

## BENNY AND SUZANNE HINN'S MARRIAGE SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT THE DESTRUCTIVE BLUNDERS OF BENNY HINN AKA DAVID SOLOMON

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“For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce”. (Malachi 2:16).

“The wife of Televangelist Benny Hinn has filed for divorce”, (Yahoo News).

For some strange reason that eludes me, Toronto Canada and the Toronto Airport Vineyard Church have been the Petri dish for launching the spiritual bacteria of everything from so called drunken revivals to laughing revivals to barnyard revivals with people clucking like chickens, grunting like pigs and screeching like birds. Crawling on the floor in frenzied laughter or violent head jerking were touted as the new mark of the Spirit's work at TAVC. But what “spirit”? The claim was that this was new or a “new move” but was just the old triumphal philosophies and delusions of the 1940's Latter Rain movement recycled.

Oddly enough the city of Toronto also was both the breeding and launching ground for a young, jobless, high school drop-out and healer want-to-be, Mr. Benny Hinn. To paraphrase an old verse, “can anything spiritually good come out of Toronto?” What people have not caught onto yet is that if Benny Hinn and all the claimed healers over the last 100 or so years were legitimate the America's health care crisis would have been over already. Benny-care would have replaced Obama care. We would be the healthiest nation in the world. Hinn often stands in meetings and declares diseases healed, bondages broken and marriages made whole again. This is just play acting. Where is the statistical proof of this healing of health and home? Hinn's own marriage hit the skids - hard. He cannot work his alleged magic on himself. The little wizard behind the curtain has no real powers after all.

A field day could be had by all of Hinn's televangelist competitors especially the ones that are into territorial demon teachings. It was recently discovered that the French Hospital in Jaffa Israel built on the corner of Yafet and Louis Pasteur streets, the very place where Benny was born, was constructed on an ancient pagan burial site, (Haaretz.com, March 28, 2011, Experts: Tombs found at Jaffa Excavation Site Not Jewish). Could Hinn's divorce be just another case of pesky territorial demons or ancient ancestral bondage? Of course we say this with tongue in cheek.

### HOW DID LITTLE TOUFIK HINN BECOME BIG BENNY HINN?

Hinn often refers to himself in the third person, that is, not as “I” or “me” like most normal people but as “Benny Hinn” as if Benny Hinn is another person entirely separated

from Hinn himself. In fact “Benny Hinn - Healer” is a persona and a stage show character and not a real person.

Then there is his traveling alias, David Solomon. Truth be known, Hinn (born Toufik Hinn – baptismal name Benedictus), really owes his career to his wife Suzanne or at least to her father. Early on, Hinn’s father in law Roy Harthern as Executive Editor of Charisma Magazine (Stephen Strang, Editor since 1975) was able to help kick start Benny’s career. Harthern and Strang had the ability to create Benny larger than life and with a cover story about the young healer in April of 1979, just a few months before Benny and Suzanne’s wedding, Benny was launched. Harthern also was well known as a pastor of a large Assembly of God church in Florida which would give the new son-in-law even more credibility and status. As the old saying goes it is “all in the family”. In a strange twist it could be that another Harthern, Benny’s wife Suzanne, will sully or even wreck his career. Harthern discontinued with Charisma in 1981. Then in 1993 Hinn was again a Charisma cover boy for Stephen Strang coinciding with Strang’s publishing of Hinn’s quirky book, *The Blood*, (See *Blood critique in Confusing World*, Personal Freedom Outreach Publisher, chapter 12).

Hinn was married in August 4, 1979 after he by his admission put out numerous fleeces on the selection of Suzanne as a wife and then claimed that God told him to marry her. So this union was all God’s doing and now apparently God’s mistake. The one fleece Hinn called a “tough test” was whether Suzanne would have made a cheesecake for him when he arrived in Orlando and she had, (*He Touched Me*, Thomas Nelson Publishing, Nashville, Tennessee, 1999, Page130). In Benny’s retelling of the marriage proposal night he says that Suzanne confided; “Since I was a little girl I knew the man I would marry would have dark hair, dark eyes, and an olive complexion. Benny, you are that man God has for me”, (*Ibid, He Touched Me*, page 132). Benny acknowledges that there were a few speed bumps early on; “Like every married couple we had some adjustments to make. Although Suzanne was determined to be a submissive wife, she revealed her strong will when it was necessary. I realized I had to soften some of my Middle Eastern attitudes or there would have been a clash of cultures”, (*Ibid*, page 137). The Hinn’s have four children, Jessica, (married and now Jessica Koulianos), Natasha, Joshua and Eleasha. The “strong will” and “Middle Eastern attitudes” and “clash of cultures” it appears were never really resolved. Suzanne’s filing for a divorce opens the question - did God make the mistake or perhaps just mislead Benny with cheesecake? Did the real dark haired man with the olive complexion somehow get away?

## SELF CREATED ROCKY ROADS AND PITFALLS

Hinn seems to lurch from one crisis to another. His purchase of a thirty six million dollar private Gulfstream 64SP jet that he calls Dove One (which takes in excess of one half million dollars a year to maintain) raised more than a few eyebrows. TV exposes keep turning up the fact that they can find no real lasting healings from Hinn’s questionable ministry.

With power attorneys, a P.R. firm, handlers, enablers, image consultants, security people and fixers all around him, Hinn always manages to spin negative things his way and bob and weave into the future relatively unscathed. This is predictable since major Televangelists have honed evasion techniques and if need be the art of tearful public confessions, always blaming others, blaming Satan or spiritual warfare and then creating reincarnations and reinventions of their former selves. Their failures they claim make them more understanding and insightful and it all seems to work every time. Adoring fans are all too forgiving not wanting to lose their investments in their illusions or their imaginary super men. There is always ample Kool-Aid to go around. Cult followers often proclaim they are against heretics but get furious if their own heretic is touched.

It was a surprise but then again not so much of a surprise to read the headlines of the Yahoo! News: “Orange, Calif. – The wife of televangelist Benny Hinn has filed for divorce in Southern California. Suzanne Hinn filed the papers in Orange County Superior Court on Feb. 1, citing irreconcilable differences, after more than 30 years of marriage. The papers noted that the two separated on Jan. 26 and that Benny “has been living in Dana Point, a wealthy coastal community in southern Orange County”, (February 18, 2010, page 1).

