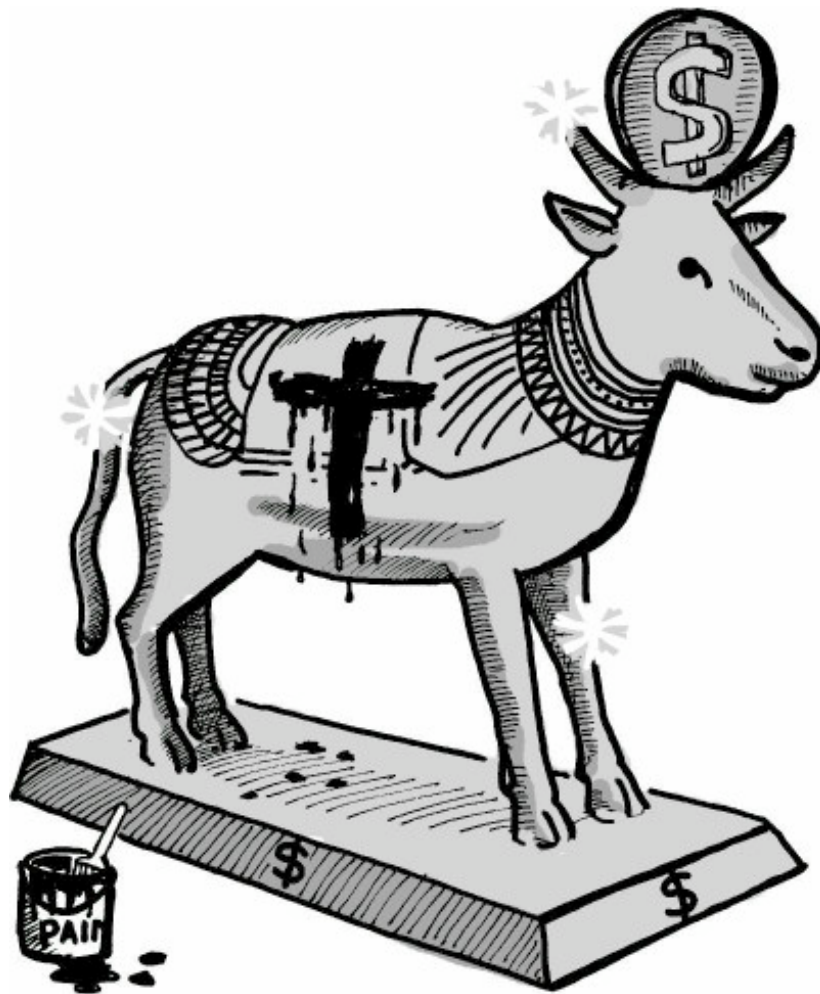


**“But Those Who Desire To Be Rich...”**



# **MULTI-LEVEL MARKETING ...AND THE CHURCH**

**Author – Darren Hunter**

**No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

**Matthew 6:24**

# Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What The Booklet Is Not</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What Is The Purpose Of This Booklet?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A Typical Story</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>What Is Multi-Level Marketing?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Where The Danger Lies</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>The Desire To Be Rich</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Seduction Of The Heart</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Spiritual Adultery</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Looks Like...Smells Like...Feels Like...</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>The Truth Hurts</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>A Self Test</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Making A Choice</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>A Time Of Readjustment</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Be Content</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Resources For Further Study</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>22</b>

Scripture (except where indicated) taken from the HOLY BIBLE,  
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by  
International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing  
House.

All rights reserved.

Cover title "But those who desire to be rich" used from **1 Timothy 6:9**  
**(New King James Version)**

Written and Cover Illustration **By Darren Hunter**  
Contact by email- **hunterdk@bigpond.com**

## **Copying of Booklet:**

Permission is granted to anyone that wishes to copy and distribute this booklet by any means. It is the desire of the author for this booklet to be distributed in whatever way possible- **free of charge**. However it is the author's request that any reproduction be done of the whole and complete booklet, and not parts or fragments, except where using for quoting, and proper credit of authorship given.

