



# The Plumbline

Assessing Current Teachings, Issues and Events with Scripture

## IHOP Enters Dominion/Christian Right Politics

### IHOP is Starting to Feel its Dominion Oats

Another national politician is joining with the Apostles and Prophets. Texas Governor Rick Perry is leading an event scheduled at the Reliant Stadium seating 100,000 in Houston on August 6. The NAR faithful are shaking the Tea Party trees to fill the stadium. This event is being called "The Response: A Call to Prayer for a Nation in Crisis." We do not question the title but the means to the goal. The organizers are dubbing this event "a non-denominational apolitical prayer meeting." But don't be fooled. This is common fare for the NAR and the Apostles and Prophets in their bid to promote the Dominion Mandate of the Apostles and Prophets around the world. Christian Right politicians see this as securing much of the Christian Right vote and politically acquiring the on-the-ground Network of the Apostles and Prophets which is well organized even to the precinct level across America. There will be prayers, sermons, prophesies, spiritual warfare to be sure, but there is only one reason for this event and it is Dominion political activism pure and simple. Rick Perry may or may not make a run for the White House. But even if he doesn't it serves the Dominion/Political Mandate of the Apostles and Prophets and makes them more visual to the Christian Right political base and garners influence in national politics.

What is new in this conference is that the organizational burden of this event will be shouldered by IHOP staffers from Kansas City. This includes the directors of the Response program, Luis and Jill Cataldo, Randy and Kelsey Bohlender from Lou Engle's "The Call Institute", now located in Kansas city at IHOPU. Others among the organizers are IHOP Apostles Doug Stringer and Dave Silker. Apostle Stringer of IHOP has blamed the Sept 11 attacks on the Homosexuals in our land. This could be true but the first century was filled with Homosexuals in Romans circles. The only way to know this is from revelations from already false prophets. Jay Swallow, another NAR Apostle, has often spoken at Apostle Lou Engle's IHOP sponsored "The Call" events. Swallow trains people at his SWAT (Strategic Warriors At Training) camps for identifying and purging American soil of territorial spirits. This training has more to do with militia training rather than sitting round campfires. Cindy Jacobs is heavily involved in bizarre spiritual warfare events. Mike Bickle director of IHOP is listed among the endorsees of this conference. This RESPONSE conference marks the beginning of IHOP personnel (excluding Lou Engle) in direct involvement in politics. This is noteworthy in that previously the public ethos promoted at IHOP has been that of 24/7 intercession and a wilderness lifestyle. If the hundreds of interns and staffers from Kansas City and IHOP satellites are recruited and implemented into the NAR political efforts, it represents a large body of political warriors.

It was in A.D. 2000, the now 54-year-old Mike Bickle resigned his church then called Metro Christian Fellowship to launch Kansas City's International House of Prayer now known by the acronym IHOP. Today Mike Bickle is the executive director of the multiple ministries of IHOP and senior pastor of Forerunner Christian Fellowship. IHOP is a 24/7 worship and warfare prayer ministry to be sure. But it has ballooned into much more than that. This ministry is sourced from a Bob Jones prophecy and is modeled after the Tabernacle of David teaching with singers and musicians being released to lead corporate intercession and worship 24/7. IHOP boasts over four hundred fulltime staff that identify themselves as "Intercessory Missionaries" Bickle has authored several books one of which is his book "Growing in the Prophetic." Bickle's core teaching is concerning the return of Christ. He lifts out of the book of Revelation certain key elements of his message. He stated on a CBN interview the following which seems to encapsulate Bickle's essential message. Bickle stated: "God doesn't send his son into a vacuum. God sends his son in answer to a consistent global cry from the church." Bickle continues: "God prophesies a