Hinn, who has had a fixation for the long dead Kathryn Kuhlman and has copied many of her routines now has something else in common with her; a divorce under his belt. However the worst was yet to come.

Irreconcilable differences is code for a no fault divorce. No grounds are stated in the filing but there is just the idea that there were differences regarding who knows what that will not and cannot be resolved by anyone ever. It is a human declaration that the marriage is dead and a rejection of the words of Jesus; “what God has joined together let not man separate”, (Matthew 19:6 NKJV) Whatever the problems were and whatever the real strains on the marriage Suzanne, for reasons she was keeping to herself, was bailing out. She took Benny for “better or worse” but was now concluding he was worse than what she took him for.

Irreconcilable differences in this very knotty situation were the ideal scenario for Benny since possibly no grievances against him would ever be publically stated or come to light. Whatever Suzanne’s beef for some strange reason she was keeping all details to herself and ultimately protecting her husband or what he could provide. Of course secrecy can breed suspicion. All the unanswered questions would breed rumors and gossip and provoke someone to dig all the harder to get the truth. Why had the Hinn’s high profile marriage been slain in the spirit?

Charisma Magazine released a statement just giving the bare bones information (from news releases) that Suzanne had filed for a divorce. They were very sparse about any details, which is understandable in that world since Strang Publishers had recently Published Benny's newest book, Blood in the Sand. Strang and company are hardly an objective outside source and there is a conflict of interest in terms of their objectivity. Very few would want to further cripple their own cash cow. However, Blood in the Sand might be a "prophetic" and grim metaphor for Hinn's future. There is an old chorus, "The Best is yet to Come" but for Hinn the worst was yet to come. Blood in the Sand was yet to produce bad blood between Stang and Hinn as we'll see.

Hinn shares a previously unknown fact in Blood in the Sand and that is that his real family name is Costandi not Hinn. He says that his great grandfather who lived in Egypt was so benevolent he was nicknamed (by neighbors) El Hanoun which is Arabic for gracious one. The abbreviated form which is Hinn, stuck, (Front Line Publishers, Strang Company, Lake Mary Florida, 2009, pages 125-126). But for this historic family quirk we would know the "healer" today as Benny Costandi. These kinds of name changes are very common in the Middle East.

In Blood in the Sand, Hinn makes reference to the fact that the Benny Hinn School of Ministry is now partnering with and; "offering a cooperative relationship with Liberty University in College-level studies", (Ibid, back cover). It is well documented that Jerry Falwell himself sadly began that personal partnership back in 1999, (The Confusing World of Benny Hinn, pages IX and X). As in the political world the Christian world can sure make strange bedfellows.

#### NO PRECOGNITION

Blood in the Sand has a forward by Former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert. Olmert has been the target of more than one corruption probe since 2007. In September 2008 he resigned as Prime Minister. In polls in Israel he was considered the most corrupt Israeli Prime Minister in the nation's history. In August of 2009, Olmert was charged with; "fraud, breach of trust, falsifying of corporate records and tax evasion.", (JTA, the Global News Service of the Jewish People, Olmert Corruption Trial Begins, February 25, 1010). Olmert was further charged with paying for family vacation by double billings, accepting envelopes full of cash from an American businessman, and granting special favors to his trade minister in an investment center case. Where was Hinn's great insight on this one?

About six weeks after the Olmert charges his close associate Attorney Uri Messer along with four others were also charged with a real estate bribery scam over eight years which involved millions of dollars. It is being called the Holy Land Affair because the property in question is on the site of the former Holy Land Hotel and Jerusalem's famous mini model of the ancient city of Jerusalem. The Holy Land building project involved construction of high rise housing units. The Holy Land Affair is being identified as the worst corruption case in Israel's history, (Jerusalem Post, April 7, 2010, Police uncovers one of the worst corruption cases ever). Only a few weeks later Olmert was named as the prime suspect.

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These charges stem back to when Olmert was Mayor of Jerusalem then a Minister of Industry and Trade overseeing land administration all between 1993 and 2006. Unlike the U. S. legal system Israel's periodic questioning of suspects can be called "trials". So we can read that Olmert continued to be "on trial" meaning he continued to be pulled in for days of lengthy questioning. Then on top of all of that it was announced in the Haaretz news that Olmert would also be charged for illegal political appointments given as favors, (Haaretz.com, Haaretz Expose: All the Corruption Charges Being Leveled Against Ehud Olmert, May 25, 2010). Olmert's boondoggle drug on into March 2011 when Olmert's travel coordinator Rachel Mor testified against him and accused him of double billing several organizations for travel reimbursements on the same trip, (Ynet News, Ex-aide Implicates Olmert in travel Rip-off, Omri Efraim, March 10, 2011).

All of this continued on and on. Uri Messer flipped and became a key witness for the prosecution saying that he held large envelopes for Olmert which were full of cash and in excess of \$300,000. These "secret funds" bought Olmert's influence, (Attorney Uri Messer testifies he held over \$300,000 cash for Olmert, Haaretz.com, March 22, 2011). Olmert's trial limped along with stops and starts into May 2011. As already stated trials in Israel are unlike trials in the U.S. Individual judges review evidence for a day or two every 6 months or when their schedule can fit it in so the Olmert "trial" slowly limped along. It could play out for years.

#### NEEDED – A NOW WORD - NOW

With all the claims of supernatural wisdom and "revelation knowledge" Hinn should have known better than to seek Olmert's endorsement for his book. It is just another case of a foolish uninformed misstep and the absence of any prescience at all on Hinn's part. Hinn does not have even a cursory awareness of Israeli politics in spite of Tim LaHaye's gushing endorsement, (Blood in the Sand, back cover) and Pat Robertson's glowing words; "If you desire a deeper understanding of the problems Israel faces and what will happen next, I highly recommend this book to you", (back cover). There are truckloads of books about Israel claiming to give us deeper understanding. If you desire deeper understanding of Israel's problems it appears that Hinn is the last person you would read. February through May, 2010 were not kind months to either Hinn's endorser Olmert or Hinn himself.

