

SATANISM AND THE OCCULT
ALIVE AND WELL IN HOMETOWN USA
CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH OF THE 1990's

I. Introduction

Since the 1960's there has been an unprecedented worldwide outpouring of interest and participation in occultism. Johanna Michaelsen, in her book Like Lambs to the Slaughter wrote, "What was once kept hidden and secret by the initiated few is now paraded in the open and bragged about by those who have been lured by the appealing aspects of the occult. Literally millions of people are involved in a desperate search for spiritual reality and a deeper meaning to life. It seems that most of them don't much care what the source of it is or where they find it, so long as it is real. They are sick to death of the dry and empty ritual, the unspeakable hypocrisy, and the suffocating legalism that characterizes so many churches filled with the presence of God - not the God of the Bible, whom they have learned to despise and ridicule, but a god more to their own liking and understanding, a god who would just as soon be called 'goddess' or the Universal Energy, and who promises them unlimited knowledge, power, and even the ultimate fulfillment of personal divinity."

It is becoming evident that Western culture, already steeped in humanism, has been steadily infiltrated with Eastern mysticism. Unfortunately, the offspring of such trends is an explosion of interest in and involvement with the occult and satanism.

More and more people are clinging to pyramids, crystals, channelers, goddess worship, meditation, and guided imagery. Others are into the political aspects of globalism - saving the environment, "human potential," or any combination of the above, and have turned these movements into their form of religion.

A result of this searching for deeper meaning to life has been an increase in the number of cults, sects, and new contemporary religions. With it comes a growing interest in Satan worship and an increase in the number of occult-related crimes. In addition, more and more "adult survivors," victims of generational occult and Satanic activities, are coming forward to relate their stories of horror, abuse, and degradation at the hands of parents, grandparents, and other adults who were members of occult or satanic groups that have been in existence for upwards of fifty years.

In an article entitled "Satanism: No Figment of the Imagination," Erling Jorstad stated, "Early in 1989 the notorious 'Night Stalkers' serial murderer, Richard Rameritz, was captured after years of terrifying victims with Satanic violence. Satan worship and an obsession with rock music characterized by violent, satanic lyrics, were clearly associated with his attacks."

It is also now well documented that immersion in devil worship was behind the actions of David Birkowitz, the infamous "Son of Sam" murderer. The ritualistic slaying of at least fifteen people in Matamoros, Mexico, is also linked to Satan worship. Most recently there are growing suspicions that the perpetrator of the coed murders in Florida may be involved in Satan worship.

These cases point to the gruesome reality that Satanism in its many forms is growing in popularity. Robert Simandl, a member of the Chicago Police Gang's Crime Unit and a recognized national authority on occult crime and activities states, "It's a very complex subject that makes gang activity look like a nursery rhyme. It is not a pleasant topic, but I believe it's going to be the crime of the 1990's."

One needs only to pick up the local newspaper to read that from every corner of the United States, incidents of murder, rape, animal mutilation, graveyard desecration, and their suspected or proven connection to occult and Satan worship are being reported with disturbing regularity. This cancerous growth is spreading from coast to coast, from urban to rural America, to your town and my town. Its current appeal is not, as some would reason, based on the fact that we have more complete information than ever before, so we merely think Satanism and the occult are flourishing today.

Maury Terry, author of The Ultimate Evil, states, "These are not the observations of an alarmist, rather they are a cut and dried recital of everyday facts of life."

The intent of this paper is assuredly not to glamorize, sensationalize, or to give unnecessary attention to the topic of Satanism and the occult. The purposes are: 1) To provide information which demonstrate the depth and breadth with which Satanism and the occult are infiltrating our world; 2) To assist you in recognizing signs and symptoms of involvement; 3) To provide you with an understanding of the various stages of involvement; 4) To provide you with some spiritual and practical guidelines as you counsel with members of your congregation, especially young people; 5) To provide in the attached appendices a bibliography of books on the subject; a listing of the more common symbols used by those involved in occult and Satan worship; a listing of those heavy metal bands which promote occult activities and Satan worship through their lyrics.

II. Close To Home Examples

It would be an understatement to say that WELS members are immune to the cancerous tentacles of Satanism and the occult. More and more, as a WLCFS therapist I'm finding that these issues are strikingly "close to home."