**© 2005 Darren Hunter**

It is my wish and prayer that this booklet be distributed as much as possible.  
Please distribute to everyone and anyone who are a Christians, especially  
Church Leaders.

# Introduction

The church today is under attack.

Wrong teaching and false gospels have made their way into the congregation. Humanism, evolutionary concepts and liberalism are but a few.

When something subtle creeps in, it gets past the door, not recognised and can be left to prosper unchecked. It looks right, sounds great and appears to be non-threatening on the surface.

But the damage it can create is cause for concern for all Christians.

It takes a leader with keen spiritual insight to recognise the truth behind it and discernment to know how to properly counteract it.

Sometimes the right information is not available.

This is the purpose of this booklet.

## What This Booklet Is Not

This booklet is not written to criticise the products that are distributed by the companies involved in 'Multi-Level Marketing' (MLM) or 'Network Marketing' as it is less commonly known.

A product is 'a thing' and 'a material'. This means that in and of itself it has no power. It is made of non-living material and has no ability to conduct any action or persuasion of its own accord.

In fact, most of the MLM companies are based on products that generally are of value and quality.

Therefore this booklet is not about criticising 'the product'. The product is simply the wheels to transport the engine of a MLM business.

Nor is it my intention to be critical of the people who may be involved in MLM themselves. As individuals they are, for all intents and purposes, well meaning people. It is the purpose and structure of MLM that will be addressed.

Further, the message of this booklet is not directed at the non-Christian. This booklet speaks about how MLM affects the Christian spiritually. Because a non-Christian does not understand and has not experienced Christ, the issues presented in this booklet may come across as irrelevant.

A lot can also be written about the concerns of MLM from a secular point of view. This booklet will aim at primarily spiritual concerns.

## **What Is The Purpose Of This Booklet?**

The purpose of this booklet is to warn Christians of the counterfeit nature and deception that is associated with the 'idolatry' behind MLM.

It is to teach and equip Christians with the right information regarding MLM, the purpose behind it and how to discern it's teaching from that of God's Word.

It is hoped it will also speak to those caught up in 'the business' and act as a wake-up call to those questioning why 'it looks so good, but doesn't ring true!'

## **A Typical Story**

### **The Invitation**

Wally has been a committed Christian for a year.

He regularly attends his local church with his wife Wendy and their 2 children.

Wally and Wendy have a basic understanding of the bible and have done the 'new Christian course'. They are progressing in their faith, and God's call to discipleship.

Bill has also been attending the same church for several years, however for the last few months he has become involved in 'another business' on top of his regular 'nine to five' job.

Bill phones Wally one evening.

"Hi Wally, its Bill. I am wondering if you would be interested in a business opportunity where you could make and save some money?"

Wally is curious at Bill's approach. "Sure I would, but what is it about?"

"It's a bit hard to explain over the phone. I was hoping if I could come and see you and Wendy" says Bill, obviously side-stepping the question.

"Not a problem, but could you tell me what it is?" Wally says, a little unsure of Bill's intent.

"It's too complicated to give you a full picture at this point. When can I come and see you...what about next Tuesday night?"

The appointment is made.

Wally, realising that he will not get his question answered, resigns himself to the explanation and shelves his curiosity until the appointed time.

Bill arrives on schedule. Bill is dressed in a business tie and shirt and looks a bit different than at church.

He is invited inside by Wally and Wendy. All three then sit down at the kitchen table. Bill begins by questioning the couple.

"What is your dream" he asks? "If you had an extra \$1000 a week, what would you do with it?"

At first Wally and Wendy were not sure, but after a little encouragement they were able to come up with a list of things on a piece of paper. Things like a new car, a bigger house, a holiday overseas.

Bill goes on- "What if you were financially free? What if you only woke up- when you wanted, and not because you have to get up? What if you didn't have to work at all?"

Bill went on to explain the concept of the business. Drawing a diagram on paper, he explains how Wally and Wendy could save some money.