There was still no revelation knowledge from Olmert's "friend" Benny about the possible outcome of these criminal probes. Where is a prophet when you really need one? Olmert shifted into blaming others for persecuting him and slipped into the "poor me – they are picking on me – they are doing a witch hunt" mode, (See for instance the summary in Haaretz News for May 6, 2010). An article in the Haaretz news reported on April 12, 2011 that; " the Tel Aviv Districts prosecution announced that it intended to indict former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert along with other suspects in the Holy Land affair for corruption, bribery and other charges", (Committee orders new plans for controversial Holyland construction project, Ranit Nachum – Halevy, Haaretz April 12, 2011).

The indictment finally came down on Olmert in the opening days of January 2012. with the Haaretz headline, “Former PM Ehud Olmert indicted over Holyland scandal.”. The news announcement declared, “Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and 17 others were indicted on Thursday in the so-called Holyland case, for allegedly giving or receiving bribes to advance real estate ventures. Almost two years after one of the largest corruption scandals in Israel’s history first erupted, indictments of the case are due to be filed this Thursday.”, (Haaretz.com, January 5 2012,

## PRAYING OR PREYING IN HELL – HINN IN HINNOM

Hinn also talked about his new “prayer center” in Blood in the Sand. He boasted; “Recently I traveled to Israel for a time of ministry, fellowship, support for the nation, and the dedication of our new Miracle Prayer Center in Jerusalem”, (Ibid page 1). A little investigation into this brings up a number of interesting and jarring things. First, Hinn’s donor base must be a bottomless pit. Are they aware of what the “Prayer Center” really is and where it is? This so called “Miracle Prayer Center” is in a luxury, gated area called David’s Village, Mamilla in Jerusalem just west of the Jaffa Gate. David’s Village with its own below ground parking has been called elegant and consists of two and three story luxury residences in neo-orientalist architecture. It was primarily built for the wealthy overseas and has been referred to as the ultimate in sophistication. The 28 acre rectangular site has walkways over the pedestrian areas. It is distinct with its exclusive and elite white bubble awnings. The whole area had a development and building cost of over four hundred million dollars and is Israel’s most expensive building project ever. The apartments there sell at a hefty price tag from \$1.1 million dollars to \$13 million dollars and are in one of the most exclusive sought after locations in West Jerusalem. In one transaction Ynet news reported that a European citizen that purchased a prestigious David Village apartment and paid a whopping \$9 million dollars! (5/21/07, Jerusalem Flat Sold For 9 Million). Between the fall of 2009 into the fall of 2010 apartment values in Jerusalem jumped an amazing 20%. The “prayer center” if nothing else is a profit maker.

What is really ironic is that these buildings in David’s Village are situated in the northwest extension of the Valley of Gehenna! This is the very place Jeremiah railed against the Israelites because of child sacrifice (Jeremiah 7) and that Jesus referred to as He illustrated truths about hell, punishment and judgment. Ancient Jewish writers said it contained the gates to hell. As well the Hinnom Valley is associated with Akel Dama the Field of Blood, (Acts 1:19) which is in the Hinnom. Judas’ blood money is connected to it, (The Archaeology of the New Testament, Jack Finnigan, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1969, page 155).

The larger area of Gehenna that wraps around and contains David’s Village is called Mamilla (named after a long gone Byzantine saint and church) and is bordered on the west by the exclusive King David hotel and on the north by the ultra luxurious David Citadel Hotel. The Mamilla shopping mall with a 2,000 foot promenade is located in the Mamilla complex near the “Miracle Prayer Center” and is home to trendy bistros, chic

fashion outlets and upscale businesses like Rolex, Stern, Polo, Nautica, Hilfiger, Gap and others. There are high end restaurants there as well and for that reason it is called Jerusalem's Rodeo Drive, (Jerusalem Post, Buying Into Luxury, November 16, 2007). The Waldorf Astoria Palace Hotel planned its grand opening in Mamilla in December 2010 and an Imax theatre is scheduled to be built there as well. So, just a little something to do between prayer times. The 8 story 300 million dollar Mamilla hotel was just built in the neighborhood as an added attraction for the wealthy. It is a world class hotel with rooms running from \$400 a night to \$1400 a night with suites for \$2800 a night. It has been ranked in the top 100 hotels in the world. As Mr. Rogers used to say; "it's just another day in the neighborhood". What was part of the field of the potters in Jesus day is now the field of the prosperous. The "prayer center" and environs are hardly like the rugged Galilee or the stark wilderness that our prayer model Jesus used. David's Village is rather the stomping ground for the very rich and the very famous. It was announced in late 2011 that the President of Israel would be temporarily be ensconced in David's Village since the presidential housing was being renovated after flooding.

#### IT JUST GETS STRANGER AND STRANGER

To make things even more bizarre and exciting in Benny's wealthy and eccentric neighborhood a millionaire business woman was kidnapped from her luxury apartment in David's village on April 11, 2010. She was held for 3.5 million dollars ransom. She was freed from the kidnapper's home a week later. Hinnom again hit the headlines in - the kidnapping from hell.

Then on April 15, 2010 the Jerusalem Post reported Ehud Olmert's direct connection with Uri Messer (indicted in the "Holy Land Affair). The irony of ironies is that the Mamilla building project in Jerusalem might also be part of the "Holy Land Affair" bribery case and that the Mamilla David's City project itself; "might have been approved in return for kickbacks", (Jerusalem Post, April 15, 2010, Olmert "Chief Holyland Suspect", Yaakov Lappin, Police make announcement a day after ex-mayor Lupolianski's arrest, page 1).

