

Printed Transcript of the Survey Questionnaire Completed by Rev David Bernard, JD

The following is a transcript of the questionnaire compiled by Daniel A. Briggs and completed by Rev David Bernard, JD, who is n/f the General Superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI). David Bernard completed this questionnaire on May 15, 1993, at his office on 4405 Andalusia Drive, Austin, Texas.

BRIGGS: Please state the name of organization with which you are associated.

BERNARD: United Pentecostal Church International.

BRIGGS: Please state where the organization was organized.

BERNARD: St. Louis, MO

BRIGGS: Please state, according to your knowledge, who formed your organization.

BERNARD: Pentecostal Church, Inc. and Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ.

BRIGGS: Please state if the incorporator(s) of your organization was (were) formerly (a) member(s) of another organization.

BERNARD: Yes.

BRIGGS: Please state the approximate current number of clergymen associated with your organization.

BERNARD: 7,600 in U.S. and Canada.

BRIGGS: Please state the approximate number of years you have been with your organization.

BERNARD: Constituent--36 years, Minister--12 years.

BRIGGS: Please state the approximate current number of constituents associated with this organization.

BERNARD: 1.7 million world-wide.

BRIGGS: Please state your title within the organization.

BERNARD: Associate Editor.

BRIGGS: Have you ever heard of Dr. Alfred Adler and the theories he submits (before this research questionnaire)? Please explain your knowledge in as much detail as possible.

BRIGGS: Yes. Post-Freudian psychology. He made consciousness the seat of personality and said people are motivated to achieve superiority. Emphasized aggressive instincts.

BRIGGS: Please state if you have any formal psychological training. Please explain in as much detail as possible.

BERNARD: Yes. 12 semester hours of university studies at Rice University, Houston, TX.

BRIGGS: Would your theology allow you to summarize humanity's main life task as being singular yet tri-directional. e.g., Christ said, " ... the first and great commandment is this, to love ... " (singular task) "... the Lord thy God ... " (1st direction) " ... and to love thy neighbor ... " (2nd direction) " as thyself ... " (3rd direction) " ... and on this hangs all the law and prophets ... "(see diagram below) and that by this one main additudinal life task fruitful and virtuous actions emerge in all three directions?

Tri-Directional Axiom Insert

BERNARD: Generally yes. However, there is no command to love self; that is assumed to be fundamental to human nature. The Christian emphasis is on denying self in order to do God's will, which is ultimately the best for self.

BRIGGS: What is your philosophy regarding an individual being known by his/her fruit, i.e., movement/actions/behavior?

BERNARD: True. A person's true character is best revealed by his actions, conduct, lifestyle, over time. Would you agree that an individual will eventually reveal themselves and/or their deepest feelings if they could freely verbalize or express thoughts and feelings, i.e., ' from the abundance of the heart the mouth spea keth ... '? Usually.

Sometimes people are not articulate, self-deceived, unwilling or unable to explore and reveal their deepest feelings. Christ's statement says that our words come from our heart, but this does not necessarily mean we will reveal all our heart through words.

BRIGGS: Would you agree that if an individual were to freely verbalize their thoughts and feelings, they would come to understand themselves better due to the crystalization of their thoughts and ideas into clear and vivid self elucidation via introspective reflections, i.e., ' ... confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed ... '?

BERNARD: Yes. Again, however, verbalization alone may not accomplish this work totally.

James has some relevance but is not directly on point. Some faults need to be confessed because they are interpersonal; others in order to create accountability. Prayer is vital in the process, not secondary to interpersonal verbalization.

BRIGGS: What is your philosophy regarding humanity's resistances or defenses as a means to avoid being or feeling vulnerable, especially "Christians" who do not want to appear weak or yielding to temptations (which leads to wrong doing i.e., sin), and therefore find it difficult to confess (verbalize) their faults?

BERNARD: People certainly erect such defenses and they do hinder healing, renewal, and forgiveness. Christians often do need to be more open in this regard. Again, however, this is not always the total answer. Some situations do not need to be discussed openly, or at least not indiscriminately.

BRIGGS: Many psychoanalysts agree that psychosis often erupts among individuals who attempt to make peace with God but fail, i.e., to be " ... reconciled to God ... ", or who had a negative spiritual experience. What are your theories about this?