He explained that by purchasing a whole variety of products at wholesale prices through their own business they could save a lot of money. They wouldn't need to buy them from the supermarket anymore, so again they would save time and money.

Further, if they went out and showed their friends how to also do the same, they would be able to make money as well.

By now Wally and Wendy are really interested!

Only at the end of Bill's presentation are they told that the company name is 'Squishy Inc.!' This left them surprised as they didn't realise 'this company' marketed such a large range of products. They thought that they just sold sponges!

Bill then gives them a cassette tape, a catalogue and a couple of the products to sample. He left stressing that they must listen to the tape, and he will be back in a few days to collect everything.

Wally listened to the tape. The speaker on the recording was successful with Squishy Inc. and told how he was sick and tired of his 'nine to five' job,

stumbled across this business opportunity and now is making more money than he can count!

His quality of life is so much better, he doesn't have to worry about the bills and most importantly he doesn't have to work anymore.

Wally was really starting to think this could be an answer to some of the financial pressures they had been going through.

## **A Little Goes A Long Way!**

Bill returns to collect the tape, the catalogue and the product. Wally shows some interest in taking the business further.

Bill then invites Wally and Wendy to a meeting.

When they arrive they find a hall filled with a couple of hundred people dressed like it was a business function.

The people introduced to Wally and Wendy display a friendly and genuine interest in them. More obvious is that everyone seems so 'motivated' and 'fired up' with enthusiasm.

Bill pointed out some Christians who were attending. They were shocked to see so many Christians involved! Bill also explained that there were pastors and ministers involved in Squishy Inc. as well!

Wally and Wendy felt reassured. So many Christians were involved- it had to be right!

The speaker that night talked again about dreams and goals and how 'this business' could make you 'financially free'.

It was at this point in time that Wally and Wendy commit themselves to 'working the business'.

They paid the joining fee, signed the paperwork and became 'distributors'.

Bill, now formally Wally and Wendy's 'upline' support begins to call them and visit them on a regular basis.

Wally and Wendy were told that to build the business fast, they needed to purchase some 'tools'.

These consisted of teaching tapes of successful people within the business and 'positive thinking' books. Further, they were encouraged to attend meetings, training seminars and rallies locally.

Several times a year weekend conferences were also held and it was 'encouraged' that they attend if they really wanted to become successful in a short period of time.

## **Kaching! Friends Equal Dollars!**

Bill also urged Wally and Wendy to make a list of everyone 'they knew' along with their contact phone numbers. From close friends at church, to family members, relatives, work colleagues and anyone else they were acquainted with.

Bill then explained that the list 'represents a lot of money' and their financial future. The list of a couple hundred names could contain several people that would help them get to their dreams and goals. They would just have to find them.

Bill trains Wally to phone all of these people one by one. He is to promote the idea of a 'business opportunity' and not mention the company name. The reason for this, Bill explained is that you do not want people to have preconceived ideas of what they consider the company to be. This can only be disclosed after 'the whole picture is given'. The phone call is simply to get the appointment -nothing more.

Wally is at first apprehensive about calling all of his friends for 'a business opportunity', as he doesn't want to come across as opportunistic with a 'hidden agenda'. Further, his conscience is finding it hard to comprehend 'making money' from his friends.

Bill, sensing Wally's feelings adds "That list is worth a lot of money! How much do you want for it? I'll give you \$200! If you can't call them, I will! As long as you don't mind me signing them up as my recruits!"

Wally, obviously not wanting to miss out tells Bill 'he can keep his \$200!'

Bill, satisfied that Wally got the point of the exercise now knows what Wally will be doing with the list.

Sure enough, Wally starts phoning people. After a few 'no's', Wally is a little discouraged, but plods along. He then gets his first appointment. Some of his friends are negative. But what's the harm after all, he is simply promoting the idea to make and save some money.



## Fully Committed

A few months later, things have changed in Wally and Wendy's lives.

Wally has now signed up several people, a couple of whom are also starting to 'work the business'.

Wally and Wendy now employ a regular baby sitter for one to two nights of the week when they both go to various meetings and appointments.