Who could have dreamed of yet another outlandish and macabre story surfacing in May 2010 regarding Mamilla and Olmert. It involves another 50 acre section of Mamilla which is an ancient (middle age – 13<sup>th</sup> century) Moslem cemetery, (Guide to the Holy Land, Eugene Hoade, Franciscan Printing Press, Jerusalem, 1974, pages 410-411). In 2005 Olmert accepted trip money from the California based Wiesenthal Center which involved discussion of the construction of a Center of Tolerance in Jerusalem. The most unlikely Mamilla cemetery site was selected with Olmert's approval. The clandestine work at the Mamilla cemetery shielded by large barriers began in the winter and spring of 2008 and continued into 2009 and consisted of digging up old graves and boxing skulls and bones, (Haaretz, Museum of Tolerance Special Report, May 18, 2010). Digging up this cemetery and exhuming skeletons and bones was done in secrecy with the large wrap-around barrier and with workers signing confidentiality agreements. Estimates say there are about 1000 skeletons that are centuries old. As the project became public it was

put on hold because of its ghoulish nature. Some skulls and bones were all relocated and buried in a mass grave along the eastern border of the site. The Islamic Trust for Moslem graves has now gone to court to derail the whole project. In the meanwhile the Moslem Trust is being accused of putting fabricated grave markers on the perimeters of Mamilla cemetery. Hinnom just keeps on giving us tales from the dark side. Once again we could ask where is Hinn's revelation knowledge for his friend Olmert? Where are the specific warnings when you really need them? Hinn is adept at giving very soft, very general and very generic "words of knowledge" but never anything you could really nail down or find of specific practical help. Saying, "I see a back ache out there" just doesn't cut it. God never even gave Hinn advance notice of the divorce. Hinn's life is just a convergence of goofs, gaffes and blunders. And it gets worse.

### THE HIGH COST OF PRAYER

Why does one need a multimillion dollar Mamilla luxury apartment to pray? Jesus went into both a wilderness and a garden to pray, (Matthew 26:36) and Lydia and Paul prayed by a riverside, (Acts 16:13). Hinn's well positioned apartment is more of a play center than a pray center.

Occasionally Hinn maneuvers to try and make his audience think they are his equals or personal friends. In a You Tube feature of Benny on the roof of the "Miracle Prayer Center" (You Tube, April 9, 2010, Benny Hinn From His Miracle Prayer Center in Jerusalem) he is sharing that this is "our" center or everyone's prayer center. He says that God has given; "us – you and I," the prayer center. So we are to believe that we all own a share in it and it is part ours. Try requesting a week there for prayer and see what happens. This luxury apartment is an obscene – in your face – over the top waste of donor money that can hardly be matched. This is on the level of Jim Bakker, Robert Tilton and possibly even Donald Trump. The blatant and obvious greed is, disgusting and outrageous. Hinn certainly does not represent the One who had nowhere to lay his head.

I thought I would test the statement of the "prayer center" being for "you and I" and requested a visit to the center for use of prayer. In an Email (3/14/2010) to Hinn and his organization I stressed the center being for everyone and asked if my wife and I could use it for prayer for a week even praying for the peace of Jerusalem. No response was received. I tried a second request and still no response. Why I am not surprised?

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It is blatantly obvious that Hinn is addicted to money, fame and the power he can have over others. These are his drugs of choice. He may even believe his own rationalizations and deceptions. Peter says of Elders and Church leaders that they are to be in ministry "not for dishonest gain" (1Peter 5:2). How can one purchase a multimillion dollar property in a gated, guarded, luxury area and pretend it is a "prayer center"; a prayer center for whom? It is all mirrors and a lot of smoke. Jesus in John Chapter 4 said that we do not need a prayer or worship center in Jerusalem or anywhere else (John 4: 21-24), since prayer is a matter of the heart and the spirit not the location. David said, "if I make my bed in sheol, behold you are there", (Psalm 139:8).

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## DISTURBING PAST

Real estate riches do not translate into strong relationships. This new revelation of the disintegration of the Hinn marriage did not just come out of the blue for counter cult researchers. Rumors had been swirling for years in regard to the possibly fractured condition in the Hinn marriage and the chaotic nature of Benny and Suzanne's relationship. Ever since the 1999 "Holy Ghost enema" fiasco and the video tape that ran on Comedy Central for the nation and world to see, (The Confusing World of Benny Hinn, page, 111), many were questioning Suzanne's mental state and emotional stability. Suzanne's brother Charles was allegedly murdered in 1990 and some wondered about the lingering effects of that tragedy. The taped 1999 sermon given by Suzanne showed her in a very manic and hyper state. In some of her later sit down appearances with her husband she seemed to be in a passive state and seemed to exhibit dryness of mouth. Some likened her appearance at that time to a Stepford Wife.

Some began to wonder if Suzanne might be on psychiatric medication and if internally there were fractures in the Hinn's relationship and household. Again these were only rumors and no one published any charges. Some thought it strange that healer Benny had a physician Dr. Colbert traveling with him. There was no attempt by Benny and his people to even try to explain Suzanne's very damning talk of spiritual enemas that was caught on video for all to see. Suzanne's crazed appearance and frenzied actions on the nationally aired tape were never addressed in any way by the Hinn camp and the only response was the threat of lawsuits directed at the comedy show, Comedy Central which had aired the tape. Hinn's power attorneys directed threats of law suits not only to Comedy Central but extended the threat to the alleged collaborators at Trinity Foundation in Dallas, Texas. Hinn's attorney's claimed the tape was stolen. The Director at Trinity Foundation, Ole Anthony, dared Hinn's attorneys to follow through and go to court enabling Trinity to demand and secure insider documents from the Hinn organization. Everything went totally quiet on that issue. Hinn's attorneys backed away. Clearly they wanted no outsiders poking around or getting too close (every employee in Hinn's organization is bound by confidentiality agreements). The standoff and challenge had punctured Hinn's balloon of empty threats. The scandal of Suzanne literally talking about peoples "rear ends" and "a Holy Ghost enema" and claiming she was "all revved up" and then racing across the stage and concluding with a big un ladylike belly flop (all on national TV) eventually died away. That video remains and proliferates though youtube.com., (enter Suzanne Hinn in the search box). It seemed obvious though that there was something radically wrong in spiritual Camelot. If there were major internal difficulties in the Hinn household then in time they had to surface. The fraying seams could not hold forever.

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## FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Various flaps, false claims, major doctrinal errors, false prophecies and mis steps by Benny cropped up and were documented and written about by the counter cult community over the last 2 decades but it made little dent on the impervious zombie like followers of Hinn. Investment in a false teacher can create lack of objectivity and lack of discernment as well as spiritual blindness and a seared conscience. In defending their false teacher they are in fact defending their own foolishness and lack of discernment.

