

A SHORT AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

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Looking at what is happening in my life now at nearly eighty years old is so extraordinary; I felt I should write a short autobiography of my journey to introduce myself to those who might decide to read my notes on Dr. Ernest Martin's work.



From a child, I was taken to church every Sunday by my parents. Over time, they went to several different churches, They wanted to be Christians, but I think they were looking for 'something' which they sought but apparently never found before they died.

Apart from a few Bible stories from Sunday School about Jonah and the 'whale', or Christ turning water into wine, or feeding the five thousand, etc., nothing I heard in churches meant anything to me. I could not understand what they were all about really.

I met Shirley in a Methodist Church who became my first wife when I was twenty-one. The church seemed to me to be more of a social club than anything else, as I never was aware of any doctrinal beliefs apart from tee-totalism. Since Christ's first miracle was to produce wine for a wedding feast, even that did not seem to make sense!

Married a couple of years, we moved a few miles away, went to the nearest church, but again I was totally unimpressed with the milksop of a minister, who said nothing I could identify with. I never went again. By this time I had already realized that there were so many different churches all claiming to be right, but how could they all be 'right' when they all taught different things? I concluded that none of them could be 'right'. According to a survey conducted in 1980, there were then over 20,000 different 'Christian' denominations around the world!

Then in 1958, at twenty-three, I got the 'flu, and noticed in the pile of Reader's Digest magazines I was reading some adverts like: "Does God Exist", and "The Proof of the Bible", and "The U.K. and the U.S.A. in Prophecy". I sent off for them.

For the first time in my life, I was confronted with apparently solid facts from the Bible. I avidly read and devoured the leaflets, then the Bible Correspondence Course offered by the organization headed by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong of "The Worldwide Church of God" (WCG for short) which he claimed was the only true church on earth.

At this time, it certainly began to emerge that this group really did consider themselves to be the one and only true church of God although that was not immediately obvious. Certainly of all the churches I had previously any experience with, they were the first to actually appear to take the Bible literally, and teach solid, clearly defined doctrines directly from it.

Without realizing it, I was slowly and inexorably being brain-washed and drawn into a net, into the trap of 'a mixture of truth and error' which interestingly Mr. Armstrong used to describe as being the poisonous fatal fault with all other churches.

In 1961, I had become really disillusioned with the 'world'. I left my job, sold our house and bought a small farm in Sussex, intending to live the simple, self-sufficient life with my wife and our first baby child. Actually, my new 'world' fell apart after only a few weeks, so we sold the farm, and I went back to work at my old job.

In 1962, when I was twenty-seven, I was invited to attend the Armstrong WCG church group in London. The first meeting I attended seemed to me to be a dismal and somewhat depressing affair, but the people appeared devout, and the ministers passionate about what they were teaching. I was fascinated by the *apparent* authority and respect accorded to the Bible, and began my studies in real earnest. My involvement with the church was beginning to put a strain on our marriage, but I was devoted to the 'cause' which by then I truly believed to be "God's work".

I learned that the church ran Ambassador College in Hertfordshire which offered a four year full time Liberal Arts Bachelor's degree course so I applied. I was accepted. We sold our house and moved to Bricket Wood, and I became a first year student in 1964. The college offered married students twenty hours a week paid work to enable them to live, albeit meagerly, and pay the fees.

The course and life as a student was all consuming, studying the Bible every day, as well as a broad spectrum of subjects. I studied comparative Theology and Public Speaking, read History, took English composition, French, Music, and played a compulsory four hours sport a week.

Of all the theology classes, I particularly enjoyed the riveting lectures of Dr. Earnest L. Martin whose classes I attended for more than two years. He seemed different from all the other ministers, he gave off a strong feeling of gentleness and warmth, and his detailed knowledge and scholarliness of the Bible, and particularly of history, were absolutely outstanding. His church sermons were loved by all. He took groups of students to Israel to study, and get the 'feel' of Bible geography and history. Dr. Martin was also a respected archeologist working with some of the professors in the Hebrew University on various research projects, including the actual position of the Temple.

What I did not realise at all at the time, was that much of the 'theology' I was learning, consisted of what the church wanted me to study and believe. I did not know then that I was on a sort of tramline track, a narrow gauge line at that, focusing on certain things, and ignoring others of monumental importance.