Wally also goes out other nights of the week on his own to meetings and appointments to promote the business. In all, Wally may be out 4 nights of the week, plus several hours on the weekend. This is on top of his nine to five job!

They both listen to teaching tapes every day and are devouring the 'positive thinking' books. They are fed constantly with the message they are 'winners', and they can succeed at the business. They believe they are able to achieve anything if they just believe they can do it!

Their priorities have changed. Where church activities were before priority, building their Squishy Inc. business is now the most important. They no longer associate all that much with people outside 'the business', and view anyone in church as 'prospects'.

Besides, they believe no Christian is complete without Squishy Inc. in their life!!

It is their passion! They eat, sleep, and think about it night and day. Every spare moment seems to be filled to listening to motivational tapes and reading the books, attending meetings and seminars.

Previous witnessing opportunities now are replaced with business prospecting opportunities. They are always on the look out to make contact with people for this purpose. Wally has even gone to the shopping mall just looking for 'prospects'.

God has now become someone that is secondary to them. It is now their business that will in future supply their hopes and dreams and provide an ongoing income without measure.

Wally and Wendy say to their business and non-business friends that 'God is number one and He is the one that led them to the business in the first place'. Deep down however, they both know this is not the case. Their actions and obvious 'obsession' with the business indicate otherwise.

Their passion for Jesus is gone. Their church attendance, even though is still happening is not as regular as before. Their desires are now founded in the business.

## **Spiritual Seduction**

Deep down they feel something is not quite right. The peace that God once provided is now replaced with 'motivation, positive thinking and self belief'. They still feel uneasy about parts of the business but don't understand why.

Their hopes and dreams are all centred around the business. They shudder to think what might happen if 'they were not in Squishy Inc. anymore'. All their dreams would vanish like a puff of smoke. They would be devastated!

They are both becoming worn out and not seeing the financial results that they were told would happen if they kept 'working the Squishy Inc. plan'.

This transformation from being recruited to where they are now didn't happen overnight, but over time. The things that Wally and Wendy were doing now would never have been considered before. For example, initially where they felt that they were using their friends for their own financial gain, they now firmly believe 'everyone needs to hear about Squishy Inc.!'.

Wally and Wendy went from Christians full of zeal and joy in the Lord learning to put God and His purposes first, to Christians with little time for serving God beyond church attendance.

## **What Is Network Marketing?**

The story you have read and the company 'Squishy Inc.' are fictitious. However this story is very typical of what happens when MLM creeps into the church unchallenged.

So what is MLM?

MLM is based on the way product is 'moved' or sold. It is also based on the number of people recruited.

The more people you recruit, the more product is sold and the greater the rewards for you. Those recruited are encouraged and trained to recruit others.

Positions within the organisation are based on a hierarchy of promotion.

The more product sold by you and those recruited under you, the further up the levels you climb. The more people in, the more product sold, the bigger the rewards for you.

The higher the level, the greater reward is compounded.

It is this compounding effect of income that is most appealing and is the drive that motivates people to build 'the business big'.

For example- If you sell 5 apples and you make \$1 from each apple, you have made \$5. To make another \$5, you must with the same effort sell another 5 apples.

Instead you recruit 5 other people to sell 5 apples each. For each apple they sell, you get \$1. At the end of the day, if everyone including you sells 5 apples, you will make \$5 from your own sales, plus \$5 from every other person in your group. This equals \$30.

The rewards are far better recruiting as many people as possible to sell the product, than to just sell it yourself.

Large volumes of product can be sold by this method. This is multiplication- the MLM factor!

## Where The Danger Lies

In itself, MLM is quite a legal method of selling a product.

Once the levels are achieved, the financial rewards are great.

However, motivation is required to reach these levels.

A driving desire is crucial to achieve any difficult task. However you need to feed your desire with fuel to achieve your goal.

It is this desire that is necessary to reach the levels where 'your cup runneth over' with financial reward.

It is also the same driving force that will hinder you spiritually, and turn your heart to 'the love of money'.

