

LEAD STORY: by Richard Daigle

Former Satanist Henry Lewis Warns Christians About the Occult

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Henry Lewis, now a pastor in Georgia, says most Christians know little about Satan

Most Christians are unaware of how organized Satan is, according to Georgia pastor Henry Lewis. If anyone should know about the structure of the devil's kingdom, it should be Lewis. He was a satanic leader for many years.

"What Christians don't understand is that the devil's kingdom is not disorganized, and demons don't usurp authority over those above them -- they obey completely," Lewis told Charisma News Service. "We must know our enemy."

Lewis pastors Word of Life Christian Center in Carnesville, Ga., north of Atlanta. He was raised in a New England family that has a long history of involvement in the occult.

Lewis' mother dedicated him to Satan before he was born, he says. When he was 3 months old, he developed meningitis. His mother chanted over him to ask that his life be spared.

"I feel she made a deal -- her life for my life," Lewis said.

Lewis' mother died when he was 2 years old. A Baptist woman who lived above them in a tenement house took in the boy for a period of time while Lewis' father adjusted to life without his wife. During that time the woman began praying for Lewis because he was developing an interest in witchcraft. As Lewis got older and matured both as a witch and a gang leader, the woman would tell him about Jesus. And she continued to pray.

"I threatened to kill her twice for talking to me about Jesus," Lewis said. One night, Lewis cast a spell of revenge on the woman, but it backfired. "That night I woke up in hell," he claims.

Lewis can't say whether his experience was a dream or real, but either way it struck at the core of his being. "It did what the Lord wanted it to do because in a microsecond I was repenting," he said.

After this experience Lewis went to different churches seeking freedom from his demonic bondage but found no help. "I went from church to church to church, and people tried to counsel the devil out of me instead of casting it out," he said. He finally found freedom after praying to receive Christ at a storefront Pentecostal church.

Since Lewis began pastoring in 1983, he has had death threats against him by witches. Once, his pet cat was crucified in his yard.

While a follower of Satan, Lewis treated his master with respect. After he became a Christian, Lewis said he was disturbed when believers didn't treat Jesus with proper honor and respect. "I saw people ordering Him around like He was some sort of celestial butler," he said.

For six years the ex-satanist has been a member of Free Chapel Worship Center in Gainesville, Ga., a charismatic congregation pastored by Jentezen Franklin. Lewis accepted his current pastoral position at Word of Life Christian Center six months ago. He says he doesn't want to focus on Satan in an inappropriate way, but he wants believers to know that witchcraft is

infiltrating virtually every aspect of society, and he wants to reach those in bondage to Satan.

Said Lewis: "A lot of witches are lonely, hurting people whom the enemy feeds on. I know what it's like, and I want to set them free. I'd love to have 100 ex-witches in my church."

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