What follows are actual cases involving WELS members. (Names and locations have been omitted to maintain confidentiality)

Case 1: A middle-aged woman, whose father was very involved in the occult, shared childhood accounts of her involvement in occult

activities which included being assigned a spirit guide, hearing voices, and experiencing visions of people from the past.

She had been reluctant to share this with me in earlier interviews for fear, as she said, "I thought you wouldn't believe me." She continues to struggle with the effects of these childhood experiences.

Case 2: Parents of an adolescent boy, whom they adopted as a child, contacted me expressing concerns about the extremely negative and at times violent behaviors he was projecting toward family members. They described in detail his preoccupation with blood and gore, talking to unseen persons, breaking the arm of one of his brothers, and the hand of another, and exhibiting strength beyond his normal abilities.

Family of origin history revealed strong indications that he had been the victim of ritualistic abuse prior to his adoptive placement.

Case 3: An adolescent girl was described by her parents as being physically abusive toward mother. The daughter progressively withdrew from her family at times refusing to speak or have even minimal contact with them. She rarely ate with them. When she came home she went to her room and stayed there, only to leave home again and stay out, consistently breaking curfew hours. There was a marked decrease in her spiritual life. She refused to attend church.

Interviews with the family revealed that the daughter frequented a local teen club where heavy metal music was the trend. It is also suspected that drugs and alcohol were available at this establishment.

The daughter admitted she was sexually active and that she had been a participant in the game Dungeons and Dragons and had additional exposure with the Ouija Board.

Case 4: A young mother of two shared her belief that in an earlier life she had lived during the time of the Civil War. She reported that her father, who was seeing a psychic, had influenced her to accept the belief that she was reincarnated.

While these examples may be alarming, they are not isolated cases.

There appears to be a lack of knowledge among some Christians as to the scope and danger of occultism, and the power and tactics employed by Satan and the fallen angels.

III. The Enemy -

1 Peter 5:8 reminds all Christians, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

C. S. Lewis, in his Screwtape Letters wrote, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally

pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

One of the devil's most deceptive tactics is to get people to believe that he doesn't exist. Anton LaVey, founder of the church of Satan, does not believe in or teach the literal existence of Satan. In his Church of Satan, the devil is symbolic of self indulgence and moral license. LaVey considers humanity to be the only "deity" and therefore the only being to be worshipped. Although literal worship of Satan does not take place in LaVey's church, there is service to the real Satan. This is Satanism in its best disguise. (How to Respond to Satanism, Bruce Frederickson, p. 17.)

It is imperative for young and old alike to have a clear understanding of the fact that Satan is not the figment of someone's imagination. He is not a cartoon character dressed in red tights, with horns and a spiked tail. He is real. He does exist. As Hoover states in How to Respond to the Occult, "We meet him in Genesis 3 and do not get rid of him when we have reached Revelation 20. Whether he is called Devil (John 8:44), Satan (Matthew 12:26), Tempter (Matthew 4:3), or Father of Lies (John 8:44), the Enemy remains the same."

In The Bible, the Supernatural, and the Jews, McCandlish Phillips says, "Satan is a living creature. He is not corporeal. He is a spiritual being, but that does not make him any less real. The fact that he is invisible and powerful greatly serves him in the pursuit of his cause. The less you know about Satan, the better he likes it. Ignorance of his tactics confers an advantage upon him, but he prefers that you do not even credit his existence."

Satan is dressing himself in new disguises today, but his objective is the same as it has always been. He seeks to lead man into sin by tempting him with the promise that by disobeying God, he can achieve earthly power or a knowledge like that of God. The same tactic was used in the Garden of Eden.

IV. The Slide Down Satan's Ladder - Stages of Involvement

In a booklet titled, Satanism in America, What They Don't Want You to Know, researched and written by Michael Haynes, PhD and Paul W. Carlin, Sr., PhD four levels or stages of involvement have been identified.

These stages can become very useful in determining to what extent an individual is involved in Satanism.

Level I - Fun Seeking Fringe Stage

This level of Satanism is the most subtle, yet to some extent probably the most dangerous of all, because people who get involved just for thrills are mostly teens, or even younger. These young people are enamored by the mysterious, and usually begin with such popular activities as playing with Ouija boards, conducting their own "slumber party seances", watching horror films, following heavy metal music, and

becoming involved with fantasy role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons. Dr. Gary North - in his book, Dare Call it Witchcraft, says "Dungeons and Dragons is the most effective, most magnificently packaged, most magnificently marketed, most thoroughly researched introduction to the occult (things hidden or secret) in man's recorded history." Author's note: Dungeons and Dragons is the brainchild of Gary Gygax and is produced by his company TSR Hobbies located in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. 1985 sales totaled more than 100 million dollars.