It is this zeal for riches, wealth and 'financial freedom' that damages the Christian devotion to God.

## The Desire To Be Rich

**1 Timothy 6:9-10** (New King James Version)

**“But those who *desire to be rich* fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the *love of money* is a *root of all kinds of evil*, for which some had strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”** (Emphasis added)

Desire is a powerful thing but like fire, it can be useful or dangerous.

To desire or have a passion for wealth is a warning Scripture gives. It is not money that is the root of evil, *but to have a love, zeal and enthusiasm for it*. This is what causes people to fall away from the faith with their desire and drive for wealth and what it provides.

Scripture also states that it is a gateway to temptation and a trap that will lead to hurt and sorrow.

Christians involved in 'the business' are quick to say God led them to it!!  
 "He wants to use me to bring wealth to the church and help others!"  
 The question is would God lead you to something that encourages you to desire after wealth and 'financial freedom'? Having money to buy everything your heart seeks after?

### **Luke 12:15-21**

**"Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'**

**"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '**

**"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'**

**"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." "**

This rich man was placing his trust and desires in what he had stored up. He did not need to trust in God because he was self sufficient in what he had. He was 'financially free' and was not concerned about next week, next month or even next year!!

He was the master of his own needs and future, as long as his stocks were plentiful. His store house was his 'financial freedom' and source of sufficiency.

This is the foundation of the problem.

Where are your trust and desires founded? Is it founded in trusting God to supply all of your needs, or in a business that will?

A prominent leader and pastor I know stated that God had told him, 'if you keep money out of your heart, God will keep it in your pocket!' "

Jesus again made it clear where your focus must be for the source of your material needs

### **Matthew 6:32- 33**

**“For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”**

Jesus recognised and agreed that we need to be clothed, fed, have shelter and have an income. He knows we need material things to live. However He desires our hearts to be set on our heavenly Father for ‘these things’.

The gospel of MLM preaches loudly “Seek first the building of the business and all your heart desires will be granted you!”. It becomes ‘the way, the truth and the life!’ to the unwary.

Let’s look at another biblical example-

### **Luke 18:19-25**

**““Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.' ”**

**"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.**

**When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."**

**When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ”**

Jesus discerned the awful condition of this man’s heart.

The rich young ruler was proud to state that he kept all the laws that God required of him. In today’s terms, this young man was going to church every Sunday, tithing regularly and was seen to be doing ‘all the right things’.

But Jesus could see that his trust was based on material wealth and possessions. Not in God.

Jesus said ‘How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven’.

He said it is easier for a large animal to pass through a hole a few millimetres long than for a rich person to be allowed into His Kingdom!

Indeed how hard it is!

# Seduction Of The Heart

What do our leaders in our churches see when their members are targeted and 'converted' to MLM and their desires divert from Christ to a financial organisation?

To see their birth, growth and teaching in Christ distracted by the seduction of wealth.

## 1 Timothy 6:10

**“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”**

Sadly some churches are allowing this type of financially motivated recruiting of their members because they do not discern its spiritual consequences, 'the hidden agenda', or what actually goes on within these organisations.

It usually takes a Christian to come out, be restored back to a right relationship with Christ and start ringing the alarm bell as to the damage it causes spiritually. (Ezekiel 33:1-6)

Many of those recruited are quick to say that 'God brought them to the business'! When they are wealthy they will financially support the church and other Christian organisations. However I believe they are attempting to spiritually legitimise the worship of the 'golden calf' <sup>1</sup> erected in their hearts.

Should your heart be set on wealth, no matter how you attempt to 'christianise' it, it will always show its true colours after time. (Matthew 6:21)

The Lord said that you cannot sit on the fence. You either have your heart set on serving Him, or you have it set after serving wealth. You cannot do both.

## Matthew 6:24

**“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”**

The New King James Version uses the word “mammon” instead of “money”.