BERNARD: Possibly true. In my view, more commonly it would result from resisting or failing to respond to God's reaching out to them.

BRIGGS: Adler believed that most if not all human beings have some or many faulty assumptions about themselves and/or the world around them, i.e., every man is right in his own eyes ... "or the way which seemeth right to a man leads to destruction What are your theories about this?

BERNARD: True. We cannot trust our own evaluations completely but must submit them to the Word of God and compare them with the views of others.

BRIGGS: Adler believed that most faulty assumptions are corrected (if corrected) through external enlightenment, e.g., the prophet/priest Nathan dealing with King David, or Sammuell dealing with King Saul, preachers preaching to "sinners," etc. What are your theories about this?

BERNARD: Often true, especially if you include God. That is, external enlightenment can occur as an individual communes with God alone.

BRIGGS: What are your opinions of Sigmund Freud?

BERNARD: Some brilliant insights in the formation of psychology, but also many flaws. For example, he was wrong to discount God and religion. He overemphasized the role of sexual lust. He underrated people's ability to make conscious decisions and changes.

BRIGGS: Adler believed that many if not most individuals use "neurotic alibis," i.e., excuses as to why they fail or lack the desire (or interest) to perform the task(s) of life (inside and outside the Christian community). What are your theories about this?

BERNARD: I am not sure about this. In some cases, yes. In many cases the process does not seem as deliberate as this sounds.

BRIGGS: What are your comments about this humanistic statement: "God is a fabrication of the human psyche and is an expression of man's striving for superiority (perfection)?"

BERNARD: It is false .. Evidence for God's existence are both external and internal. We can have encounters and a relationship with God as a personal being distinct from self.

BRIGGS: Do you believe that licensed ministers should possess skills to minister to the whole individual, i.e., spiritual, emotional and psychological?

BERNARD: To a point. All ministers should have some training, both theoretical and practical, in this area, but most will only have a limited level of expertise in some areas. They need to provide spiritual help but recognize their limits when it comes to difficult emotional problems and mental disorders.

BRIGGS: In reference to the preceding question, what are the skills you believe licensed ministers lack most?

BERNARD: 1) Ability to empathize, which develops from genuine love and respect for people and life experiences. 2) Ability to discern patterns of behavior, including causes which comes by both study and experience.

BRIGGS: Would you be interested in receiving printed material for yourself and your organization on Theocentric (God centered) Psychology (study of the soul) if it focused on maturational, human development, psychopathology, demon possession, and depression issues and the Jesus-style method of leadership training, group process, honesty vs. hypocrisy, and the one Tri-Directional Life-Task from a Biblical perspective?

BERNARD: Yes.

BRIGGS: Would you be interested in having a regionally accredited Apostolic University offering baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees if its administrators, professors, adjunct faculty members and staff were spirit-filled Apostolics; if the university was collaborative in nature between major known Apostolic organizations, maintained autonomy and allowed free thinking but not necessarily agreeing with research outcomes; if the professorship was diversified in nature-- only in the sense of different Apostolic, organizational backgrounds; if the articles of faith complied with your fundamental beliefs?

BERNARD: Probably not. It is not practical in the foreseeable future. Lesser steps are needed more, such as upgrading Bible colleges and expanding their curriculum. Many aspects need

further consideration: what kind of academic freedom? Do existing universities offer more diversity that is helpful? Would we be served better by encouraging Apostolics to serve on the faculty of secular universities? Is the immense investment worthwhile compared to more missions-oriented projects? Are our needs in this area basically being met anyway?

BRIGGS: What percentage of ministers in your organization do you think have enough formal psychological education to help parishioners with psychological issues?

BERNARD: If you mean formal education in this field, probably around 10% (this is a purely subjective guess). Informally, however, through life experiences, seminars, reading, and Bible college, I think most can help to some extent. By the same token, many people are not helped significantly by professional counseling. Biblical wisdom, spiritual discernment, and experience with people count a lot.

BRIGGS: What percentage of ministers in your organization do you think have enough formal psychological education to know their limitations and how to refer parishioners out?

BERNARD: Same as the previous question.