day that the church in its identity as the bride of Christ (here reference IHOP teaching on Bridal Paradigm and allegorizing the Song of Solomon) will work in union with the Holy Spirit beckoning Christ to return...The world-wide church will become in sync with the Holy Spirit crying out 'Come Lord Jesus, break in! break in! and so Jesus will then come in his second coming and before that He will release a revival... the church will be interceding together [globally] just before the Lord returns. That is one of the great signs in Revelation of the second coming." By elevating the Later Rain teaching of the Tabernacle of David to a functional level of impelling Jesus he must return, you find the whole rationale of 24/7 of IHOP. It really becomes the way the church can force or at least entice Jesus to return. (See my article, "The Restoration of Davidic Warfare/Worship" Plumblines Vol. 7, No. 4, Sept/Oct 2002) Tabernacle of David teaching which Bob Jones prophesied would be restored at IHOP is not new to IHOP but clearly is a part of the restoration scheme of the Latter Rain teachers of the early 50's. George Warnock Latter-Rain teacher of the 50's often referred to the TOD. The so-called 24/7 TOD teaching is just a companion piece of the whole restoration scheme in which Apostles and Prophets are restored to the final overcoming end-time church. Along with restored Apostles and Prophets of the Latter Rain, the TOD is restored after a supposed appearance in the first century and now applied in the last days. In this regard, however, it can be easily established that Acts 15 is not a reference to Davidic worship forms at all. The context of Acts 15:16 and Amos 9:11 demands that the word "tabernacle" (Heb. sukkah which is often translated house) actually refers to the dynastic rule of David. (as in house of Usher etc.). In fact in Isaiah 16:5, TOD is translated as the "rule of David." "In love a throne will be established and in faithfulness a man will sit on it, one from the Tabernacle (house) of David" (NIV). In Latter-Rain/ Manifest Sons of God teaching the Tabernacle of David is elevated as a symbol of God's manifest presence on earth in the last days. According to this teaching we are to expect the TOD to be rebuilt in the last days by the church. In Latter Rain teaching which is the source of TOD and also IHOP this all points to a powerful end-times revelation of believers as glorified, transformed and perfected and possessed by Christ to such a degree that they become one with him and become a living corporate Son of God on the earth ruling with him. This is accomplished by the descent of "the glory" in a final overwhelming event that will transfigure all those who receive it.

The Mike Bickle story at IHOP however does not begin in A.D. 2000 and the launching of IHOP. There is a long historical chain reaching back into the 80's. It is absolutely necessary to refer back to the earlier events connected with the "Kansas City Prophets." The launching of IHOP, which came much later, was as a result of a prophecy given to Bickle by Bob Jones the most disputed of the on-site prophets. Jones and other resident prophets had gathered around Bickle and became known as the "The Kansas City Prophets." These Kansas City Prophets were exposed to the Christian public by Ernie Gruen, pastor of Full Faith Church, who published a report that became widely publicized and is still available on line and I would encourage all of you to access it and read it. The report is called: "The Aberrant Practices and Teaching of the KCF." It is still the most comprehensive exposure of the founding years of Mike Bickle and the Kansas City Prophets the precursor of the current IHOP. Ernie Gruen was mercilessly attacked for the publication. The KCF fabricated a response that Gruen confessed to being deceived etc. But Gruen rejected this fabrication completely. Gruen has passed into glory and I can only believe he was rewarded for his bravery for the sake of truth and the church of Christ.

As Christians around the nation were calling for investigation and more information into this maelstrom of controversy regarding the KC prophets, suddenly in stepped John Wimber from Vineyard Ministries. In 1991 the late John Wimber stopped the public bloodletting of the controversy and took the Kansas City Prophets under his authority and oversight. He renamed the ministry Metro Vineyard Fellowship. Among the prophets, Augustine, Cain and Jones became controversial, not only for the prophecies they uttered but for the prophetic foundation they laid down which Bickle now calls "the Blueprint Prophecy." Currently all IHOP interns must study this "Blueprint Prophecy." But even more alarming than the silly and absurd prophecies given in this "Blueprint" is the fact IHOP is openly and squarely built on these three prophets. They form the foundation of the current ministry. But the interns and others at IHOP are only given a redacted and sanitized version of these prophets and their prophecies. Furthermore, Bickle has revised this "blueprint document" a number of times to excise terms like "Latter Rain" etc. Some of the prophecies have been removed and when questioned about this Bickle says he simply couldn't understand or even remember some of these now hidden prophecies. That might indeed be the understatement of all time. It leaves me wondering what these excised prophecies now hidden could have been that required that they be forgotten or actually hidden. The prophecies we still have are such that the hidden prophecies must be so