Mammon is defined as “riches thought of as an evil; material wealth; *worship of mammon*” (*World Book Dictionary*)

---

<sup>1</sup> The 'golden calf' event (Exodus 32) is a realistic example of the idolatry that some Christians will so easily run after. Labelling an idol 'godly' (Exodus 32:4) they believe it will legitimise their message to the congregation. This paves the way for their own financial gain. (1 Tim 6:5)

Money is neutral, 'a material', so therefore scripture is not meaning the possession of money. It means your worship of it- your heart desire toward it. This is what separates you from God.

And separate it does!

These are the typical symptoms that are clearly evident in the Christian once they have their heart set on attaining financial wealth through MLM.

- They always want to find an opportunity to talk about the business.
- Approaching members of the church 'with a business opportunity'.
- The desire for 'financial freedom'.
- Commitment levels to church activities are reduced. In some cases they cease altogether.
- They are ineffective in their witness for Christ. Their zeal is now 'in the business'.
- They spend a lot of time after hours away from their family building 'the business'. This is in addition to their regular job.
- Their spiritual enthusiasm is diminished.

The list can go on and on.

However it is important to recognise the symptoms so that the problem itself can be understood and dealt with.

## **Spiritual Adultery**

Desire is a God-given part of every human heart- but it can be outworked in godly or sinful actions. The desire for wealth comes from our sinful nature. This is caused by greed. The bible teaches us that this is idolatry.

Idolatry can be defined as "a person or thing too much loved or honoured" (Chambers Compact Dictionary)

### **Colossians 3:5**

**"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."**

All through the Old Testament we read story after story of how the children of Israel had abandoned their relationship with God and desired after idols.

Jeremiah was one prophet used by God to expose Israel's unfaithfulness.

Once relying on God for protection and provision (Deut 8:3, 4), they had turned their hearts away from Him and placed their trust in idols. (Jeremiah 2:28)

They had deserted Him who gave them 'living water'. Not only had they stopped drinking from God's spiritual fountain, but had dug 'wells' for themselves. They had deserted God who sustained them to becoming self sufficient without Him.

### **Jeremiah 2:13**

**“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug for themselves their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”**

When a Christian turns their heart affection to a financial organisation to the point that it becomes an idol, it is **spiritual adultery** (Jer 3:6). To then take advantage of other Christians and lead them to partake of the same idol results in God's wrath. (Colossians 3:6, Luke 17:2)

## **Looks like...Smells like... Feels like!**

When first introduced to MLM, you will notice how much like Christianity it appears.

Some of the similarities are:

- A message must be given to others for them to accept 'the business'. The gospel is promoted through telling it to others (Romans 10:14)
- Once recruited, they must be trained. This can be paralleled to discipleship (Matthew 28:19).
- Methods of training involve a rigid reading program and listening to teaching and motivational recordings. This can be related to learning and being trained from God's word (2 Timothy 3:16)
- These people go out and recruit others with the message. This is similar to Christ's sending out of the twelve (Luke 9:6).
- Regular meetings and attending seminars and rallies are part of the training and experience. This is the same for Christians who are encouraged to meet regularly with others in home fellowships and at church.



Christians recruited are impressed by the familiarity of pattern used in the operation of the business, recognising it as using biblical principles. This further convinces them they are involved in something that is right, as it appears the business uses the same blueprint as the Bible.

Cementing their trust in the organisation, they have swallowed a counterfeit 'dressed righteously'.

## **The Truth Hurts!**

I have shared some things that are hard to swallow for those who may be involved at this present time.

Have you been seduced by MLM and now are realising what dangers are involved, and it has affected your relationship with Jesus?

Has this booklet hit home truth that before you couldn't discern? Have you never been quite able to put your finger on the problem?

Has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you? Have you attended meetings, rallies or training sessions and had His voice in your heart warn you, or a sickly spiritual feeling come over you- like something inside you is offended?

God is calling you to a walk with Him. He wants your love, friendship and intimacy.

## **A Self Test**

A good way I believe that you can test your heart motive when 'wanting to help others' in this business is to ask yourself this simple question.

Would you still be 'helping others' in this regard, if there were no money in it? Would you do it for free? Would you still be aggressively contacting friends, relatives and those in the church if there were nothing in it for you?