For the most part these, and other seemingly innocent things, offer outlets for rebellion, and adolescents who are on the fringe are usually into many occult-related concepts without even knowing what lies behind their initial interest.

Young people who are on the fringe seek acceptance from peers who are frequently more deeply involved. They desire conversation about secret knowledge, and their favorite pastime is toying with fear. This level likes a good 'scare' as long as they are not in danger. Satanism just seems to be the "in" thing and many youth strongly desire to look and act the part.

Outside of seeming totally normal, these young people might wear black clothing, paint their fingernails black, cut their hair in an unusual manner and sometimes even dye it black if it does not happen to be that color.

Unfortunately, their behavior is communicating to the very people who are waiting with open arms to receive their actions in full support. Who are these people? Satanists!

Level II - The Dabbling Stage (some serious interest)

This stage follows as the fringe stage becomes less and less thrilling. Dabblers discover a partial belief in the value system of the dark side. Many dabblers develop some measure of serious interest as it relates to power in their own personal lives. Power to have possessions seldom dreamed of, power to use fear to control other youth who are intimidated by the dabbler's activity, and more than these, a feeling of unusual energy never experienced prior to a beginning knowledge of the occult.

If young people continue to 'dabble', they become convinced that the realm of the supernatural is very real. They have probably by this time seen evidence of such reality and more than likely have witnessed spiritual manifestations that leave no doubt that they have found the answers that can fill the void they feel within them. They may experiment with a few rituals, and begin to get into trinkets and books (Anton La Vey's, The Satanic Bible and The Satanic Rituals) along with a few spells and hexes. (A ritual is a prescribed ceremony of religious or magical origin designed to invoke or placate a deity. It is characterized by symbolic attire and formalized behavior.) The Satanic graffiti (see symbols page at end) that is commonly seen on buildings and other public places naturally follows. When the graffiti appears, many times it is too late to dismiss it as a prank. Remember, the

'dabbling' stage is made up of those youth who have experimented with the fringes of Satanism by dabbling more into the occult and become more seriously involved. The dabbling stage focuses on power. Signs to watch for include obsessions with Black Heavy Metal music; themes of death and suicide; drugs; Satanic symbols in prominent places; withdrawal from family; unnamed mysterious friends; unusual nightly habits; and a general mocking of Christianity.

Level III - Serious Stage

This stage leads to seeking a group to join in order to make a serious attempt at learning more. The more knowledge, the more power. The more power, the more control. The more control, the more personal fulfillment. The more fulfillment, the more peer acceptance and recognition. This formula is basic in the cult recruiting process.

Most occult groups practice similar practices and rituals. They are normally organized into "covens" of between nine and thirteen numbers. Authorities have estimated that there were approximately 10,000 covens in the country in 1946, 48,000 by 1976, and 135,000 by 1985.

Popular meeting sites of covens are abandoned buildings (offices, manufacturing plants), abandoned churches, basements, campgrounds, cemeteries, beaches, crematories, mortuaries, parks, private homes, under bridges (very popular and prevalent sites), and deserted wooded areas. To become a member of the coven, individuals must go through an initiation ritual. The individual's (initiate) eyes, ears, and mouth are sealed with wax. The initiate is placed in an actual grave and the lid is closed. When the ritual is over, the eyes, ears, and mouth belong to Satan. This is called Satanic rebirth.

This is the stage at which the killing starts. It usually starts with small forms of life such as rodents and small pets. Through this practice young people become desensitized to both. If someone at this level makes a negative reaction to sacrifice, they are told that they are weak and are rejected severely. However, by then the youth is trapped. He is then made to believe that killing is good. Watching death signifies strength. So, he not only watches, but participates.

At this stage young people stop advertising their Satanic experiences. They learn to cover their tracks, and the final level of mind control is the international network of Satanists.

Those who become involved on the serious level usually have come up through the ranks of experience in the other levels previously discussed.