ludicrous, absurd and false that they cannot stand the light of day even to the faithful at IHOP. Later I will select certain prophetic examples from the "blueprint prophecy." But first I am now going to deal briefly with the three founding prophets who are still the foundational blueprint of what we know today as Kansas City Prophets/IHOP.

## **The Kansas City Prophets: By Their Roots You Shall Know Them**

The three foundational prophets at Kansas City are demonstrably false. That in itself would not make them unique among the current club of Apostles and Prophets. But these prophecies even by current prophecy standards are odd, silly and ludicrous. Even more alarming is the fact that all three of these prophets have a history of sexual perversion. How can a movement expand when its foundation is false and sexually perverted? This only casts a shadow on the total movement that is built upon them. It is not surprising then that the IHOP practices a "Bridal Mysticism" with sexual overtones among those who experience personal imaginative even romantic intimacy with Jesus the bridegroom. Lou Engle the Apostle at IHOP has lead these young people in an actual Hebrew marriage ceremony to Jesus at "The Call" rallies. It would take too much space to give a full historical account of these three false prophets. I will simply list these three and give random samples of their prophecies and sexual perversions.

### **Augustine Acolla**

There is not much information on Him. His claim to fame is that He prophesied to Bickle in St Louis that he would move to KC and initiate a new move of God there. The reason there is not much information on prophet Augustine is that apparently he early fell in disrepute. "Julie's Story" on the net at GRAY COATS reveals what apparently happened. She states: "My husband and I were a part of KCF from its inception... Augustine prophesied that Bickle needed to move to KC and begin a new move of God. Augustine was later dismissed as somewhat false when a certain prophecy never came to pass. He was later discovered to have had a hidden homosexual life style that was exposed before he passed away." Augustine apparently early on ran with Rick Joyner, Bobby Conner ( of throwing spiritual glory grenades fame) and he mentored Terry Kruse, who authored a book called "God's New Breed." Augustine died 5-11-10.

### **Paul Cain**

Paul was a boy wonder child evangelist, who often filled in for Branham emulating Branham's ministry. But after the sudden death of Branham on Dec. 18, 1965 and the resultant demise of the Latter-Rain as a movement, Cain went into self-imposed exile for years probably in the Phoenix area as a single man among some die-hard Branhamites still waiting for Branham to be resurrected. In 1987 Cain suddenly reappeared, linking himself to the Kansas City Prophets, Mike Bickle and Bob Jones. Cain was given special recognition as a "Terror of the Lord" prophetic Seer. In a sense he was like the second coming of Branham. All the other prophetic wannabes including Jones gave deference to Cain. Cain appeared to have the same clairvoyance abilities as Branham. Nevertheless he once prophesied that Bill Clinton would lead America in a World-wide revival. One person who was on staff at Metro-Vineyard at the time has since reported that Bickle often pointed out people in the meetings providing both Cain and Jones with historical commentary that enhanced the awe of their ministries. However, there is no way to establish this report. In those days of researching Cain's clairvoyance fetes I can remember having attacks of doubt flowing over me to the effect that this man must be a man of God. It was like a cloud came over my mind and spirit. But now history has provided for us all the fact that at the time of his great awe of clairvoyance activity with Bickle and Jones he was even then a practicing homosexual. In Feb 2004 even Cain's most loyal supporters, Rick Joyner, Jack Deere and Mike Bickle, we confronted with evidence that Cain was a practicing homosexual to which he confessed. But Cain resisted a process of restoration. Nevertheless, recently Todd Bentley in his Lakeland fiasco invoked the alcoholic homosexual to make a cameo appearance.