Then news of the impending divorce was made public in nano seconds across cyber space. Confirmation of the imminent divorce came from the Superior Court of California county of Orange in document Case Number 10D000898, Hinn V Hinn., 2/1/2010 requesting the dissolution of the Hinn marriage by Suzanne who was listed as Petitioner (on file). There were 3 addresses listed for the Hinns. The news hit the internet with lightening speed and AOL even ran the story on their opening page. The outer part of this golden onion was beginning to be pulled back, at least a little. On close examination the gold, it seemed, was really only cheap spray paint and everything inside was decayed. The term showmance (as opposed to romance) has been coined to describe what celebrities do when they keep a marriage together for appearances and for PR and promotional purposes. It looks like the Hinn marriage was a showmance.

Christianity Today Magazine divulged that Benny knew that the divorce was coming and that the staged denial that Suzanne's filing came out of the blue might be P. R. drivel; "Confidential sources have informed Christianity Today that the Hinn marriage has been in trouble for a long time and that divorce proceedings were no shock to Benny Hinn". CT also reported Suzanne's attorney was the very high priced Sorrell Trope whose clients had included Cary Grant, Rod Stieger, Nicole Kidman and the now very famous Elin Woods, wife of Tiger Woods. It was a strange irony that the week the Hinn news shot out across cyber space Tiger Woods was making his somber public confession. It once again showed that Televangelism is after all a Hollywood Soap Opera and TV drama in clergy garb.

One of the Directors at PFO was contacted by radio station KFUO (Feb 19, 2010) for an interview and analysis of the divorce news. One of the questions asked was what we thought of Benny's future chances for ministry. In the response we simply replied that we were not prophets though Benny often claimed to be (this time however he claimed he did not see it coming). We knew this was all about celebrity, image and perception. It was about big money, attorney's power, and closed door agreements and how Hinn's handlers managed news and how well they could contain any hemorrhaging. Any fault and failure of husband Hinn had to be covered and concealed. The attempt to dump all the blame on Suzanne, register Benny's shock so as to garner sympathy, was already out there and underway in the sketchy news reports. The spin had started and was gaining

revolutions. The question as to whether Benny's attorneys may have orchestrated the no fault type of divorce as an iron clad cover up occurred to some. A huge payout to Suzanne in an undisclosed amount would probably bring the close of things without a whimper. Our informed opinion was that Benny would be impaired but continue on.

### MANAGE OR MISMANAGE

Pentecostal extremists seem to have a bottomless appetite when it comes to the scandals of their heroes. However, adultery, homosexuality and divorce are sometimes a bit beyond their tolerance level at least for awhile and in the short term. These evils are the three big strikes put you out of the game if only temporarily. Robert Tilton, Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggert, Roberts Liardon and Ted Haggard found that out. They may bounce back but never quite as high.

Here now was Benny Hinn a major religious icon facing a divorce. The reasons behind the real grounds were initially uncertain but a divorce is a divorce. Hinn had at least one big strike. We knew this could be potentially devastating for Hinn's career (or at least him going on at the same level of acceptance) given the verses in Scripture about divorce and the demanded blamelessness of Elders or Pastors.

Hinn is often referred to as Pastor Benny. The title Elder, Bishop Overseer and Pastor are essentially the same calling and office. The words describe nuances of function in the office. The qualifications of a pastor are given clearly in 1 Timothy 3; "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, or greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his house well, having his children in submission with all reverence, for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God; not a novice lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those that are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil", (verses 2-7, See also Titus 1:6-9). Paul emphasizes that we have to have a good testimony in front of a watching world, that is, "those that are outside". The Christian leader must have a moral and ethical standard and a reputation that the "outsiders" or unsaved cannot pick apart. How can a man of God fall below a standard that is even recognized by the world? As Guy King puts it; "The world is often a pretty shrewd judge of character, and all too ready an observer of insincerity. It will be art of a bishop's ambition, not to win applause, but to earn approval, from those who are outside his faith", (A Leader Led, Marshall, Morgan & Scott, Edinburgh, 1962, page 63). If Hinn cannot get it together he needs to step out of ministry until he can.

### SUZANNE THE SCAPEGOAT

Adoring fans and critics alike were waiting for the other shoe to drop and the details of the oncoming divorce to be made public. Hinn was not ruling his house well nor was he taking care of his house. He could not get his house together or hold it together. That is really bad news for a super healer, marriage repairer, prophet and demon slayer. Would Hinn be able to skate and skirt since his wife was not there to be ruled or controlled? Years ago one man actually tried to sell me on that argument regarding his own crashed marriage. He could not manage his wife if she was not there. Would that ploy be attempted by Hinn's handlers? After all it was Suzanne who was doing all this making her just a confused and perhaps rebellious wife in Benny's telling.

A disintegrating family is a huge distraction but Hinn like many politicians and showmen has seemed to master the art of compartmentalizing. In others words each part of the persons life is shoved in different mental boxes and if one box is open it's as if the other boxes do not exist. Life is lived in tight compartments and for different audiences.

A sketchy letter appeared on the Hinn web site with just the bare bones announcement and pretty much regurgitating the secular news releases. A second letter was released on Hinn's web site in which he restated that Suzanne had filed for a divorce which was a total surprise to all the family including Suzanne's parents. Hinn said that there had never been any moral lapse in either of their lives. Benny affirmed he would go on with his meetings and hope for the best. The Suzanne Hinn Ministry site remained up on the internet with a glamour shot of the new improved much thinner Suzanne, now a blond. Her reinvention was stark.

On February 26, 2010 Benny was featured on the 700 Club reading a pre taped (approximately 4 minute) statement that has made it to You Tube. Benny started by saying he had a very painful letter to share and that he had a broken heart. It went along these lines; "Suzanne is under great stress....it was a total shock when her lawyer called me on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> of February to inform me she had filed 16 days before. Suzanne never gave the family even a hint of what was on her mind even to this moment. The children and I don't know why she did it....I love my wife....there was absolutely no immorality involved in my life or in Suzanne's life ever....We both kept our covenant with God and stayed pure....My wife has no biblical grounds to do what she did....I am going to continue preaching the gospel....Nothing will stop me from preaching....Pray for Suzanne, for our family and for me." On the You Tube video about 2 minutes are spent with two of the Hinn staff people attesting to Benny's purity and that he has been "clean" and moral around the world. Hinn's sterling moral character was strongly emphasized. He was as pure and white as new fallen snow. What is disturbing and curious here is that Benny **made no strong protestation saying that he would oppose, block, fight and do everything in his power to nullify the divorce filing. He would not even declare the bondage broken and the marriage healed.** He seemed to willingly accept where this was all going. Why was he so compliant and complicit?

