

## SATAN'S EX-WIFE DIES

The woman who claimed to have risen to the top ranks of witchcraft and satanism — to the point of being married to Satan himself — is dead.

Edna Elaine Knost died Feb. 19, 2005. She was 59.

Knost gained a brief measure of notoriety in some circles after teaming with Ruth Bailey — an Indiana physician turned spiritual warfare fanatic. Knost and Bailey claimed to have fought the forces of darkness by leading more than a thousand people in their small Indiana community out of hard-core satanism and into Christianity during a two-year span. Eventually, the pair said, satanists drove them from the region. Facts reveal a less sinister reason for their departure. In the fall of 1983, legal and medical officials in the area began to mount a major investigation of Bailey's medical practices, which led to her losing her license.

Knost and Bailey fled to California where they peddled their wild tales to tract publisher Jack Chick. Chick, always on the lookout for bizarre stories, previously had published the fabrications of John Todd and Alberto Rivera. Chick collected and printed Bailey and Knost's accounts in two full-length books, *He Came to Set the Captives Free* (1986) and *Prepare for War* (1987), which were published with Rebecca Brown, M.D., as the author. Bailey, after arriving in California, had her name legally changed to Rebecca Brown.

In Brown's books, Knost, identified only as "Elaine," reported that as an infant her mother unknowingly sold her to Satan. She claimed that, as a teenager, she was inducted into Satan's service at a "witch camp." She also said that at a national competition of witches, she surpassed all her colleagues and was named top witch. This position, she maintained, allowed her to become "Satan's representative on an international level," traveling the world, meeting with heads of state and foreign dignitaries to negotiate the sale of arms. Knost, around 1980, came in contact with Bailey as the result of a hospital stay and was purportedly converted to Christianity.

As the 1980s came to a close, Knost dropped out of sight. According to Brown's web site, "For several years prior to her death Elaine was in very poor health and lived quietly. She was not in a public ministry of any sort." Brown's association with Knost and publisher Jack Chick concluded around the time she married Daniel Yoder in December 1989. Yoder, like Knost, made incredible biographical claims and told preposterous tales.

In 1989, following numerous inquiries, PFO began a major study of the theology and claims which Brown and Knost were making for themselves. Several articles were published in various editions of this journal, with the prominent reports being collected and published in booklet form under the title *Drugs, Demons and Delusions*.

—MKG

## MEYER HOMES UP FOR SALE

Two of the five palatial homes owned by Joyce Meyer Ministries are reported to be up for sale. The asking price for both homes is more than \$2.5 million.

Meyer and her husband, Dave, live in one of the five residences in the compound. The other four are occupied by the Meyers' married children and their spouses. The two homes up for sale are used by her children and flank the house where the Meyers live.

Meyer's ministry pays all expenses for the homes, including property taxes, utilities, landscaping, and renovations. Meyer and her children live in the homes free of charge as employees of the ministry. Mark Sutherland, spokesman for Meyer's ministry, indicated that the other three homes may be placed on the market as well. According to a report in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, "Joyce Meyer, her husband, and their four children all serve on the board of directors that makes financial decisions for the ministry."

In late 2003, the St. Louis newspaper featured a four-part report on Meyer, calling attention to her extravagant personal lifestyle at the expense of ministry finances. As a result, Wall Watchers, a non-profit organization watchdog group, called upon the Internal Revenue Service to investigate Meyer and her family.

According to Rusty Leonard, founder of the North Carolina-based Wall Watchers, "The sale of those houses is an indication that either the IRS is breathing down Joyce Meyer's neck or her lawyers are telling her to do something before the IRS does. The fact that they have huge homes owned by the ministry is very questionable."

The IRS refused comment on whether it was conducting a specific investigation of Meyer or her ministry. According to federal law, funds acquired from the sale of the homes must be returned to the ministry.

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