



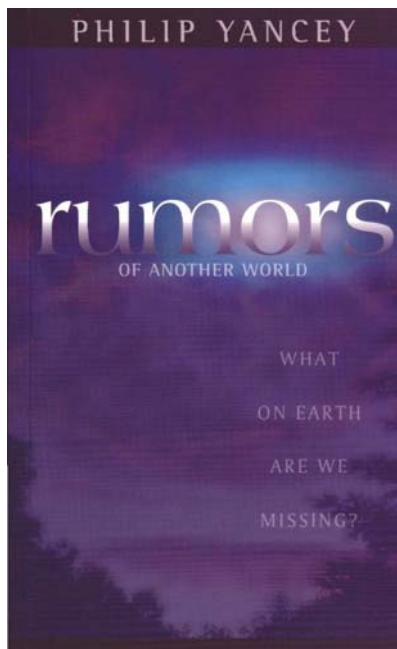
Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

Rumors of Another World

There are many good Christian writers out there but few inspire me to want to write like Philip Yancey. One key trait of Philip is to take the ordinary and brings forth insights of God that not only touches the intellect but also the heart. He has a mastery with words that puts very abstract concepts into the concrete reality of everyday living. He is also one who open up new grounds (or taboos) which challenges our most fundamental assumptions and brings into the discussion an element of grace and finesse. Most of all, I appreciate that Yancey is human and brings forth a humility and vulnerability that is so oft missing in Christendom today.

Philip Yancey writes, "I am where you are... an ordinary person trying to figure things out. I'm a human being: I love, I weep, my friends die. I experience beauty. I live. And as I live, It try to figure out if there is a God and what difference would that make... This book comes out of my own search and is written specifically on behalf of those who live in the borderlands of belief—the region between belief and unbelief."



Contrary to many assumptions that there is a spiritual / unseen / supernatural world and a material / visible / natural one, Yancey dispels this assumption and presents them as expression of the same reality. Through observation of work, sex, evil in the world, promises of the good life, guilt, Yancey brings clarity for those in the spectrum from pre-believers to indoctrinated evangelicals.

Yancey writes, 'I think of my own career in light of Martin Marty's formula for absorbing daily tasks into a calling. Like Marty, I have the privilege of spending hours each day dealing directly with the things of

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Of the Heart and Mind

Hearts Growing Cold?

I was at a shopping mall with my wife and 2 years old son Benedict. It was about lunch time and we were about to enter a restaurant. As usual, my boy was wiggling around, acting silly as a 2 year old should. It just brings a smile to see him like that. In a sinful and fallen world, I often wonder...I should say I am certain...God finds more pleasure in them than many of us who seem so busy with our work and even our ministry, that we have forgotten about Him.

Just then, a young chap, probably in his late teens, clad in a sports singlet, brushed by Benedict and knocked him over. My little boy was hurt and began to cry. My wife rushed to his rescue while I was engaged in a conversation with the waitress for a seat. The teenager stared at Benedict, in unemotional ambivalence, for a second, maybe two and walked on. Not even a word. Not even a common courtesy to say 'I am sorry'. We know it is not his fault. Accidents happen. But, but, but not even 'Is he ok?'

My wife was furious and so was I. I guess I was more dumb founded. He just walked on as if nothing has happened. I struggled to justify to myself that maybe he thinks that it is not his fault and he need not apologize. Maybe...? Huh? I couldn't find a rational to justify the inaction. I wanted to know what was going

through his mind. It dawned on me that perhaps it was 'nothing'. He might have as well walked right into a pillar and kept on going. It may not be the most Christian though, but I was hoping his nose was bleeding and that it hurts.

What could have accounted for such brazen callousness of heart? Of course there are much more hideous crime and violation of children in this world. Some have captured the headlines recently and much more going on, unnoticed.

MT 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

MT 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a

testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

In my travel on business and engaging colleagues and clients from various nationality, ethnic and religious background, it does not take a PhD to realize that world has gotten more chaotic and greater tensions, misunderstanding and conflict arises. These encounters just make news reports much more personal when I interact with them.

A brief encounter between an 'insensitive' (I am trying to use a gentler descriptive word rather than *#!&@) youth has again reminded me of my naive assumption on the basic human decency. My expectations should rather be qualified and tempered with scriptures. We need to realize that God has explicitly pointed towards anarchy, persecution, disasters and wickedness of hearts as the end draws near. Each day passes and we draw nearer to that end. It is a picture not many of us neither want nor like to dwell in.

I want to qualify that I am not a pessimist and am an ardent believer that Christians ARE the salt and light in this fallen world. Otherwise, I won't be involved in this ministry. Meditating on these last words of Jesus reminds us

1. Don't be alarmed (or shocked till my socks come off)
2. Contrast of a loving community under God
3. It will end
4. Sure hope of a new heaven and a new earth.

