

argument. So, let me say without hesitation that my predictions did not come true. The events did not take place. ... So, at this point in the aftermath of the rollover, I look foolish. I was prepared for this. I thought it was better to risk my reputation or credibility in a life-saving effort than to tell people, 'yes, Y2K will cause problems,' and then refuse to define what degree of problems and what to prepare for."

Still, some may question the sincerity of North's wordy confession. Anybody who writes that much to apologize (over 4500 words) isn't really apologizing — especially when North, throughout, puts the blame onto others. As well, his confession falls short of Christian reconciliation in that he fails to ask forgiveness. His apology also concludes with an appeal for ministry donations to continue the work.

Moreover, his words of regret are posted, not on his ministry's web site (www.GaryNorth.com), but on the DiscoverTruth.com web site. (If it does appear on North's site, it is not readily available and is well hidden among a maze of documents.) North's ministry, on its web site, continues to publish and promote the same "doom and gloom reports" of Y2K devastation. As such, web surfers who log onto the site are completely unaware that any apology was issued.

—MKG

NEWS UPDATES

(continued from page 3)

bringing them closer to the TV set and as people are coming closer, I see loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen and people are getting raised as their hands are touching that screen," Hinn said. "The word will spread that if some dead person be put in front of this TV screen, they will be raised from the dead — and they will be by the thousands," Hinn promised the Crouches and the viewers of their *Praise the Lord* show.

Yet Hinn had much more to tell viewers of the world's largest network of religious stations. "TBN will no longer be just a television network, it will be an extension of heaven to earth. ... The Lord just said to me these words, ... 'TBN will not only be a Christian network, it will be an extension of heaven to the earth,'" he declared. Hinn went on to say, "So if you want to go to heaven, if you want to see heaven, if you want to taste heaven — turn on that channel because you will."

Once again Hinn's declarations put him more at home with the occult than a biblical setting. His concept that TBN is to become an open passage to a higher spiritual realm closely resembles an occult vortex known as a "Cone of Power," through which spiritual powers energize agents on earth.

Hinn also weakens his claim of divine revelation for the careful listener. "Now the Lord just told me — and I don't know whether this is true or not..." he said during the TBN broadcast.

—MKG

ENGLAND DENIES SCIENTOLOGY CHARITABLE STATUS

The foreign crusade of the Church of Scientology suffered yet another setback when it recently was "denied the tax benefits that go with gaining charitable status in England and Wales," according to a Religious News Service article. The December 9 ruling was one more defeat in Europe for the Los Angeles-based sect. Germany and several other European nations have opposed the church, claiming it is "more a business than a genuine religious movement," the report stated.

Similarly, the Charity Commission, which oversees and regulates charities in England and Wales, stated the controversial group did not meet the qualifications of a "public benefit" organization, which is a primary requirement in securing charitable status. However, the church was granted nonprofit tax status in Sweden.

The church responded to the Charity Commission's decision by saying they were "wrong on the law and wrong on the facts," according to the Associated Press. Scientology says it has 15,000 followers in England.

—MKG

BOOKS IN REVIEW

(continued from page 24)

- Balancing submission and authority,
- Balancing covering and counseling,
- Balancing sorrow and joy,
- Balancing the Law and the Gospel,
- Balancing the church and family, and much more.

Adams succeeds in his purpose: "It is my hope to observe the importance of proper balance in a number of specific areas, to point out some of the imbalances currently weakening the church, to describe the sorts of influences that tend to knock Christians off balance, and to suggest some of the ways in which to counter these. So far as I can tell, there has been a lack of interest in this subject that, consequently, has resulted in great confusion" (page viii).

This book is recommended, knowing it will help to keep you on track and balanced.

—GRF