When you are promoting this concept to those in the church- what is motivating you to do so? Is it really the desire 'to help others', or perhaps you are motivated with what may be going into your pocket?

We can 'sugar coat' our motive and justify ourselves to others, but we cannot fool our conscience and the Holy Spirit!

We must ensure that our motives are pure when we are to help others.

## Making A Choice!

Jesus wants you to come back into His care and provision!

Are you like the rich young ruler saddened by the thought that you have to forsake your idol? Are you afraid to take away the foundation that you have built your goals and dreams on?

Perhaps you are not convinced by what I have shared? Are you upset with terms such as 'adultery' and 'idolatry' relating to what you are involved with?

I challenge you to find out for yourself what I am claiming is true. Research and find out *for yourself* what God has to say about it.

This booklet represents what I believe God has revealed to me regarding the spiritual nature of MLM. I too had been seduced and involved. This booklet is the result of my own revelation and research concerning this matter.

This booklet contains a list of books that that you can use for your own research.

This issue will have serious implications for your relationship with God. It is important that you explore the implications.

## A Time Of Readjustment

I would like to point out that if you are heavily committed you must be aware of the effects of your separating from the business.

My goals and dreams had been emotionally and spiritually 'grafted' to the business. When I turned my back on it and separated myself from the organisation, it left me devastated. I had a black empty void inside me as my dreams and goals were now gone.

I realise now that I went through a time of grieving as I had really lost something that I had grown to love and adore.

I also had a lot of 'friends' in the organisation that didn't really have time for me anymore. It makes sense, because I was not making money for them any longer! That is all the friendship was based on.

It took a time of healing and readjustment back into my walk with God. Bit by bit he revealed to me some of what I have recorded. Slowly I made my way back into His Word and strength. It took time for my mind and heart to be renewed in Him. Be aware of this and be ready for it. After time you will realise what freedom there really is in Christ!

# Be Content

**1 Timothy 6:6** (New King James Version)

**“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”**

The key to satisfaction is not wanting ‘the next best thing’. It is found in being content with where you are now, with what you have- right now!

True contentment can only come through Christ. Together with godliness they are of great benefit to our lives, and can only be appreciated in a relationship with Him.

Christ is our everything! He wants to supply all of our needs- spiritually, emotionally and materially! (Philippians 4:19)

Christ is our **‘Bread of Life’** (John 6:35). He fulfils our hunger. He is the **‘Living Water’**. Drink from Him and you will never thirst again (John 4:14). He is the **‘Light of the World’**. Follow Christ and you will not stumble in darkness. (John 8:12) He is the **‘Good Shepherd’** (John 10:11). Christ protects us from harm that may come our way.

Christ is before all things, above all things and has created all things. The fullness of God is complete in Christ. By His sacrifice and the shedding of His blood, our relationship with God is restored and complete in Him. (Colossians 1:15-20)

The comparison of desiring after wealth and a life in Christ is like comparing a pond of raw sewage to an alpine lake. A rubbish tip to a virgin rainforest. Smog to pure, clean Antarctic air.

Let your desires be founded in Christ. Let your ambitions, dreams and goals for your life be inspired by His Holy Spirit. Jesus is the only treasure you will ever need!

**Matthew 13:44**

**“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in His joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”**

Let **Christ** be your heart desire.

# Resources for Personal Research

Books available- (List Compiled from unknown internet source)

Adams, Jay E., "The Biblical View of Self-Esteem, Self-Love, and Self-Image", copyright 1986, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 ISBN 0-89081-553-4

Allison, C. FitzSimmons, "The Cruelty of Heresy: An Affirmation of Christian Orthodoxy", copyright 1994 by C. FitzSimmons Allison, published by Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Ankerberg, John and Weldon, John, "The Facts on False Teaching in the Church", copyright 1988 by The Ankerberg Theological Research Institute, published by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 ISBN 0-89081-714-6

Ankerberg, John and Weldon, John, "The Facts on the Faith Movement", copyright 1993 by The Ankerberg Theological Research Institute, published by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 ISBN 0-89081-994-7