Level IV - The Criminal Stage

Illegalities at this stage include trespassing; vandalism; cruelty to animals (mutilation); kidnapping; rape or sexual abuse; child abuse;

murder; destruction of property; unexplainable fires; use or possession of nonregistered weapons; and even more bizarre and unmentionable behavior.

Killing now advances to larger animals and human beings to provide energy. Blood is considered to be the source of live energy, and it is released in the sacrifice. It is meant to provide a psychological charge or kick to the participants.

Occult crime has been related to drug trafficking, gang violence, child theft, pornography, murder, and suicide.

V. Youth - The Prize Target - A Generation At Risk

Teenagers grow up today in a world saturated with satanic symbols and suggestions - heavy metal music, Dungeons and Dragons, Ouija boards, horror movies, MTV, and occult emblems. Some people are mistakingly assuming that this is harmless. "Kids will grow out of it. After all, we did some pretty strange things when we were young."

Many adults are involved in the occult and Satan worship because their parents and grandparents were involved in it. However, to insure a future generation of potential leaders and followers, there is an intense recruitment program afoot in our country. The real targets of this recruitment effort are the youth.

Satanism appeals to the young because it taps into many of the deepest forces in their inner selves. They are ripe for irrational involvement because they are going through the physical and sexual transition of maturation. Satanism rewards this strong self-centeredness.

Devil worship offers a way of rebellion where there are no laws or rules. It offers instant gratification and total sexual license. As one high school student said, "God wants you in jail, Satan wants you to be free." Anton LaVey, founder of the 'Church of Satan,' says, "Instead of commanding members to repress their natural urges, we teach that they should follow them. This includes physical lust, the desire for revenge, and the drive for possessions."

Many of today's teenagers are repulsed by what they see as the adult world's moral hypocrisy and its constant numbing of their zeal for direct, powerful experience, for thrills. Satanism promises power over others, and the forces that hold back indulgences of one's desires for cruelty, with secretive, well-defined rituals. Satanism taps into the mysterious secrets of the nether world. It takes youth into a spiritual realm where only the daring will tread.

During the past 10 years our society has become increasingly aware of criminal acts perpetrated by groups involved in ritual activities. Their targets are generally upper and middle class white male teens of high intelligence, who are creative and curious; or, possibly, underachievers with low self esteem. There are problems in the home. They are anxious about what's going on in the world and can't comprehend

it. They see adult figures as more concerned with themselves than with their children. There is very little family life. The teens lose themselves in heavy metal music and fantasy role playing games. Unfortunately, some public school gifted and talented programs encourage involvement in the fantasy, role playing games by using Dungeons and Dragons as one of their tools of the program. Too often their parents don't take an interest in what their children are involved in. So while their teenager is experiencing fantasy and reality becoming intertwined, the parents are not alarmed. The parents may go into denial or fail to communicate. When that happens, parents are unable to distinguish normal teenage challenging and questioning behaviors from more similar aspects of Satanism.

VI. How Are The Youth Recruited? - Signs And Symptoms Of Involvement

Wherever young people are, Satanists are. Recruiters frequent any place where teens and children gather. This includes church camps, day care centers, Sunday schools, private and public schools, rock concerts, parties, fraternities, college campuses, and military bases.

If impressionable and troubled adolescents are offered seemingly rational solutions to immediate problems, they are 'easy pickings' for hard-core recruiters.

A young person may be totally unaware that they are getting involved with a Satanic group. They may feel that they have been accepted by 'new found friends.'

Recruiters say, "Come to us; you'll have free money, free sex, and free drugs." Many young people respond to this offer almost instantly. Power, thrills, and companionship are awesome snares for the vulnerable.

In an article entitled, "Dabbling Their Way To Ritual Crime," Robert Simandl and Bette Naysmith state, "A peer may pique their interest in the new belief system, the intellectual challenge, and a member's ability to have power over others." An adult leader may lure them in through involvement in free sex and drug parties. Reliable information reveals two types of adult leaders, one involved for self gratification, the other recruiting for upper levels of cult involvement. If the lure is a party, the prospective member learns there is a special room that a select few may enter. During the party this person could be put into a compromising position and be photographed and videotaped. Then, if invited into the special room, he is introduced to the new belief system and possibly agrees to sign a contract with Satan stating he will sacrifice himself at a certain age. If he declines to do so, the videotape or photos can be used as blackmail to induce participation.

