



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, No. 35, September 6 , 2016 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

"SAINT?" Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu!

INTERESTINGLY, many evangelical books find a way to include a quote from "Mother" Teresa. Many evangelical pastors rather commonly have a quote from "Mother Teresa" in their sermons. And as you likely have heard, **Agnes has now been decreed to be a 'saint' by the present Roman Catholic pope. In the eyes of multitudes of fellow humans, she is greatly esteemed!** (A variety of sources used in developing the following article)

"Mother" Teresa was born **Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu** of Albanian parents, (in what is now Yugoslavia/Bosnia), on August 27, 1910. She died of a heart attack on September 5, 1997; and she arrived in India on January 6, 1929, where she started assisting the needy and eventually established the now-global "Missionaries of Charity" organization. Ultimately, more than 500 missions in 100 countries were established.

I AM SURE THAT SHE and her co-workers did many good and helpful deeds... and the work she began, continues. While living, she received praise the world over, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. In 1985, she received the highest United States civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom award. **HOWEVER, judged by her own words, as to New Testament Christianity— Agnes was a stranger!**

"Mother" Teresa declared: **"If in coming face to face with God we accept Him in our lives, then we are converting. We become a better Hindu, a better Muslim, a better Catholic, a better whatever we are. ... What God is in your mind you must accept."** (From *Mother Teresa: Her People and Her Work*, by Desmond Doig, p. 156). That is her testimony; and it is not Christian!

Acknowledging that "Mother" Teresa was a servant-hearted, caring woman does not answer the question, **Was "Mother" Teresa a born again, genuine Christian in the Biblical sense?** The tragic reality is that **based on her own testimony**, as compared against the Word of God—even though she has now been decreed to be a saint by the Roman Catholic pope,

Agnes never became a saint while living on earth, as defined by Scripture; and

once she died, it became everlastingly too late!

IN REALITY, "Mother" Teresa was a thoroughgoing Catholic. **She was** a great worshiper of Mary; **she believed** that the piece of bread of the Roman Catholic mass is Jesus Christ; **she believed** all men are children of God. **In her speech** before the United Nations in October 1985, she said, "We gather to thank God for the 40 years of the beautiful work of the United Nations for the good of the people. No color, no religion, no nationality should come between us -- **we are all children of God**. ... When we destroy an unborn child, **we destroy God**" (11/11/85, *Christian News*, p. 17).

On another occasion, she stated, **"Every AIDS victim is Jesus** in a pitiful disguise; **Jesus is in everyone**... [AIDS sufferers are] children of God [who] have been created for greater things" (1/13/86, *Time*). On another occasion, she again proclaimed her false gospel that **'there are many ways to God': "All is God** -- Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, etc., all have access to the same God."

In her book, *Life in the Spirit: Reflections, Meditations, and Prayers*, "Mother" Teresa says on pp. 81-82: **"We never try to convert those**

who receive [aid from Missionaries of Charity] to Christianity but in our work we bear witness to the love of God's presence and if Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, or agnostics become for this better men -- simply better -- we will be satisfied. It matters to the individual what church he belongs to. **If that individual thinks and believes that this is the only way to God for her or him, this is the way God comes into their life -- his life.** If he does not know any other way and if he has no doubt so that he does not need to search then this is his way to salvation."

YES, "Mother" Teresa may have been a self-sacrificing woman; and one who took a good stand against abortion. HOWEVER, SHE EMBRACED a false religion.

Quotes from her speech at a Worldwide Retreat for Priests:

(a) **"At the word of a priest, that little piece of bread becomes the body of Christ,** the Bread of Life." (b) "Without a priest, without Jesus going with them, our sisters couldn't go anywhere."

(c) **"When the priest is there,** then can we have our altar and our tabernacle and our Jesus. Only the priest put Jesus there for us. ... Jesus wants to go there, but we cannot bring him unless you first give him to us. This is why I love priests so much. We could never be what we are and do the things we do without **you priests who first bring Jesus to us.**"

(She is clearly saying that the only way to 'JESUS' is by means of the priests literally turning the 'bread' into the literal Jesus— this is absolute heresy.)

In an interview with a nun who worked with "Mother" Teresa , dying Hindus were instructed to pray to their own Hindu gods! (reported in *Christian News*): "These people are waiting to die. What are you telling them to prepare them for death and eternity?"

She replied candidly, **'We tell them to pray to their Bhagwan, to their gods.'**"

Mother Teresa -- A Simple Path contains inside cover notes declaring it "a unique spiritual guide." Her six steps to creating peace are: silence, prayer, faith, love, service, and peace.

Three pages of sample prayers are prefaced with, "You could replace 'Jesus' by 'God' if you are not a Christian" (p. 35).

She wrote, "I've always said we should help a Hindu become a better Hindu, a Muslim become a better Muslim, a Catholic become a better Catholic" (p. 31).

REALITY: There is no attempt to let others know that Jesus is the only way. (John 14:6) REALITY: There is no hint that "Mother" Teresa or her "sisters" believed the narrow way Jesus preached, (Matt. 7:13-14).

The following is from an interview with a Catholic nun, "Sister" Ann, who worked in Kathman-du, Nepal, with "Mother" Teresa's organization Missionaries of Charity. The interview was conducted 11/23/84 at the Pashupati Temple:

Q: Do you believe if they die believing in Shiva or in Ram [Hindu gods] they will go to heaven?

A: Yes, that is their faith. My own faith will lead me to God, ... So if they have believed in their god very strongly, if they have faith, surely they will be saved.