Ankerberg, John and Weldon, John, "The Facts on the Mind Sciences", copyright 1993 by The Ankerberg Theological Research Institute, published by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 ISBN 1-56507-153-0

Barron, Bruce, "The Health and Wealth Gospel", copyright 1987 by Bruce Barron, published by InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515 ISBN 0-87784-327-9

Bulle, Florence, "God Wants You Rich and Other Enticing Doctrines", copyright 1983 by Florence Bulle, published by Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota ISBN 0-87123-264-2

Bulle, Florence, "The Many Faces of Deception", (this is an updated and expanded version of the previous book) copyright 1983, 1989 by Florence Bulle, published by Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota ISBN 1-55661-075-0

Christie-Murray, David, "A History of Heresy", copyright 1976 by David Christie-Murray, published 1976 by New English Library, first issued in 1989 as an Oxford University Press paperback, Oxford University Press, Oxford OX26DP, United Kingdom

Crenshaw, Rev. Curtis I., Th.D., "Man as God: The Word Faith Movement", copyright 1994 by Footstool Publications, Memphis, Tennessee 38714 ISBN 1-877818-11-9

Forbes, Stephanie, "Help Yourself: Today's Obsession with Satan's Oldest Lie", copyright 1996 by Stephanie L. Forbes, published by Crossway Books, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois ISBN 0-89107-902-5

Hanegraaff, Hank, "Christianity in Crisis", copyright 1993 by Hank Hanegraaff, published by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 ISBN 0-89081-976-9

Hassan, Steve, "Combatting Cult Mind Control", copyright 1988, 1990 by Steve Hassan, published by Park Street Press, Rochester, Vermont 05767 ISBN 0-89281-311-3

Horton, Michael, editor, "The Agony of Deceit", (contains a chapter on the word faith movement and discusses other aberrations as well), copyright 1990 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago ISBN 0-8024-8776-9

Hunt, Dave and McMahon, T.A., "The Seduction of Christianity: Spiritual Discernment in the Last Days", copyright 1985 by Dave Hunt and T.A. McMahon, published by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402

Hunt, Dave, "Beyond Seduction: A Return to Biblical Christianity", copyright 1987 by Dave Hunt, published by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402

Keller, W. Phillip, "Predators in our Pulpits", copyright 1988 by Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 ISBN 0-89081-674-3

Lawless, Agnes C, with Lawless, John W., "The Drift into Deception: The Eight Characteristics of Abusive Christianity", copyright 1995 by Agnes C. Lawless and John W. Lawless, published 1995 by Kregel Resources, an imprint of Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49501 ISBN 0-8254-3163-8

MacArthur, John F. Jr., "Charismatic Chaos", (contains a well-written chapter on the word faith movement), copyright 1992 by John F. MacArthur, Jr., published by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530

McConnell, D.R., "A Different Gospel", copyright 1988, 1995 (the 1995 version is updated and expanded), by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., Peabody, Massachusetts 01961-3473 ISBN 1-56563-132-3

## **Bibliography**

**The Holy Bible- New King James Version**, Copyright 1982  
by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

**The Full Life Study Bible-New International Version**, 1992,  
Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan USA

**World Book Dictionary**-1981, Doubleday & Company,  
Chicago-USA

**Chambers Compact Dictionary**- 1969, W & R Chambers Ltd,  
Edinburgh- Great Britain

Another day off and running  
And I hear somebody pounding on my door  
Its opportunity knocking  
Says what I need is just a little bit more  
Every time I turn around I'm finding  
A chance to climb a little higher up  
But it's never what I thought once I get there  
And I'm left wondering "How much is enough?"

I can live like a prisoner to all that could be  
I'm living in the land of opportunity  
But a heart pure and simple  
Is a heart that stays free  
Living in the land of opportunity  
I'm living in the land of opportunity

**From the Song-"Land of Opportunity"**  
**By Steven Curtis Chapman**  
**"Signs of Life" CD**  
**Sparrow Records**