By Timothy Liu

Eyes in a Darkened Room

Apol-acoustiX - Parodudes and a pair of guitars, ApologetiX

*(That Christian Parody Band,
2005, Free MP3's, Tour Dates,
Bios at www.ApologetiX.com)*

It is a wonder today that you can find 'Christian' music in just about every conceivable genre - from classical to rock & roll, rap, hip-hop, punk, etc. 'Different strokes for different folks,' I suppose. But I think it'd be fair to say that just about all these offerings are straightforward and earnest in whatever format they have chosen to present their music. Few (at least that I know of) are deliberately witty or captivating - and therefore all the more winsome - in their earnestness to be serious.

Imagine my surprise when I popped the above CD into my player. My immediate and involuntary reaction was a smile of instant recognition of the classic tune "Rock Around the Clock", but accompanied by the strangest lyrics! The first chords from the opening song though immediately recognizable, was totally unexpected thinking I had inserted a CD by a 'Christian' band. Instead of the familiar lyrics, a continuous string of 'godtalk' poured forth riding along the pleasantly familiar melody. This initial amusement eventually

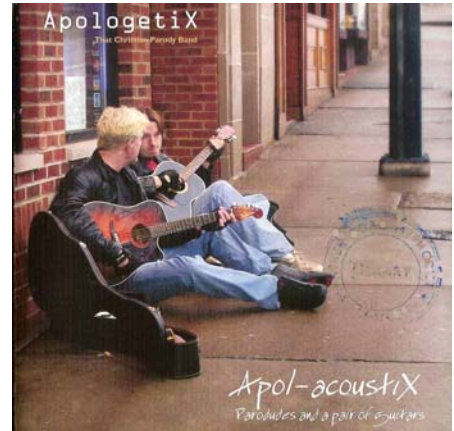
turned into some delight as I was refreshingly treated to parodies of 'rock songs from the 50's through today'.

According to it's album cover, 'ApologetiX specializes in Biblical parodies of rock songs from the 50's through today. In 1994, the US Supreme Court ruled unanimously that parodies can be a fair use of an original, requiring no permission or royalties. The band's name comes from "apologetics" which means the defense of the Christian faith.'

ApologetiX's lyrics cover a good spectrum of subject matter. Though the subject matters and the biblical references are occasionally strained, they are a forgivable minor concern in the face of superb harmonics both in the acoustical guitar playing and the singing by J. John Jackson and Karl Vaughn Messner. Both men are versatile in shaping their vocal styles to the tenor of the original singers.

'Fifteen years after its foundation was laid [March 1992], the mission of ApologetiX remains the same: "to reach the lost and teach the rest." Some things don't need to change, no matter how many times you revisit them'.

Their goals and sheer joy comes across clearly. Winsome!



Questions to ponder:

1. Did you enjoy ApologetiX's parodies of familiar and popular tunes? What were the aspects of the songs that appealed to you? Was it the biblical lyrics? Was it the clever utilization of familiar tunes to teach biblical truths?
2. Did hearing biblical matters in a playful, funny, or unexpected context open up any fresh perspectives?
3. Would you share this album with a non-believer? Why? Why not?

By Yap Vong Hin

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▶ Kingdom Building at the Workplace



Coming Events

Reality Café.

07 Oct – Rojak and Poh Piah

2pm-5pm at 03-05, Bible House,
7 Armenian Street. Register with
Elaine, info@marketplacechristian.
net. Drinks and Snacks provided
(RSVP)

Public Lecture

28 Oct - Mind the Gap
Speaker: Dr. Gordon Preece
(RSVP) - Call Simon 63144910 or e-
mail gcfsing@gcf.org.sg

GCF Contemporary Issues Ministry

31 Oct - Church and State: How can
Christians be salt and light?

For more information check our web-
site.

God. I do not sell cars or process insurance claims or clean carpets or work in a busy office; I write books about God. Yet daily I encounter the difficulty of reading God into the very task. It requires a trained set of eyes to see God in the details.'

Being a part of the sexual

revolution era, Yancey observes, 'I would suggest that the rumor of another world also enters in. Many sophisticated moderns have little transcendence in their lives. They avoid church and believe science has figured out most of the mysteries of the universe. Sex, though, poses a mystery to which

normal principles of reductionism do not apply. Feed it, and the appetite increases. No amount of knowledge diminishes its magic: even a nudist gets turned on when the wife greets him in Victoria's Secret underwear.'

By Timothy Liu

Google Plus



Kairos Research Centre

Malaysia

Kairos Research Centre is a Malaysian Christian think-tank setup in 1993 *To encourage and facilitate Christian research and scholarship on issues relevant to Malaysian Christianity and To contribute towards the intellectual development of Christian leaders and thinkers.* Led by Dr.

Ng Kam Weng and a team of dedicated staff, publications on this site are very thoughtful and reflective of biblical principles and their environment. A hardcopy bi-monthly publication 'Understanding the Modern World through Christian Eyes' is available and selected articles are available for download on their web.

They are available under the 'Publications' tab. Additional articles are available under the 'Resource Materials' link. If you like, you can also participate in the discussion. Take a look at <http://www.cornerstone-msc.net/kairos/index.cfm>

By Timothy Liu