Christopher Hitchens, in his book *The Missionary Position: Mother Teresa in Theory and Practice* (Verso: 1995), and in his television program, documented the pitiful conditions of "Mother" Teresa's care facilities, despite the millions of dollars she collected yearly. The care facilities were grotesquely simple: rudimentary, unscientific, miles behind any modern conception of what medical science is supposed to do. Very rightly, it was said that she tended to the dying, because if you were doing anything but dying, she hadn't really much to offer. **Hitchens was not indicting her with a lack of compassion or with cruelty toward her patients.**

The problem was her Roman Catholic belief that personal suffering helps to earn one's salvation. She thought suffering was

good, and she didn't use pain relievers in her clinics. She had said that the suffering of the poor is something very beautiful and the world is being very much helped by the nobility of this example of misery and suffering.

Many Catholic priests and nuns, to this day, wear hair undergarments, put stones in their shoes, flagellate themselves, and otherwise try to merit heaven by suffering. Poverty and suffering are not simply endured, but are sought and even created. **Just as she hoped to earn her way to heaven through her own deprivation and suffering**, so "Mother" Teresa hoped to help her patients as well to reach heaven through the suffering she imposed upon them.

"Mother" Teresa (who herself, it should be noted, had checked into some of the finest and costliest clinics and hospitals in the West during her bouts with heart trouble and old age) **described a person who was in the last agonies of cancer and suffering unbearable pain.**

With a smile, "Mother" Teresa told the camera what she told this terminal patient: "You are suffering like Christ on the cross. So Jesus must be kissing you" (Hitchens, p. 41).

"Mother" Teresa was placed on a fast track to become a Catholic saint. Normally, there is a five-year wait before the process of "sainthood" is pursued, but Pope John Paul II made an exception for "Mother" Teresa and the process began within a year of her demise. There are three steps to Roman Catholic sainthood: veneration, beatification, and canonization. In the eyes of the Pope, "Mother" Teresa met all three steps; and he decreed her to be a saint.

IN RADICAL CONTRAST, the term "saint" is used in Scripture to refer to every born again child of God (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2, etc.).

IN SPITE OF ALL THE WORLD'S HONOR OF HER, "Mother" Teresa described terrible, nagging doubts that plagued her mind for the last 50 years of her life. The Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero* said, "The real Mother Teresa was one who for one year had visions and who for the next 50 had doubts -- until her death."

In another letter she said: "The damned of hell suffer eternal punishment because they experiment with the loss of God. In my own soul, I feel the terrible pain of this loss. **I feel that God does not want me, that God is not God, and that he does not really exist.**"

IN GLORIOUS CONTRAST, the Bible says that the true believer in Jesus Christ has eternal life as a gift of God and that it is not of works but of faith (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9). The Bible gives the true believer a blessed assurance of salvation (1 John 5:11-13). The believer's hope is not an uncertain thing, but is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Heb. 6:18-19).

"Mother" Teresa, on the other hand, had no assurance of salvation, because she put her faith in Rome's false sacramental-works gospel.

Question: "Who are Christian Saints According to the Bible?" (The following is from: <http://www.gotquestions.org/saints-Christian.html>)

Answer: The word "saint" comes from the Greek word *hagios*, which means "consecrated to God, holy, sacred, pious." It is almost always used in the plural, "saints." "...Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem" (**[Acts 9:13](#)**). "Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda" (**[Acts 9:32](#)**). "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons ..." (**[Acts 26:10](#)**). There is only one instance of the singular use, and that is "Greet every saint in Christ Jesus..." (**[Philippians 4:21](#)**). In Scripture there are 67 uses of the plural "saints" compared to only one use of the singular word "saint." Even in that one instance, a plurality of saints is in view: "... every saint..." (**[Philippians 4:21](#)**).

The idea of the word "saints" is a group of people set apart for the Lord and His kingdom. There are three references referring to godly character of saints: "that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints ..." (**[Romans 16:2](#)**). "For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (**[Ephesians 4:12](#)**). "But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints" (**[Ephesians 5:3](#)**).

Therefore, scripturally speaking, the “saints” are the body of Christ, Christians, the church. All Christians are considered saints. All Christians are saints—and at the same time are called to be saints. [First Corinthians 1:2](#) states it clearly: “To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy...” The words “sanctified” and “holy” come from the same Greek root as the word that is commonly translated “saints.” **Christians are saints by virtue of their connection with Jesus Christ.** Christians are called to be saints, to increasingly allow their daily life to more closely match their position in Christ. This is the biblical description and calling of the saints. **How does the Roman Catholic understanding of “saints” compare with the biblical teaching?** Not very well.

In Roman Catholic theology, the saints are in heaven. **In the Bible, the saints are on earth.**

In Roman Catholic teaching, a person does not become a saint unless he/she is “beatified” or “canonized” by the Pope or prominent bishop. **In the Bible, everyone who has received Jesus Christ by faith is a saint.**

In Roman Catholic practice, the saints are revered, prayed to, and in some instances, worshipped. **In the Bible, saints are called to revere, worship, and pray to God alone.**

As to Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu: She was and is greatly honored by multitudes. However, she preached, embraced, and hoped in a FALSE GOSPEL. Moreover, by her own testimony, she had NO PEACE: **“I feel that God does not want me, that God is not God, and that he does not really exist.”**

ABOUNDING Mercy, Grace, Love, and PEACE to all in Christ!

James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**... Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **Studies in the Gospel of Luke! NEXT: September 13 @ 11:00am;** Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {Study in **ROMANS**}... **Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru** awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 11, *18, ***25**

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / 1:00pm Service

*****September 18: LORD'S SUPPER during 10:45am worship; NO Children's church; No meal or afternoon service. SOME HOME GROUPS meet in evenings**

***** September 25 5:30pm-7:30pm— FAITHFUL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING**

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL—

Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!

For the 2016-2017 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

CAR WASH for and by SCS Students

This Saturday Morning, in front of Church!