The common profile of a young person who is vulnerable to Satanic recruitment is as follows:

1. Age 13 to 20 (sometimes as young as 10 and as old as 26)
2. Middle to upper class home
3. Low self-esteem
4. Above average to high intelligence
5. Social recluse
6. Broken homes and split families
7. Latch-key kids
8. Deep need for belonging
9. Susceptible to peer pressure
10. Impressionable
11. Victims of prior sexual abuse
12. Little parental care or involvement in their lives
13. Alienated from church
14. Very creative/curious
15. Rebellious and looking for power
16. Over or underachievers

There are personal signs that parents should look for in their child or teenager. None of the signs definitely constitute Satanic involvement, but several in tandem could point to some level of experimentation. The following list of signs would suggest involvement with Satan:

- 1) An interest in the Satanic Bible
- 2) Mocking of Christianity
- 3) An interest in occult movies and books
- 4) A devotion to Black heavy metal or heavy metal music
- 5) Speaking to parents and friends in rhyme
- 6) Poems and prose with themes of blood, death, murder, Satan, evil, dying, suicide (will be found in a book called Book of Shadows; or, if there is access to a home computer these may be stored under a secret code)
- 7) Usually have long fingernails (sometimes painted black)
- 8) Eating of raw meat in front of peers
- 9) Extremely violent rebellion
- 10) Occult drawings (see symbols) found on notebooks, clothing, tatoos, or various parts of the body
- 11) Heavy use of hallucinogens or other drugs
- 12) Dressing in black
- 13) Altars in the basement, backyard, attic, trees
- 14) Candles, chalices, knives found in their bedroom
- 15) Cruelty to animals or innocent people
- 16) Bizarre haircuts and hair color

- 18) Rebellious attitude toward authority figures especially law enforcement
- 19) Unusual interest in certain special days with no otherwise special meaning:
 - February 1 - Candlemass (Festival of Winter)
 - March 21 - Spring Equinox
 - May 1 - Beltane (Fertility Festival)
 - June 21 or 22 - Summer Solstice
 - August 1 - Lammis (Festival of Fresh Fruit)
 - Sept. 23 - Fall Equinox
 - Oct. 31 - Halloween (Celtics New Year)
 - Dec. 21 or 22 - Winter Solstice
- 20) Sudden behavior changes (depression, paranoia, outbursts)
- 21) Deep fears, terror nightmares, waking up screaming
- 22) A sudden shift in friendship with a reluctance to share why
- 23) Outbursts of obscenities that are abnormal
- 24) Obsession with games such as Dungeon and Dragons or the Ouija Board

When one or more of these behaviors are occurring, look for ritual items in a bedroom, attic, basement, treehouse, or other outdoor areas. Dabblers can be creative, so numerous hiding places are possible. In these locations, look for a black covered book (spiral or composition notebook or its computer counterpart). The book, The Book of Shadows, is generally used as a diary and could identify the names of other members, types and locations of rituals, and contracts for suicide or homicide. Other items to search for are ceremonial knives (odd shaped in some cases), candles, chalices, robes, photographs, videos, books such as The Satanic Bible, animal bones, human bones (specifically skull, rib, upper right leg and upper portions of right arm), posters, album covers, T-shirts of Satanic related activities and groups, Black Metal, Ouija Board, fantasy role playing games (Dungeons and Dragons), death related movies and videos, MTV, or words spelled backwards (Satan/Natas, murder/redrum).

The key for parents is to know their child's activities and become involved in their lives. If the parent or you suspect involvement, or if involvement is a known fact, you may want to obtain professional help, such as is available through WLCFS.

VII. Spiritual and Practical Guidelines

What can I do about Satanism?

Spiritual Guidelines

Colossians 2:8 encourages all Christians to "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." It is certainly not the intent of this paper to suggest that anyone who listens to heavy metal music, has played

Dungeons and Dragons, or has spent time with a Ouija Board, is involved with a cult or is into Satan worship. However, it would be just as erroneous to assume that continual involvement in the above activities cannot or does not have potentially dangerous side effects.

"Pride goes before destruction," Proverbs 16:18. Someone you know who is involved in heavy metal music, fantasy role playing games, or other aspects of the Occult may reply to your concerns with statements such as, "I am in control. I know what I am doing. Why should I be concerned about the Occult?"