However, 'all things work together for good to those who love Him', so I shall be eternally grateful to God for allowing me that time and experience to begin to develop a deep appreciation of the Bible really being God's Holy Word, even if a lot of what I was learning proved later to be a false gospel, and many incorrect applications of Scripture.

I did not realise that what I was learning was so very limited, and was kept within the boundaries of what the church leaders wanted to indoctrinate me with. I had no idea at

the time that this was the case, or that they were so wrong about so many of the doctrines they insisted were "THE truth" and taught with such fervour. The ministers were mostly sincere, (sincerity is no guarantee of truth!) and did not realize that they were teaching an almost complete distortion of the truths of the Bible.

I graduated with a B.A. degree in 1968, and was offered a position in the computer department of the College. Then later as a department head in charge of the professional standard Recording Studio, also of college printing, public address functions, student entertainments, and I was later invited to join the Faculty. So for many years I was in frequent contact with Dr. Martin, both in the Church and the College, including playing basketball with him most afternoons.

It was not long before there were well hidden but discernible cracks appearing among the hierarchy of the very top ministers of the church, some of whom were involved in seriously wrong activities like adultery, and even incest!

The college closed down in 1973, but I continued with work involved with public lecture campaigns around England. At that time I was given the opportunity to deliver sermons to thousands at the annual festivals, and also was the unordained pastor of the two churches in the Channel Islands.

In January 1975 it became clear that all was not well at the headquarters in Pasadena California. Some ministers left, others were dismissed, including my boss Mr. Hunting who was one of the top evangelists, for allegedly teaching doctrines not authorized by the church. Because of my association with Mr. Hunting I was 'fired' and banished after my nearly twenty year's involvement with the 'church'.

I was baffled, upset, and bewildered. I knew Mr. Hunting had not done any of the things they were accusing him of, and neither had I. So I went home and cried for a while, and I also made a decision to take control of my own life, so that nobody would ever again in have the power over my life to control my thinking or fire me. The church continued to be troubled with divisions, and many groups split off from the church before Mr. H.W. Armstrong eventually died in 1986. The splits, divisions, and disintegration continue to this day.

Later in 1976, I talked with Jeff Matthews who had worked for me in the Recording Studio, and he said, "Dr. Martin has some really interesting information about the Bible which I think you might be interested in." At that time, I had watched the disintegration of the church which was more than very upsetting, and I was in no frame of mind to pursue other studies of the Bible or be associated with other groups at that time.

I had come to realize that the church that I had attended for so many years was disastrously stuck in the partial and impossible practice of attempting to obey Old Testament laws, and that it was a group which had never really embraced the real gospel message of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

I certainly did not want to be involved with any religious organisation whatsoever. My new occupation in Natural Health Care had become my passion, so I thanked Jeff, and basically said, "No thanks". It was not my time!!

In 1974 I had met a chiropractor who was visiting England, and he introduced me to a new concept in natural health care called Applied Kinesiology (A.K.). I was fascinated by what he taught me about it. So in January 1976, at age forty-one, jobless, I contacted him, and he invited me to go to Toledo, Ohio, U.S.A. to study basic Applied Kinesiology with him. I took some courses, qualified as an instructor, and returned to England the first to pioneer A.K. in Britain, and later introduced it to most of the countries of Europe initially under the auspices of the Touch for Health organisation.

So when 'providentially' (as I now strongly believe) A.K. came along right at that moment, I jumped at the chance to learn a new skill, especially one which would enable me to follow my God given talent for teaching, and my innate desire to help and enrich the lives of other people, and incidentally be my own boss.

During the next more than twenty-five years, I trained thousands of lay people and hundreds of practitioners in the art of using basic A.K. to enhance health and well-being. I also opened my own clinic of natural health care to work with people individually.

In 1982, with Stephanie Mills my business partner and co-trainer, we formed the Academy of Systematic Kinesiology, and I wrote the textbooks for a two year part time course for practitioners. We also formed a charity, The Association of Systematic Kinesiology to help make A.K. more available to the public, and to act as a resource and support for the practitioners we were training.