"PROPHETS WITH NO PROFIT

So Hinn would continue with protestations that he was totally unaware that a divorce was coming. Later in time he would contradict that. For the some time Hinn has been associated with a young 20 year old black Word Faith psychic shark named Manasseh Jordan. Of course neither Hinn nor Jordan would refer to the young man as a psychic but designate him as a “prophet”. It is obvious that Manasseh Jordan has learned well the psychic skills of conning and manipulating others through cold readings and/or pre interviews, that is, obtaining personal information in advance through crusade registration forms, and the interaction of staff and attendees before meeting time. All this information is easily obtainable and is the stock in trade of many other Tel-evangelists like W. V. Grant and Peter Popoff. Jordan calls out license plate numbers and house addresses which is a hokey sham. I believe it corresponds to the “lying signs and wonders” of 2 Thessalonians 2:9, (See also Ezekiel 13:6-7). With all of Jordan’s professed powers of insight he was not able to alert Benny ahead regarding the weighty and important news of the impending divorce. Even Manasseh’s father E. Bernard Jordan who claims godhood and that he is the “I Am” had no word for Benny. The whole trio are unprofitable prophets.

Some important questions loom very large, (1) Was Hinn’s announcement of the divorce a negative confession? (2) Why doesn’t he speak a positive confession and say the divorce is just the devils lie or would just the words divorce and devil be a negative confession? (3) Why doesn’t Hinn go to a healer and have the bondage of divorce broken? (4) Why doesn’t Hinn sow a seed for healing for the marriage? (5) Since his loyal constituents are and will be paying his legal bills, attorneys fees and alimony aren’t they entitled to more information as to the real facts behind the break up of the marriage?

Benny (in March, 2010) continued to go on aggressive offense and damage control by having Kim Clement on his show with some wonderful news for Hinn devotees. Clement asserted that God had revealed that the month of March would be a time of unprecedented miracles and the beginning of a season of even creative miracles. This means that legs and arms would grow on amputees and missing body part would be miraculously restored. New organs would replace diseased ones. However this promise was getting old. Hinn had given these worn out assurances of being on the cusp of creative miracles more than once in years gone by. It is becoming a worn out litany of lies. In fact Latter Rain Teachers had been trumpeting this imaginary new age of creative miracles and even present victory over death since the 1940’s, (The New Charismatic’s, Michael Moriarty, Zondevan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1992, page 44-64). This is what is called an over-realized eschatology; “claiming to experience now something which has yet to be fulfilled in the future. They claimed to be able to move in a dimension as yet inaccessible to the ordinary believer”, (Slandering the Angels The Message of Jude, John Benton, Evangelical Press, Orange Close, England, 1999, page 18). New bodies only come at resurrection according to Romans 8:23 and 1Corinthians 15. Sadly some paraplegics and amputees are still waiting for Hinn to deliver.

KNOW THE BIBLE OR NO TO THE BIBLE

Benny claims to have special insight into the Bible. Surely he must have read 1 Peter 3:7 which states that husband are to live with their wives; “with understanding giving honor to the wife...so that your prayers may not be hindered”. Surely Hinn after 30 years of marriage had to know why the divorce was taking place. If nothing else he claims the gift of revelation knowledge. Anyone married to someone for three decades has to have some inkling of their grievances; some awareness of their discontent and complaints. They could hardly be without understanding of what is going on. What issues were irreconcilable and impossible to resolve? With all of Hinn’s foreign travel anyone could guess that at least a part of it was long absences. How could Benny not know? Was he that removed and oblivious? How can anyone lead anyone else if they are that out of touch and removed from reality? What could be so bad, so unforgivable, so horrible that Suzanne concluded in essence; “I don’t want to and cannot live with this man anymore?” As well how can Hinn pray for himself or others since Peter says that unreconciled mates in a marriage hinder their own prayer lives? Is he Benny Hinn or Benny hinder?

#### THE WHYS THAT WON’T GO AWAY

So far no one was talking publically about or divulging the reasons behind Suzanne’s filing. There had to be reasons – very serious ones. Malachi 2:16 calls divorce violence and treachery because it pummels and tears apart one of God’s ordinances. In the carefully crafted public presentation by Benny, Suzanne was in fact taking Benny’s Velvet Gloved fist full force. This breakup all remained totally and completely her fault in Benny’s telling. It was portrayed that whatever the source of Suzanne’s stress she was not handling it responsibly or biblically. Some asked - why was she just going along with that program silence and taking the fall? It appeared to many that for some reason a major cover up on all sides was a-foot. There seemed to be a dumbing down of the force of the words “violence” and “treachery” spoken by Malachi. Would the controlling of information be successful or would the drum beat for details and the divulging of the real reasons continue?

As the days went on into early March 2010 everything about the divorce fell dead and totally silent. A foreign Tabloid had been reporting on the breakup reporting on the divorce story with a lot of rumor, gossip, innuendo and embellishment but little to no documentation. People wondered if an African Tabloid (Red Pepper has a known reputation for slander and false reporting) was a reliable source that could be trusted anyway. The most notable and most visible Tabloid that greeted people at the check out counters of major grocery stores across our country was The National Examiner. The Examiner offered more than it delivered and in a one page article (with the typical large pictures) talked about Internet chat site rumors regarding Hinn and his morals. It was just a short story about undocumented gossip on the web but offered no facts or evidence that any of it might actually be true, (March 15, 2010). No one took it serious and realized it was just reporting rumors with no evidence. So the blackout continued.