## **Bob Jones**

Augustine is dead and Paul Cain is discredited, but Bob Jones is currently very active. Although he is not in residence in KC he still is used in promotion videos by IHOP. If Cain was followed for his apparent clairvoyance abilities, Jones is known for the silliness and absurdity of his visions and trips to the 3rd heaven. My friend Mike Oppenheimer has compiled a short list of Jones visionary oddities. I will only here refer to a couple examples. (See Ernie Guen for many more). He, however, is still adulated by the prophetic community. I recently saw online how he was featured at Bill Johnson's Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry in Redding CA. Thousands of young people were pressing in on Bob Jones and each was promised an impartation from him as he grasped their hands. It's like they needed to touch him (or the hem of his garment) to have an impartation. With Cain now discredited, Bob Jones seems now to have inherited the awe inspiring "Terror of the Lord" reputation that previously was accorded to Cain. In recent times Jones takes people on guided trips to the third heaven. Bickle claims to have gone on these trips on two occasions. Bickle was interviewed by the Kansas City Star and cryptically stated that he had gone to heaven twice. In a series of five hour-long tapes entitled *Visions and Revelations*, Mike Bickle and Bob Jones are heard wowing followers of the KCF with all sorts of tales of their experiences in the para-normal. Bob Jones claims that when he was 9 years old living in Arkansas, an angel carrying a "great trumpet" came riding down the from the sky on a white horse and stopped before him in the middle of a dirt road. He didn't know what to make of it until he was 13, when he was escorted to the very throne room of God in heaven... Many years later he saw Jesus in the form of a light who would grab and kiss men and women of different ages and then make them disappear by absorbing them into his body. It was like "two big ole doors right there in his heart and it'd be just that, and they was gone."...

Many of Jones prophesies are not only silly, but just plain wrong. But never mind restored prophets and Seers have no need to be accurate. Jones response to his and the other prophetic failures is that if they had 100% accuracy it would cause too many dead Ananius's and Sapphirra's. How is that for making people thankful for failed prophesies? Jones tells us God told him that prophets are like guns and prophesies are bullets and inaccurate prophesies are like blanks. God said further : "I am loading the guns. I am putting the blanks in." Wow! Jones would have us believe that God is responsible when prophets shoot blanks, it scares the enemy,

It would take a large book to catalogue the comical nonsense of Bob Jones visions and revelations. Bickle himself has had a few visits to the throne room as well. But what concerns me even more is the sexual misconduct of Bob Jones. Two women confronted Bob Jones for sexual misconduct in "using his prophetic gifts for sexual misconduct." Various people have described this as a fondling or having women stand before him naked during prophecy. This leaves too much to the imagination. Bob Jones asserted that he did not have sexual intercourse with them. Sounds almost like Clinton asserting "I did not have sexual relations." But this only underscores that for Jones he was not only sexually discovered but as a sex offender he cannot be trusted let alone receive adulation as a Prophet/Seer. He is not only a false prophet which is bad enough, but an admitted sex offender, who is still a foundation stone for IHOP.

In Bickle's book *Growing in the Prophetic*, in the appendix, Bickle gives a catalogue list of phenomena that accompany the presence of God: Shaking, jerking, loss of body strength, heavy breathing, eyes fluttering, lips trembling, oil on the body, changes in skin color, weeping, laughing, drunkenness, travailing, dancing, falling, visions....angelic visitations, violent rolling, screaming, coldness, and nausea." there are more ad nauseum.