Wendell Amstutz, in his book, Exposing and Confronting Satanism states, "The following are important points to explore with them:

1. The mind is influenced in degrees, not in giant steps or quick strides.
2. Everyone believes they will be the exception to the rule. The truth is that 95-99% of the time, one is not the exception to the rule.
3. How do you know that your involvement in activities such as heavy metal music, etc., has not done you in?
4. You may feel it has not, but how do you know if it will or when it will?"

Illustrations: Put a frog in a pot of water and slowly turn up the heat. The frog will not respond to the gradual change and will be boiled to death without fighting. Or how close can you get your hand to the fire without burning it? You cannot know until you have burned your hand.

Insights from one who has been deeply involved in Satanism:

Ted Rabouin, who once led his own Satanic group, in his book, Satanism, is Your Family Safe? says, "The Occult itself is so camouflaged in niceties that one doesn't even realize when they are in it, that they are in any form of its tentacles, if you want to call it that, of Satanism. You go in out of curiosity and the curiosity goes into a reality, and the reality gets a person in deeper. Then deeper they go, until they find themselves in a maze they can't get out of. There is no avenue of the Occult that I would say is safe."

There are nine statements that embody the philosophy of Satanism as found in Anton LaVey's Satanic Bible. They are listed here with an accompanying scripture counter-balance to each statement.

1. Satan represents indulgence, instead of abstinence!

Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Luke 9:23.

2. Satan represents vital existence, instead of spiritual pipe dreams!

Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10

3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom, instead of hypocritical self-deceit.

Jesus says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Proverbs 9:10

4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates.

Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37-39

5. Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek.

Jesus says, "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Matthew 5:39

6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible, instead of concern for psychic vampires!

Jesus says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:44

7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse, than those that walk on all fours, who, because of his "divine" spiritual and intellectual development has become the most vicious animal of all.

Jesus says, "Let us make man in our own image."

Genesis 1:26-27

8. Satan represents all of the so called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification.

Jesus says, "What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! For the wages of sin is death..."

Romans 6:21-23

9. Satan is the best friend the church ever had, as he has kept it in business all these years!

Jesus says, "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

II Corinthians 11:14

Jesus says, "Satan is a liar and the father of lies."

John 8:44

Despite the efforts of the dedicated Christian parents, some young people may become involved in occult practices and Satanic service.

Peer pressure is strong and at times seemingly overwhelming. The world in which young people live and move seems more and more in tune with and obsessed with spiritual forces which are not of God. Scripture identifies them in Ephesians 6:12 as, "The rulers....the authorities... the powers of this dark world and....the spiritual forces of evil."

Explore every resource at your disposal. Consult with a Christian counselor who has a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, and its power, forgiveness, and strength. Only through sustained and repeated use of God's Word, and only in and through the power of Jesus Christ can Satan be overcome.

Christian parents, going through the difficult days of either suspecting or having the knowledge that their child is involved in occult activities, can be reminded to place him or her into the hand of a gracious and loving God. When they do that, they are placing them into the hands of a good and faithful Friend. Passages from scripture such as: Isaiah 49:15-16, Psalm 121, I Samuel 1:28a, Jeremiah 31: 16-17 can provide comfort at such times.

Practical Guidelines

Experts in the Occult and Satanism anticipate an increase in dabbling ritual activities and crime in future years. This perception must be taken seriously. It would be a mistake to reason that while occult activities are occurring, they are not occurring in your community or among members of your congregation, particularly among your youth.

If occult activity has been reported in all 50 states, what makes your state or community different? Why are other communities affected, but not yours? Would you know occult and Satanic activity if you saw it? How would you know it?

To the issue of Satanism and the Occult, some may respond with, "What you don't know can't hurt you." Because some may choose not to be informed does not mean they will be spared from the results. Scripture reminds all of us in Isaiah 5:13, "Therefore my people will go into exile for lack of understanding," and in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." The battle will be fought with or without those who choose not to participate.

If you have not yet been called upon by parents, young people, or other members of your congregation to discuss with them their concerns regarding the Occult and Satanism, you probably will. Therefore, if you have not already done so, it would be well to become knowledgeable about the extent to which Satanism and the Occult is impacting on our society, and its effects upon people, particularly our children.

I would encourage you to consider doing the following:

1. Select for your reading books found in the bibliography.

2. Speak with your local law enforcement officials. Inquire if any occult-related crimes are occurring in your area.
3. Ask the local media representatives what they perceive is happening regarding reported occult activities.

