

HAL'S BACK

Following a 13-month hiatus, prophecy author and news commentator Hal Lindsey will be returning to the Trinity Broadcasting Network. In December 2005, TBN canceled his "International Intelligence Briefing" program because of his outspoken views on radical Islam. In January, TBN announced that Lindsey would be back on the network with a new current-events broadcast, "The Hal Lindsey Report." The announcement came from Paul Crouch Jr., TBN's Vice president of Administration, who said, "We are pleased to welcome Hal Lindsey back to TBN's lineup of award-winning programming."

TBN management contends that Islam is essentially a peaceful religion; Lindsey argues otherwise. That disagreement led to the cancellation of his "International Intelligence Briefing" program. While TBN indicated a desire to have Lindsey return to its airwaves over a year ago, Lindsey said he would not because of the network's efforts to suppress his opinions. At that time Lindsey told WorldNetDaily, "I am not going back to TBN. There's a friendship there, but also differences in opinion in what ought and ought not to be presented. And I don't want any censorship." (See "TBN Pulls Plug on Lindsey," *The Quarterly Journal*, April-June 2006, pg. 3.)

Lindsey said his new broadcast would examine current events and national and international issues from a biblical perspective, and that it would be hard-hitting, informative, and inspirational. Following the announcement, the weekly program began airing on Friday evenings. Lindsey's return to TBN will yield him a potential audience of an estimated 100 million homes in the U.S. alone.

—MKG

PURPOSE DRIVEN, BUT BIBLICALLY INCORRECT

Social causes and shared agendas can make for strange bedfellows. Rick Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California, demonstrated this last December when he allowed Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., to speak at his church during Warren's second annual Global Summit on AIDS.

Even before the Dec. 1 seminar, called "We Must Work Together," a group of Christian leaders tried to persuade Warren to withdraw the invitation. "The evangelical

church can provide no genuine help for those who suffer from AIDS if those involved do not first have their ethic of life firmly rooted in the Word of God," the group charged in its appeal to Warren.

Obama, who professes to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and who is a member of a United Church of Christ congregation, favors keeping abortion — including partial-birth abortion — legal and has supported some positions favored by the homosexual lobby. In his recently published book, *The Audacity of Hope*, he includes a description of his "conversion" and his religious beliefs. And while he has called on Americans to embrace "faith" in their daily lives, he is not specific about which faith they should embrace.

Those attending the summit greeted Obama with a standing ovation, according to American Family Radio reporter Jim Brown. Rock singer Bono, who also professes to be a Christian, and Bill Gates also addressed the conference via video.

Kevin McCullough of WMCA Radio suggested in an editorial, "There is definitely something for Barack Obama to gain by appearing in Rick Warren's pulpit — the implied endorsement and blessing for the 2008 presidential race." McCullough said his listeners were hung up on when they called Saddleback Church to express concern over Warren's aligning himself with Obama.

Warren justified his invitation and sought to silence his critics by responding that "Jesus loved and accepted others without approving of everything they did. That's our position too."

—MKG

MISSING BOY FOUND IS EMBARRASSMENT FOR PSYCHIC

People called it the "Missouri Miracle." On Jan. 12, law enforcement agents discovered in a St. Louis suburb two boys who had been abducted more than four years apart. William "Ben" Ownby, age 13, had gone missing just four days earlier, while Shawn Hornbeck, now age 15, had been missing since October 2002, after being abducted while riding his bike near his home 60 miles from St. Louis. The hero in this amazing saga was

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The strategy worked. A Florida dog-track owner sent Roberts what he needed, sparing us from finding out if the threat against Roberts would be carried out. However, the City of Faith sat vacant for several years before being sold to a group of investors for commercial development. It turned out to be a monument to a false prophet.

God has now given him those 20 years. And in those two decades Roberts has, time and again, shown himself to be a false prophet. Roberts claims to speak with divine unction, but in fact states ill-conceived ideas from his own mind and attributes them to God, much as the prophets of Jeremiah's day:

"Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. ... I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied" (Jeremiah 23:16, 21, emphasis added).

Roberts repeatedly has had to retreat to silence about his failed prophecies or, when he did address them, has claimed he did not "possess all the information." This, of course, discredits Roberts' claim to speak for the Almighty, unless God is not omniscient or willfully misinformed him.

During these past 20 years, Roberts also continued an unhealthy affiliation with and indulgence of other false prophets and aberrational teachers, including Benny Hinn and Paula White. It is a sad legacy: A litany of false prophecies that kept his "partners" sowing their financial "seed-faith" to keep his dreams alive. The Apostle Peter warned of such teachers when he wrote:

"Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping" (2 Peter 2:2-3, NIV).

—MKG

NEWS UPDATES

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Ownby's schoolmate, Mitchell Hults, who gave investigators a detailed description of a white Nissan pickup truck in the area at the time of Ownby's disappearance. That clue eventually led to the discovery of the two boys.

Throughout the Hornbeck story, there were many individuals who never stopped offering the hope that Shawn would safely return home. Yet the outcome proved to be a major embarrassment for one prominent psychic, who offered no hope to Shawn's family.

Four months after Shawn's disappearance, his mother and stepfather sought the help of popular psychic Sylvia Browne. Browne appeared on the Feb. 26, 2003, broadcast of *The Montel Williams Show*. The parents were in the audience and were able to interact with the psychic. When she was asked if Shawn was still alive, Browne shook her head and said, "No." Shawn's mother wept at her answer.

Browne also gave Shawn's parents and the audience a description of the abductor, "The guy was dark-skinned. Although he wasn't black, he was more Hispanic-looking. [He] had real long dark hair and strange enough, Hispanic, he had dreadlocks." The man with whom Shawn had been living with and who has been charged in the abduction is a white male who bears no resemblance to the man Browne described.

A week following Shawn's rescue, his parents told CNN reporter Anderson Cooper that they were told if they wanted to talk further with Browne they could, "at her normal standard fee." Those who have monitored Browne's operation said she charges \$700 for a session lasting from 20 to 60 minutes.

Psychic debunker James "The Amazing" Randi, on the Jan. 26 broadcast of *Larry King Live*, said Browne's methodology was standard fare for clairvoyants. "These people, when they're wrong, they're usually dramatically wrong. When they're right, they're only right with common things that you would expect to be true," Randi told King. The probability was that Shawn had been killed and Browne echoed that expectation, Randi noted.

Browne, on her web site, countered the accusations saying, "I have **never** nor ever will charge anyone who seeks my help regarding a missing person or homicide. ... To be accused of otherwise by James Randi and others like him is a boldface lie. ... As I have stated on Montel, on my radio show, in my books and in each of my lectures, I cannot possibly be 100% correct in each and every one of my predictions. I have never claimed to be."

—MKG

TELEVANGELIST SUED BY FAMILY

The positive-confession theology of televangelist Darlene Bishop has her headed for court as a result of a lawsuit brought by the four children of her late brother. Darrell "Wayne" Perry, a country songwriter, died in May 2005 of throat cancer.

Perry's children have accused their aunt of wrongful death, clergy malpractice, and fraud. The lawsuit alleges that Bishop persuaded her brother to suspend chemotherapy treatment in favor of divine healing. In a separate lawsuit, which went before a judge on Jan. 5, Bishop was accused of probate irregularities and the