## **The Rapid Expansion, and Branding of the Global IHOP**

IHOP began in 2000 in a renovated strip mall on Red Bridge Rd in Grandville KC. In the past decade and especially in recent years IHOP has ballooned into a major presence in KC. There are roughly 500 people on staff. In 2009 they commenced a world headquarters including a 5000 seat conference center. In 2009 the Kansas City Star reported that at least 80 homes had been purchased and converted to intern dormitories. The Star also reported that 150 IHOP related families were residing near Grandview. An observer saw a large trailer roaring up the street. It was a family from MN, husband, wife and 2 boys. There are numerous programs, conferences, and training tracks located at IHOP. I will refer only to a number of these. There are 4 levels of 6 month internship programs. There is IHOPU which is roughly a 4 year training program. which

includes a music academy and Lou Engles The Call Institute. The Simeon Company, is for those 50 and older and the Joseph Company are people in the business world who provide finance and a Children's Ministry Center designed to teach and prepare a second generation of IHOPers.

There are the core teachings of the 24/7 prayer and worship ministry based on the TOD. Another featured teaching is the Bridal Paradigm [ see my article, *The Bridal Paradigm: Let me enter into the king's Chamber*, Vol. 14, #2, March/April 2009] There are a number of anointings taught and among them are the Shulamite anointing, a reference to the woman lover in Song of Solomon. There is the Hannah anointing referring to Hannah who spent her time in the temple. The whole Contemplative Prayer Ministry is also taught. Special weekend conferences for people across the nation and the world are organized and they include "One Thing Conferences", and "Fire in the Night Conferences." And last but not least there is a prenatal soaking ministry for pregnant mothers in which they purport to impart new spiritual DNA to their children in the womb preparing a second generation of spiritual warriors.

The IHOP goal is to establish IHOP 24/7 prayer rooms and ministries in every major American city and most campuses. At the University of MN there is an UMHOP as an example. They boast at least 200 of these both in the USA and around the world. A continuous flow of free live web streaming flows daily from the KC prayer room and made available around the world to their satellite prayer rooms. Internees are encouraged to become part of establishing these prayer rooms and their 24/7 scheduling. Those trained at IHOPU are slated to give over-all leadership to this expansion. The free web streaming of the IHOP prayer room is sent abroad and is translated into at least 6 major language groups. young people in many places become designated Apostles and Prophets.

### **Red Flags Over IHOP**

But the net will reveal that not all IHOP interns have prospered spiritually at IHOP. But most appear to be totally immersed in the life and teachings. There are continuous reports, however, of over-zealous monitoring of interns. It is reported that they are regimented quite strictly. Among those whose parents are wary of the IHOP experience of their children parents are rebuffed and interns counseled to declare up to a year of separation from their families. Other internees tell of being refused to leave the scheduled prayer room duty even when feeling tired or sick with staff workers refusing internees to leave. Finally some internees seem to suffer from sleep deprivation. These testimonies of from IHOP internees and parents can be readily be found on the net. I have no idea how much justification should be given to these reports.

### **Bickles Forerunner Eschatology: Just a Slightly Different Route to the Dominion Mandate**

Mike Bickle presents a variant of Dominion end-times teaching that crossbreeds elements of Dispensational eschatology with Dominion Post-Millennial views which at first glance seems similar to Dispensational teaching which has occupied for decades the most popular view of the end times. But Dispensational Pre-millennial eschatology in its pure form is directly in opposition to the Dominion teaching. Most Dominionists see Dispensationalists as passive in that believers must simply wait for the day and hour for the rapture which snatches them away before the Great Tribulation can begin. But in Mike Bickle's treatment of the book of Revelation, there is no passive waiting for the rapture. Rather, the church has the mandate to bring forward the return of the Lord even as it must fight against the Antichrist and go through the horrors of the tribulation period. Bickle, who espouses restored Dominion Apostles and Prophets of the Latter Rain restoration scheme, nevertheless promotes a view he calls Pre-Millennial Dominionism. Previously, most Dominionists rejected the Dispensational teachings of the church going through the tribulation and the coming of the Antichrist. Wagner for example promotes a Charismatic version of Post millennialism they they call "Victorious Eschatolog." (google it) This eschatology sees the church in Post-millennial fashion defeating the forces of evil making the Tribulation and the Antichrist a mute point. But now, thanks to Mike Bickle, many Dispensational end-timers have very quietly made the transition to the elements of the Dominionist view which Mike Bickle calls Pre-millennial Dominionism. Now people with a Dispensational view can advance the Dominionist prophetic clock. In Bickle's morphing of elements of Dispensational and Dominion views, believers must fight the Antichrist and the evil forces during the Tribulation instead of watching from the grandstands of heaven. In fact we may be in the great Tribulation even now. According Bickle the endtime church is far from passive but victorious in the Tribulation against the