Signs to watch for in your community could include: Occult graffiti on sidewalks, etc., occult books disappearing from stores and libraries, bon fire meetings in open fields at night (full moon), mysterious murders/suicides/crimes that police keep silent, unusual demand for occult-related jewelry, shoplifting in candle shops or unusual number of purchases, demand for occult or new age books in bookstores.

4. Check with local librarians (school, public, university) as to books on the occult, Satanism, and new age that may be on their library shelves. Check the following: How often are these books checked out? What age groups are checking them out?
5. Check the shelves of local bookstores for books and posters relating to Satanism and the Occult.
6. Check hobby stores in your area to discover if they are selling fantasy role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons.
7. Check with your local Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Organization. Ask if there are any reported animal mutilations in your area.
8. Check with your local mental health facility. Ask if they are or have treated any ritually abused or terror survivors.

What to do with what you have uncovered.

1. Share with the parents in your congregation the potential dangers to their children (both physical and spiritual) of prolonged involvement in heavy metal music, fantasy role playing games, Ouija Boards.
2. Encourage parents to monitor more closely the type of television programs they and their children are watching, what kind of music (especially the lyrics) they are listening to, etc.
3. Share your findings with your school faculty. Share this essay with them, too. Encourage them to be alert to signs of involvement in the Occult and Satanism by their students. If a parent calls and voices concern about their child's involvement or potential involvement in the Occult or Satanism, encourage them to let you be a part of addressing the spiritual dimension of the problem.
4. Make a list of occult items (previously mentioned). Encourage parents not to let their heart get in the way, but to look hard at the evidence.

5. Encourage parents to look for The Book of Shadows, (occult type writings, such as poetry, etc. previously listed)
6. Encourage parents to consult with someone knowledgeable to help analyze what is happening.
7. Encourage the parent to seek family counseling from a qualified counselor.
8. Remove the Occult or Satanic materials from the home.
9. Encourage the parents to admit to their own shortcomings and make the commitment to the needed changes and adjustments.
10. Encourage the parent to form a support group or to join a support group to address the issues involved.

VII. Conclusion

While it is difficult to believe and hard to accept what has and is happening regarding Satanism and the Occult, the fact remains; there is an intense spiritual war being waged. For some this may be frightening and mysterious, but it need not be so. As Christians we should know all we can about Satan's tactics and his methods of attack against us. To know him for what he is, to know and understand how he weaves his deadly web is to our advantage. Arming ourselves and our children with the knowledge that Christ's death and resurrection has permanently defeated Satan gives us a new perception on the war being waged.

Frank Paretti, author of such books as Piercing the Darkness and This Present Darkness, uses the following analogy to emphasize the victory over Satan that is ours in Jesus Christ.

On a beautiful summer afternoon, a father, mother, their young son, and daughter are driving toward their vacation destination. Father has his window rolled down to allow some fresh air to enter the car. They are all anxiously sharing their planned activities.

Suddenly, the joy turns to panic. A large bumble bee has entered the car through the open window. The daughter, who is allergic to bee stings, cries out, "Daddy, there's a bee in the car, please help me. Daddy, it's going to sting me!"

With one swoop, her father caught and clutched the bee in his hand. The daughter relaxes, with the assurance that daddy has taken charge of the situation.

Father releases the bumble bee out of the window, only to have the wind blow the bee back into the car again. Feeling threatened again, the daughter panics and cries out, "Daddy, the bee is back again. Daddy, please help me."

Her father responds, assuredly, "Honey, he can't hurt you." To convince her, he opens his hand to reveal the bumble bee's stinger embedded in the palm of his hand. "All he can do now is buzz around and make a lot of noise," said Daddy. Once again the daughter relaxes with the confidence that all is well.

This analogy can give the same comfort and confidence to all Christians. As we are daily confronted by Satan and his deadly sting, we need not fear him. Jesus Christ has taken everything that Satan can throw at us. The victory is already ours. All he can do is buzz around and make a lot of noise. And that is exactly what he does. In his buzzing around, he desires to take as many with him to his eternal dwelling place as he can.

Therefore, all of us, young and old alike need daily to put on the whole armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-20).

