

The first of the year is here and it is time to mail your subscription to the paper--don't forget. A worthy cause? Yes, I think so, don't you?

While speaking of money and donations, I must make mention of the fact that there are some causes which I can't say are worthy. For the past few years we have been plagued by those who write individual congregations for money on the pretense that they are faithful Christians and are in dire need. Two such cases that have been brought to my attention just lately are the Wages, Ed or Mrs. Louise and a Sister Nelson of Arkansas and Arizona. After investigating these two, I find that they have appealed personally to almost every church mentioned in the writings of the News Courier and many have sent help on different occasions. A plea from either of these parties should be disregarded. I hate to write of such things but too many inquiries have been received by me these last few months to let this kind of thing go on unchecked.

I also received a letter of apology from J.S.L. Morris for things said and printed, and also acknowledgement of his

digression. In part, "we regret all the harsh words, terms and phrases which were definitely out of place. We beg your forgiveness for all our wrongs in deed, words, and thoughts and for the trouble we caused you. We are asking you to restore us that once more we will be counted faithful." This was written to the News Courier and to all the congregations. To Bro. Morris this we say, we forgive you and pray that you may never err again. Let us work together in harmony for unity, and be not at odds with each other. Such cause discord and confusion, not to mention ill feeling between brethren.

I preached for the Bellflower congregation Dec. 13 and for the Modesto congregation Nov. 22. We welcome Bro. Lee and Sister June Digby back into the fold and our prayers are for you that you remain faithful and grow in spiritual strength and faith. We were sorry to see so many sick of the Modesto congregation and sorry we were unable to visit with you all. We were made sad of heart at the passing of Bro. Conder Nov. 19 after a long illness. Our sympathy goes out to his loved ones along with our prayers for them.

Bro. and Sister Paul Ferguson were gone from La Habra some ten days on a business trip to Arkansas and Oklahoma. We missed you. Bro. and Sister Jerry Perigin are the proud parents of a baby girl, Lori Renee, born Nov. 3, weight 8¼ pounds. Jerry and Betty, you have three fine children to bring up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Don't let them down.

Remember we have a meeting at Yakima, Wash. in June and one at Delta, Colo. in Aug. Make your plans to attend and also plan on holding a meeting at your church this year. You need one, I'm sure. We always do here at La Habra. This is a new year, 1965, and we should do much more work this year than we did last year. Preach more, pray more, give more of our time and money, visit the sick more. Get out and visit those who have fallen by the wayside and those who should be in church.

You can make 1965 a year of spreading the gospel and bringing lost souls to Christ. Converting lost souls to Christ should be our upmost aim, our goal, and should command our greatest effort this coming year. Get out and work for the Lord. Get up and fight! Let us build new congregations and strengthen those who are weak before it is too late to help.

We are sorry to learn that Bro. Jack Renick of Somerton, Arizona has been confined to the hospital by a heart attack. Our prayers are for your complete recovery, Jack, as the Lord may see fit.

Bro. Dick Taylor, son of Bro. and Sister Olan Taylor of Pico-Rivera, Calif. is home on leave from the Air Force, stationed in Alaska. Welcome home!

ROY