Antichrist. In fact the overcoming church can speed up the return of Christ and actually defeat the Anti-Christ and execute judgment on the Antichrist and the ungodly. Many Charismatic's who were raised on Dispensational views are now being told to forget the rapture and prepare to fight. This cross breeding of eschatology views allows those previously trained in and committed to the Tribulation view of the end-times can now embrace the essentials of the Dominionist Mandate.

Bickle teaches that Jesus' second coming can be delayed or sped up according to the degree of the church's maturity and readiness. He declares that most Christians are waiting passively for Jesus to return, when in actuality, Jesus is waiting for the church to prepare itself as the pure Bride of Christ, and ready itself to launch the last-day divine war to drive evil from the earth, and cleanse it so that it can be filled with God's love and glory. Bickle does not simply preach that the church will go through the Great Tribulation sealed by God's sovereign power, but that the end-time church will actually bring God's judgments to be released on the earth through prophetic prayer. The end-time praying church will not simply be helpless martyrs during the Great Tribulation. It will victoriously establish justice on the earth by releasing the devastating Great Tribulation judgments on the Antichrists global evil empire... Bickle declared in 2008 that it was time for the prayer movement to realize that it will be the primary agent to transition human history to the age to come through "prayers of the faithful not only to heal, but also kill," releasing the heavenly arsenals through intercession that will strike the Antichrist's political, military, and economic power bases across the earth. [This sounds like preparing for literal warfare? Furthermore, the end-times church will bring back a killing and blood spilling Jesus who Bickle sees covered in real blood as he does physical combat against the Antichrist's army... From Bickle's tape, *Armageddon and the Second Coming* the returning Jesus goes on a 30-day violent campaign from Egypt to Jerusalem with his resurrected saints and Jesus killing with his own sword and splashing blood on his robe in fashion as David in the OT. But David was kept from building the temple because he "shed much blood." (1 Chron. 22:3:7,8) Furthermore 2Thess. 2:3f pictures the Lord destroying with the breath of his mouth and destroying the Anti-Christ with the brightness of his coming. I guess I will go with Paul on this one.]... Bickle envisions that the end-time forerunner church will be an advanced 'apostolic' movement.' They will experience 'greater things' than the [biblical] Apostles themselves. They will function as the last day Moses who through prayer releases God's plagues etc. on the Antichrist, the end-time Pharaoh... (sourced from, Andrew Jackson, *Forerunner Eschatology: Divine Revelation or Reckless Gamble*)

## **Concluding Remarks**

The IHOP prayer and intercessory army of young people apparently now sees itself involved not only in prayer and intercession, but preparing to recall the "killing Jesus" back to the earth. The end time new Moses Prayer and Dominion movement must prepare for battle to drive the Anti-Christ (the new Pharaoh) from the land. The church must begin to execute the very judgments of God upon the earth.

IHOP's only difference from current Apostolic Dominionism is that it points more directly to an actual war. The NAR Apostles and Prophets have been happy to the present at least with a political/spiritual warfare effort. But with IHOP staffers now leading the organizational effort for Rick Perry's conference in Houston the escalation of spiritual warfare will surely increase. 24/7 worship and intercession prayer rooms should now be seen as places to marshal Dominion forces for actual spiritual warfare in actual SWAT team versions of spiritual warfare to cleanse the land. In this scenario the already militant rhetoric of IHOP's Lou Engle will surely become an even more actual declaration of some kind of physical warfare in the land. Sounds dramatic, especially to young adults. But it has no basis in scripture from the actual Apostles of the Lord. It's only authority comes from pretender and false prophets like Bob Jones and cohorts.

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