
News Updates

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE ...

Several pieces of fine jewelry from the estate of the late healing evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman turned up on a Beverly Hills' auctioning block in early May. The jewelry was only a small part of Kuhlman's entire estate, which had been bequeathed to D.B. (Tink) Wilkerson and his wife, Sue.

In 1997, Wilkerson was contacted by B.C. Talbott, who is writing a biography on Kuhlman. After several meetings between the two, Wilkerson gave Kuhlman's belongings to the Dallas woman and her husband. Wilkerson stated, "I felt like they would do the right thing and that we would do what God wanted us to do — not use (the estate) to make money."

The Wilkersons only became active in Kuhlman's ministry during the last few months before the faith healer's death in February 1976. In December 1975, while in failing health, Kuhlman drafted a new will, which left the majority of her estate to the Wilkersons. Following her death, this new will raised the suspicion of longtime employees of the Kathryn Kuhlman Foundation. Kuhlman's early biographer, Jamie Buckingham, noted in his book *Daughter of Destiny*, "She evidently did a lot of things she would not have done had her body been functioning correctly."

Charisma magazine reported that the auctioned items were said to be distinguished "not only because Kuhlman was well-known, but also because the pieces are high-quality and hard-to-find." The magazine noted that the "most valuable" object was "a turn-of-the-century frog brooch containing green garnets that are brilliant in color and consistent in size."

Other personal items from Kuhlman's estate, but excluded from the auction, also were recently disclosed. These included a Louis Vuitton purse which contained false eyelashes, driver's license, keys, credit cards and a fake ID. Her marriage license, divorce papers and ordination certificate were also among the unveiled items. Talbott reportedly has received calls from both Benny Hinn and Roberts Liardon who have expressed an interest in buying the remaining estate items.

The magazine article also stated that Wilkerson said the proceeds from the auction are to go for the support of selected and worthwhile ministries.

—MKG

LOURDES AND FATIMA ENDORSED BY HINN

Faith healer Benny Hinn has spawned more confusion in the last decade than most preachers in recent history. Perhaps his insistence on advocating strange things stems from his own confusion or his desire to play to a larger constituency. Perhaps it is both.

Hinn appeared on the April 23 installment of *Larry King Live*. King challenged him as to why he doesn't go from "bed to bed" in hospitals with his healing power. Hinn indicated that he does visit hospitals and when he prayed for people, there were some who were healed but others who were not. He then offered King this explanation as to his mixed results: "But, you see, the gift does not work when you want it to work. The anointing must be there."

The driving force of his ministry then came to light as he told King: "In a crusade — in a meeting when I am ministering, the anointing of God comes on me and that's when things happen." Yet all of this begs the question: Why would the Holy Spirit limit Himself to work in power in only emotionally charged meetings? Hinn would have us believe that the anointing comes and goes but mostly comes in arenas and convention centers. Hinn's concept takes issue with Scripture as 1 John 2:27 states: "The anointing which you have received from Him abides in you."

Hinn then endorsed the reputed divine healing power of the Marian shrines at Lourdes and Fatima. He told King and the viewing audience: "Look, God has given us, Larry, many sources of healing. Look at Lourdes. People have been healed going to Lourdes and Fatima. There was a pool, even in the Bible, the pool of Bethesda, where the angels stirred the water — people were also healed. So God has given us many avenues of healing. He wants us to be healed."

It is disturbing to see Hinn put these two extrabiblical shrines in the same category as a biblical event. It must also be noted that in the incident in John 5, the man was healed by Jesus (John 5:12-13) and Bethesda is never mentioned again after this chapter. (It is a dry archaeological ruin today.) Further, no one is ever pointed back to it for help or healing. In Acts 3 the man is not pointed to the pool (which was nearby) but to Christ (Acts 3:6). Whatever temporary mercy God had shown at Bethesda ended with the person of Christ. But the point must be made that there is a universe of distance between what

(continues on page 23)