The whole covering up of reasons for the Hinn's break up was very troublesome to many since transparency is a big part of integrity. In John 18:20 Jesus said; "In secret have I said nothing". The life of a Christian leader has to be an open book. The divorce procedures had been orchestrated in such a way as to create suspicion and rumor and at least the appearance that there was a lot to hide in both of the Hinn's personal lives. It just put the Internet rumors into even more over drive. The question being generated was - were the Hinn's silent just because they just wouldn't speak or because they couldn't without destroying each other.

### IT IS NO SECRET

On April 8, 2010 I was informed by a source that the 23 pages of the divorce filing by Suzanne's attorney was public information and copies available from the Orange County Superior Court. These arrived in about 2 weeks. The papers showed that the date of the separation was actually January 26, 2010 and determination of all property would be decided later. One strange fact that has yet to be deciphered is that Suzanne from August 2006 to February 2007 had her residence listed as Parris California where she lived with a friend named Leann Pendergrass. This shows that there had been at least one prior unexplained six month separation three and one half years earlier with Suzanne living at another residence. There was nothing in the papers regarding details or reasons.

### THEN THE BOMBSHELL IN ROME

Who would have ever guessed? Who would have ever thought? If Benny Hinn was innocent he gets the "dumb as dirt" award along with Paula White for setting themselves up. The National Enquirer (August 2, 2010) ran a front cover headline, "TV Preacher Caught With Mistress". On page 26 the bold headline "TV Evangelist Benny Hinn Caught in Torrid Affair". With the battery of attorneys employed by Hinn it is hard to believe that the National Enquirer would go to press with this and not have solid facts. They report; "The ENQUIRER has learned the popular televangelist recently sneaked off with fellow minister Paula White for a romantic trip to Rome. We caught the couple walking hand-in-hand out of the five-star Hotel Hassler, where Benny Hinn was booked into the presidential suite under a false name, on July 13....Hinn and White spent three nights at the ritzy Rome hotel, where Hinn checked in as David Solomon. While they frolicked hand-in-hand through the Eternal City, White appeared on a previously taped broadcast on Hinn's TV program as the featured guest. The couple has kept their romantic relationship completely secret from their faithful. 'Pastor Hinn's followers will be shocked that he is involved in a relationship with another woman while he's still married,' continued another source", (page 26).

Hinn certainly had an interesting AKA since both David and Solomon had serious moral failures. However David Solomon is not Hinn's only alias. A confidential source has

shared that Hinn often used the first name Joshua with various last names. Hinn would probably say it was for security purposes. The article went on to say that Suzanne alleged that she and Benny had been living apart for years and that her primary home for the last three years is in Murrieta, California. The two pictures in the Enquirer article (one from the front and one from behind) show Hinn and White holding hands like two teenagers and Benny looking very unhappy as he looks at the photographer in a face-on shot. He has no wedding ring on. White split from her husband more than three years ago because of rumors of her husband Randy's unfaithfulness. What has never been addressed is the precise rooming arrangements of Hinn and White inside the Hotel. At the time of the Rome incident no date had yet been set for Hinn's divorce hearing. For all Benny's claims of wanting the marriage this was certainly no evidence of it. At the very least the appearance of scandal was all there. At the very worst only Hinn and White know.

Then Hinn and White's spin machine went into overdrive. Swift and collaborative twin denial letters were posted on Hinn and Whites ministry pages though Hinn's was withdrawn in a day and White's a day later. They made no threats of lawsuits for slander against the National Enquirer. No threats because of character assassination as one would expect. Hinn indicated that he and White would have no further social contact because of the "optics" (meaning the appearances) until after the divorce and only if the Lord led. So the door is not closed completely. There was no explanation of the false name by Benny or the meaning of the clasped hands of Hinn and White which is very unusual for a religious business relationship. In their telling they both happened to be there to research "ministry opportunities" (details not given). There was no further proclamation from Benny to fight the divorce, pray against the divorce or to command the divorce not to occur.

Another curiosity about the Inquirers frontal picture of Hinn and White hand holding in front of the Hassler Hotel is that for all Hinn's claimed healing powers he has eyeglasses on. He was also out of his usual Nehru clerical grab. According to the Enquirer an observer said the duo acted "affectionately" as they left the hotel where they were staying, (Ibid page 27). Is this one of the irreconcilable differences stated by Suzanne? As an aside the Hassler Hotel is one of the finest in Italy and the suites go for \$2700 a night (times 3 nights is over \$8000 and we have not added air fare, meals and incidentals). I wonder who paid the bill? Ultimately Hinn or White's followers did. So much for all the incoming gifts going to "preach the Gospel". For Hinn and White the Hassler Hotel will become the hassle Hotel. Both Hinn and White must have had their image repair people scurrying doing damage control.

Benny's wedding anniversary was on August 4. On August 5, 2010 Hinn devoted his This is Your Day program to even more damage control and image repair along with the admission that his marriage had been in the tank for years. To summarize, Hinn said that the devil hated him and that the National Enquirer story was "totally wicked". He said that he and Paula White could not and would not have a friendship and that it was his mistake for them both to be in Rome at the same time. They were there **invited by the Vatican** to fund the Vatican for upkeep of their art treasures as "patrons of the arts". Hinn admitted that he has had marriage troubles for a very long time and that for 3 or more

years he would come home to an empty house. The National Enquirer had been the first to break the information that Benny and Suzanne had been apart for 3 years. Now Benny admitted it. Details were coming out in excruciating increments.

Initially, remember, Hinn said he did not know why the divorce was taking place. Now he says he knows it was because he was always absent. Hinn's pretend family life was a total lie for a very long time. Hinn's plea was for his viewers to realize that he was human and made mistakes by putting ministry before home. Why didn't Jesus ever reveal to him in a vision the long time neglect of the family? Whenever Hinn is outed and exposed he drops the "I am the anointed" persona as the one who sees angels and has appearances of Jesus and tries to fall back on "I am just a weak fallible human like you". That is really getting old and worn out.

All of Hinn's (or David Solomon's) forced contrition was obviously for his hard core followers and financial supporters. Only time will tell if it played well or not. Both Benny and Suzanne tried to hide their failure and hypocrisy for years. It was a pretend game that is finally being exposed. Benny brushes off this long cover-up referring to it as his private pain but biblically there can be no ongoing "private" failure and cover-up for those in public ministry. Real integrity means the inside and outside must match. The proclaimed supernatural abilities of deep insight and of future telling seem to keep failing Hinn when it matters most. The Apostle Paul asks the question, "If a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the Church of God?" (1Timothy 3:5). Hinn's long marriage failure and intentional lengthy cover-up are a huge disqualifying factor.