In 2000, now sixty-five, I met Nita, who was born in the village where I lived in Surrey but had moved to Australia when she was sixteen. I had known her father, brother and sister for the twelve years I had lived in the village, but had never met her until she came to England to visit them. I decided to retire, pass my business over to my daughter Claire, and move to Australia with Nita, where we were married in 2002.

Over the years, I had kept in touch with my friend Jeff, who used to work with me in the college before it closed. He had gone on to make a successful career as a sound recordist in television productions.

One day in 2012, Jeff and I were talking about the 'old days' and he mentioned that there was a website where one could access the writings of Dr. Earnest Martin who was my favourite teacher in college. Sadly, Dr. Martin had died in 2002, but his work was being carried on to a degree by his wife and a colleague. Jeff reminded me that he had told me about Dr. Martin's research and his new understanding of what the Bible actually teaches back in 1976, but it was not my time to investigate that then.

Although after thirty-six years of not spending much time studying the scriptures with any real fervour and enthusiasm, I had still retained my love of the Bible as being the very Word of God, and my strong belief and faith in our Creator God.

In his writings, Dr. Martin points out an incredible truth about the billions of Bibles that have been printed since 1611. There is not one edition or version anywhere in the world that presents the Books of the Bible in the order of the original manuscripts inspired by God. I have recently learned that such a Bible has in fact been published.

The sixty-six Books in print globally (6 is the number of man!) are all jumbled up in a chaotic order compared to the majestic perfection of the number, (49 or 7x7) design and structure of the original writings. This greatly obscures the thread of truth that otherwise would enable those guided by the Holy Spirit to see the astounding truths and the story woven into the Divine Scriptures of the Holy Bible.

Under the inspiration of Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the Old Testament Books were formally Canonised by Ezra, and the New Testament Books were Canonised at the end of the 1st century A.D., by the Apostle John. Canonised means assembled in their final order.

In the 5th century A.D., a man called Jerome decided to shuffle all the books into an order that appealed to him, and translate the Bible into Latin. His work, called the Vulgate, resulted in the structure of the all the versions of the Bible we have today. His order has been perpetuated in the King James version translated into English in 1611, which although it is one of the best and most reliable we have, it is in the wrong order.

I had continued to observe that Christianity as practiced by thousands of denominations and billions of people was still plagued with divisions and watered down versions of the Bible's essential teachings; and most were 'teaching for doctrines the commandments of men' that Jesus Christ warned about. 'Christianity' I had still observed, was in chaos.

Many churches had further diluted God's laws of love, 'done away' with the Ten Commandments, and almost universally embraced many pagan and idolatrous practices, like Evolution, Easter and Christmas that God hates, that are now followed by virtually the whole world. The whole Bible is the history of idolatry, of human beings preferring to worship anything but their Creator, and their refusal to obey His laws.

The practice of heinous sexual activities by priests and ministers has become public knowledge in recent years. Millions have also begun even to espouse homosexuality, encourage same sex marriages and other practices which are clearly against all Biblical principles. Thankfully God gave me the mind not to allow any of this to diminish my faith in the truth of the gospel or my appreciation of the Great God, our Father.

I had studied some over the years though, and written quite a lot of articles as I learned various bits of new information about the scriptures. But I now look back with amazement at what has transpired in the last few months.

All these years later, then at seventy-seven years old, I was still in touch with Jeff, (again I truly believe 'providentially') and he put me in touch with a website called <http://www.ernestlmartin.com/> which was continuing the work of Dr. Martin, who had formed the Association for Scriptural Knowledge (A.S.K.) shortly after he resigned from the Worldwide Church of God.

In 2012, I was also in contact with a Ken Nagele who had known Dr. Martin for ten years before he died in 2002, who 'just happened' to have a box of tape recordings made by Dr. Martin in his garage. He was kind enough to send them to me, for which I shall be eternally grateful. So I was able to listen to and seriously study many of the

mind expanding recordings made by Dr. Martin in the twenty-five years after he resigned from the Worldwide Church around 1976, and before he died in 2002.

I was once again really astonished at the simplicity, power and clarity of Dr. Martin's taped lectures, and got very excited about what I was learning. I was learning more truth in a few weeks than I had learned about the Bible in fifty years! And it was so very interesting and stimulating, especially with Dr. Martin's talent for letting the Bible tell its own story without any 'spin' from him.