So, the problem is not what we don't know about Satan, but what we do with the knowledge about him we do have. When it comes to the topic of Satanism and the Occult and its impact on our youth, we cannot keep silent, we cannot construct a spiritual fort and hide behind it, with the hope that this is just a fad and will eventually run its course. We must continually encourage a support of all that is noble and uplifting. (Philippians 4:8-9) We must discourage patronizing the tools of Satan (heavy metal music, specific movies, videos, books, etc.) The struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers against the "great deceiver," the "father of lies." To that end may God bless your efforts.

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Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service
Milwaukee, WI
July 1991

Groups that have expressed occultic interest through their songs, record covers, interviews, etc. (Wedge, Satan Hunter and Johnston, Edge of Evil):

AC/DC	Krank
Abbattoir	leather Nun
Agnostic Front	Legal Weapon
Alice Cooper	Lizzy Borden
Alien Sex Fiend	Manson Youth
anthrax	Megadeth
The Apostles	Mercyful Fate
Articles of Faith	Metal Church
Bad Religion	Metallica
Batallion of Saints	Millions of Dead Cops
Black Sabbath	Mission for Christ
Blue Oyster Cult	Mob Vengeance
Bulldozer	Motley Crue
Candlemass	Neon Christ
Castration Squad	New Christ
Catholic Discipline	Nuclear Assault
Celetic Frost	The Nuns
Child Molesters	Ozzy Osbourne
Christian Dead	Possessed
Church Police	Psychick Youth
Condemned to death	Psychick TV
Corpse Grinders	Rosemary's Baby
Criminal Youth	Sacred Order
Crucifix	Salvation Army
Crown of Thorns	Sam Hain
DIO	Satan
D.O.A.	Satan's Cheerleaders
Dark Angels	Satan's Host
The Damned	Scarlet Harlot
Fsmxoh	Sentinel Beast
Dayglow Abortions	Septic Death
Dead Kennedys	Sex Gang Children
Demon	Sex Sick
Exciter	Shattered Faith
Exodus	Sick Pleasure
Fall of Christianity	Skulls
Fallen Agnel	Slayer
Fedev	Sodom
Flesheaters	Some Weird Sin
Flotsam Jetsam	Stillborn Christians
45 Grave	Suicidal tendencies
God	Ultra Violence
Graven Image	Undead
Grim Reaper	Venom
Halloween	Vice Squad
Icons of Filth	Violent Children
Iron Maiden	Voodoo Church
Judas Priest	Wargasm
King Diamond	Witchfinder
Kirax	

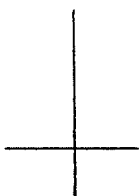
The upside down cross is often used as a mockery of the cross of Christ.



The cross of confusion includes the cross as an upside down question mark.



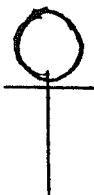
The Inverted Cross of Satanic Justice. Used on traitors. Usually found on the victim's chest.



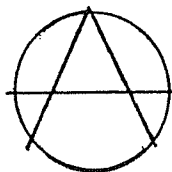
The Cross of Nero or Peace Symbol. Signifies the defeat of Christianity represented by the broken arms of the inverted cross.



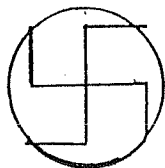
The Ankh symbolizes life.



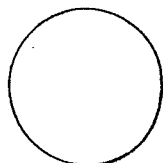
The Anarchy Symbol usually represents the abolition of all law.



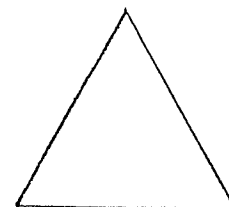
The Swastica shown here represents the elements or forces turned against nature and out of harmony.



The circle - used as protection from evil outside the circle and contains power within the circle.



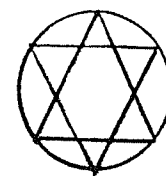
The Triangle can represent male virility when the apex is pointed upward. When the apex is pointed downward, it represents water or the female sex.



666 represents the Mark of the Beast. FFF is the sixth letter of the alphabet.



The Hexagram or Seal of Solomon. The most powerful symbol used in the occult. It should not be confused with the Star of David.



The Pentagram. The top point represents the spirit and the other points represent wind, fire, earth, and water.



The upside down pentagram often referred to as the bophomet. It represents the goat's head.



Satanic Salute is the sign of recognition between those in the occult.



The Crescent Moon symbol represents the moon goddess "Diana" and the morning star of "Lucifer."



The Blood Ritual Symbol represents animal and human sacrifice.