### THE BENNY CODE

Were Hinn and White **invited to Rome by the Vatican** as patrons of the arts? The facts say otherwise. Christian Research Services Emailed (8/11/2010) the Vatican to inquire. He asked if Hinn was invited to the Vatican and did he become a patron of the arts to maintain the works of Michelangelo. He asked also if White met with Vatican officials and if she donated money. This is part of the response from a Vatican spokesman Fr. Mark Haydu LC; "To my knowledge, Paula White or Benny Hinn were not invited to the Vatican Museums in any official context, not did we find anyone on our donors database of patrons under those names", (both Emails on file).

There was another swift denial from another official Vatican source. The Norwegian Daily contacted the Vatican and a response came from the Vatican Secretariat Fredrico Lambordi. Lambordi denied that Hinn and White had any official invitation anywhere around the time Benny claimed. It seems like not even the Vatican wanted anything to do with the vacationing duo.

One could sit in disbelief as to how some totally inept and bungling people can rise to the top of the religious celebrity chain and stay there no matter how flawed. It is easy to grasp when one understands the phenomenon of the cult of celebrity. 1Corinthians 1:11-13 touches on it and books have been written about it. Cooper Lawrence's book *The Cult of Celebrity* explains the superstar-making mechanism in chapter 3; "How Stars Are

Created: The Machine”, (The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut, 2009). Money fires up and drives the machine and its operators are attorneys, handlers, PR firms, damage control experts, make up artists, advertisers, other hangers on. TV Evangelism is an industry and it is funded by millions of followers who want the illusion to be true. It is truly a celebrity soap opera.

#### STRANG, BLOOD, CONTRACT, LAWSUIT AND PAULA WHITE - AGAIN

The year 2011 was as unkind to Hinn as 2010. On February 17, 2011 a news release from Sanford Florida blared; “Publisher: Faith healer violated our morality clause”. The article revealed that Strang Communications had a lawsuit filed accusing Hinn for infractions of his contract and unmet promises as it related to his book, Blood in the Sand; “A Lake Mary publisher is suing televangelist and Faith healer Benny Hinn, saying he violated a morality clause in their contract when he began an ‘inappropriate relationship’ with another evangelist, and thus, must pay \$250,000. In August, Hinn admitted to a friendship with evangelist Paula white after the National Enquirer published photos of them in Rome, holding hands. Hinn was married at the time. His wife, Suzanne, had filed for divorce a few months earlier. Three years earlier, Hinn had signed a three-book deal with Strang Communications Co. of Lake Mary. He was paid a \$300,000 advance on the first one, Blood in the Sand, according to the suit. Hinn acknowledged to his publisher ‘his inappropriate relationship’ with white in august, according to the suit, and agreed that the publisher should get back its money, but he has yet to pay up....Strang also accused Hinn of violated (sic) the contract by failing to work hard enough to market Blood in the Sand. He failed to make television appearances to promote it”, (Rene Stutzman, Orlando Sentinel). Strang may have forgotten that 1 Corinthians 6:1 is still in the Bible.

#### CELEBRITY COLLAPSE

Each year on March 11 Israel recognizes the anniversary of what is called the Coastal Road Massacre. On that horrendous day, on March 11, 1978, a group of terrorists from Lebanon (led by a 19 year old female Dalal Mughrabi) infiltrated Israel’s coastline above Netanya near Maagan Michael. They first killed an American female photographer Gail Rubin cold bloodily on the beach. They then hijacked an Israeli bus and went on a grenade throwing and shooting spree along the coastal road toward Tel Aviv. A second bus was commandeered and the occupants on the first bus were forced onto the second. Stopped after about 25 miles by road blocks near Herzlia the terrorists opened fire in a shoot out and then opted to blow up the bus. The death toll was 37 Israeli’s killed, 13 of which were children and 71 wounded which was the largest single incident of terror-caused deaths in Israel’s history. President Jimmy Carter had been there the week before

on a “peace” mission and this was the Arab response. I arrived in Israel 3 days after the event and the sorrow and grief across the country was palpable. I have never forgotten it. We traveled the coastal road and our guide reviewed the events.

In a shameless, heartless and confrontational act the Palestinian Authority on March 11 2010 dedicated a monument and memorial in Ramallah in the name of arch terrorist and coastal bomber Dalal Mughrabi, (Haaretz, March 15, 2010, Khaled Abu Toameh, Fatah holds ceremony naming square after terrorist). The Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin reported on July 29, 2010 that a Palestinian youth Camp in Bethlehem had been named after Mughrabi, (Summer camp for ‘young leaders’ named after terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, by Itamar Marchus and Barbara Crook, July 29, 2010).

We cringe at such a horrific casualty count and the ongoing consequences of the massacre on the coastal road yet the casualty count engendered at the hands of self proclaimed healing evangelists is truly more enormous, heartbreaking and of far greater eternal consequence. Those that discard medicines prematurely based on false hope are the unnumbered physical toll. Added to that is an unknown spiritual toll because of false doctrine and false prophecies that eventually lead to skepticism and the destruction of real faith. Even the Tel Evangelists themselves are casualties of their own machinations.

Benny and Suzanne Hinn have long become casualties of their own hubris and luxury lifestyles. They are horrible examples and models. They tried for years to keep the wreckage hidden and to keep the financial empire afloat. They are reaping the unintended consequences of their own celebrity and hypocrisy. They are the casualties of pretensions without power and emotions disconnected from Scripture and run amuck. Peter Washington astutely observes the chasm between stardom and reality; “the price of stardom is a painful and damaging dislocation the individuals self consciousness and the way others see him - between the public persona and the private life”, (Madame Blavatsky’s Baboon, Schocken Books, New York, 1995, page 308). A slain marriage is a terrible tragedy with decades of negatives no matter whose marriage it is. Hinn needs to pack up, get out of business and get his life and home together. “What does it profit a man if he gains Dana Point and loses his own wife and family”.