Dr. Martin maintains that "The best teachers are those who tell you where to look, *but not what to see.*" Not at all like the ministers of the Worldwide (WCG) church did! Dr. Martin also taught me a valuable truism: "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you TEACH him HOW TO FISH you feed him for life."

The ministers of 'churchianity' give their flocks 'fish', but certainly do not teach them HOW to fish, simply because they do not know how to do so themselves.

Dr. Martin continually stresses the 'keys' that unlock the Divine Truths within the scriptures. These 'Keys' include the importance of context, and especially the 'to whom', the 'when', and the 'where' of each passage we are studying. Without knowing 'who' the passage is addressed to, the 'chronology', timing, and historical importance of 'when' they were written, and the 'geography' or 'where' the events occurred, it is impossible to arrive at a complete understanding of any passage. This is a unique approach to study of the Bible. I have never ever heard of anyone else explaining in such detail the importance of these 'keys'.

Now after over a year with the cassettes, I am currently spending most of my energy each day listening to Dr. Martin's tapes. And not just listening, but studying them intently and writing notes! So again 'providentially', I strongly feel I had been given a 'doorway' to a vast amount of true Biblical knowledge and understanding which is virtually unknown.

But this time, the truths I am learning come directly from the Words of Christ (who wrote the entire Bible), not through the biased filter of devious human minds. Being able to glean knowledge, understanding, and wisdom from His Word is a gift from God, the human mind CANNOT do this without that gift no matter how hard one might try.

Dr. Martin is so direct, so honest, and so enthusiastic about God and His purpose for us all, so humble in his approach to sharing knowledge; always pointing his listeners directly to 'study' God's Word, and be taught by Christ Jesus, not by him! He is a pleasure to listen to. He makes God and the Holy Bible come more real and ALIVE!!! He explains what is there in the Book for us to discover that everyone ignores or overlooks.

I have told people who have asked about it, how I feel about the Bible now. Previous to my new understanding, it was like the image I had in my mind of God, Jesus Christ and the Bible was in two dimensional 'black and white' and in 'mono' sound. Now my mental image of God and the truths of the Bible are in 'glorious 3D technicolour' and 'surround stereo sound! And the pictures and the sound are getting clearer each day. What God has planned for us, His children, is truly astounding, and realized by so very few.

I would like to share what I am learning with anyone who would like to learn how to 'fish' for the truth for themselves. Be warned though, this is strong stuff. Jesus Christ, Firstborn Son of God, did not pull His punches when he confronted the world, and neither does His Word, the Holy Scriptures.

Dr. Martin's taped lectures are now available as MP3 digital recordings this site: <http://www.ernestlmartin.com/> It takes over an hour and a half to listen to each lecture. You may like to read my short notes on any given topic before listening to any of his recorded lectures, or perhaps after you have heard it as well.

I have followed the same procedure to make my notes daily now for about a year:

1. I first listen to the tapes, and take careful notes of the salient points Dr. Martin makes in each of them, often pausing the tape to write up what I just heard so as to reflect his incredible knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Listening to him today is just like I did in class over fifty years ago, thanks to the miracle of the cassettes.
2. I then convert the tapes to MP3 digital recordings. This needs some careful attention, as sound amplitude with some tapes varies between unacceptable levels, so I have to work on them to achieve a more consistent level.
3. Once in MP3 format. The beginnings and the ends often need to be 'trimmed' to exclude irrelevant words about 'tapes' and 'turn over' etc. Also, over years because the tapes were recorded on different equipment, some have background noise which needs to be 'cleaned', and the speed they run at varies from tape to tape which distorts his voice. I electronically adjust them so they sound more like Dr. Martin should sound from my memory of his voice. Each lecture takes just over 90 minutes to play back.

My notes on some of his talks are available on this site as PDF documents. I have many more in preparation, but this will take several months for me to complete.

In most cases, it only takes a few minutes to read my notes on any topic, which is only about one tenth of the time it takes to listen to the whole lecture. They offer a glimpse, a snapshot, a summary of the amazing insights Dr. Martin gives in his talks.

Hopefully reading my notes will inspire you to want to listen to the MP3 file on any given topic so you can enjoy the full inspiring impact of the message 'direct from the horse's mouth' so to speak.

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