

Joyce Meyer:

Pauline Joyce Meyer is an American Charismatic Christian author, speaker and president of Joyce Meyer Ministries. Meyer was briefly a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in St. Louis, a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.[1][4] She began leading an early-morning Bible class at a local cafeteria and became active in Life Christian Center, a charismatic church in Fenton. Within a few years, Meyer was the church's associate pastor. The church became one of the leading charismatic churches in the area, largely because of her popularity as a Bible teacher.[1] She also began airing a daily 15-minute radio broadcast on a St. Louis radio station.

In 1985, Meyer resigned as associate pastor and founded her own ministry, initially called "Life in the Word." She began airing her radio show on six other stations from Chicago to Kansas City.

In 1993, her husband Dave suggested that they start a television ministry.[1] Initially airing on superstation WGN-TV in Chicago and Black Entertainment Television (BET), her program, now called Enjoying Everyday Life, is still on the air today.

In 2002, mainstream publisher Hachette Book Group paid Meyer over \$10 million for the rights to her backlist catalog of independently released books.[5]

In 2004 St. Louis Christian television station KNLC, operated by the Rev. Larry Rice of New Life Evangelistic Center, dropped Meyer's programming. According to Rice, a longstanding Meyer supporter, Meyer's "excessive lifestyle" and her teachings often going "beyond Scripture" were the impetus for canceling the program.[6]

In 2005, Time magazine's "25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America" ranked Meyer as 17th.

Mary Baker Eddy:

Mary Baker Eddy (July 16, 1821 – December 3, 1910) was an American religious leader and author who founded The Church of Christ, Scientist, in New England in 1879. She also founded The Christian Science Monitor, a Pulitzer Prize-winning secular newspaper, in 1908 and three religious' magazines: the Christian Science Sentinel, The Christian Science Journal, and The Herald of Christian Science. She wrote numerous books and articles, the most notable of which was Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, which had sold over nine million copies as of 2001. Members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist consider Eddy the "discoverer" of Christian Science, and adherents are therefore known as Christian Scientists or students of Christian Science. The church is sometimes informally known as the Christian Science church.

Annie Hamilton-Byrne — The Family

Outside Melbourne, in the 1960s, 70s and 80s a toxic blend of Christianity, Hinduism, and new age mysticism came together under the guidance of one woman — Annie Hamilton-Byrne.

Valentina De Andrade — Superior Universal Alignment UFO Cult

The beginnings of the cult 'Superior Universal Alignment UFO' are mysterious and it's not entirely clear if De Andrade was even its founder, but by 1981, she was preaching that she'd been contacted by aliens that foretold the end of the world. According to her, God wasn't real, Jesus was an alien messiah meant to prepare humanity for the end times and teach us about love and compassion. Doomsday could be avoided, De Andrade assured her terrified followers, but there would be a great and terrible cost.

Bonnie Nettles — Heaven's Gate

Co-founder and Co-leader with Marshall Applewhite of the Heaven's Gate new religious movement.

Sarah Young — Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence

Jesus Calling has prompted objections from within the evangelical community. The book is written in the voice of Jesus Christ speaking directly to the reader and thereby claiming new revelation from God. The practice of automatic writing while receiving messages is central to the controversy. David Crump, professor of religion at Calvin College, told Christianity Today that Young "puts her thoughts into the first person and then presents that 'person' as the resurrected Lord" and said he is tempted to call this "blasphemy". Publisher Thomas Nelson removed references to automatic writing from the book's introduction and claims the book contains Young's own thoughts and inspirations.

As this blog explains, Jesus Calling is essentially a devotional book containing one year's worth of short reflections on the Christian faith which Young claims came from Jesus Christ in a way similar to messages He allegedly gave to two anonymous "listeners" who authored the book, God Calling. The problem is that these two listeners were engaged in what is known as automatic writing – an occult art – while receiving these messages – a fact that is the main source of controversy surrounding Jesus Calling.

For those of you who are not familiar with automatic writing, this practice is similar to the Ouija board only instead of spelling out answers to questions with a planchette, a person "receives" these answers on paper. They hold a pen which is said to move independently across the page and write out messages, usually from so-called deceased persons or from unknown discarnate entities. You can find more information about this practice [here](#).

Young was enchanted by the listener's work and, according to the foreword which used to appear in Jesus Calling, said she began to wish for the same abilities.

"I began to wonder if I, too, could receive messages during my times of communing with God," she wrote. "I had been writing in prayer journals for years, but that was one-way communication: I did all the talking. I knew that God communicated with me through the Bible, but I yearned for more. Increasingly, I wanted to hear what God had to say to me personally on a given day. I decided to listen to God with pen in hand, writing down whatever I believe He was saying. I felt awkward the first time I tried this, but I received a message. It was short, biblical, and appropriate. It addressed topics that were current in my life: trust, fear, and closeness to God. I responded by writing in my prayer journal."

While there's nothing wrong with journaling – millions of us do it – to publish these writings as coming from Christ Himself is another point that upsets many, especially Catholics who are used to relying upon the Church's proven methods of discernment before making such a pronouncement.

But even her fellow Protestants were a bit put off by such presumption. “She puts her thoughts into the first person and then presents that ‘person’ as the resurrected Lord,” David Crump, professor of religion at evangelical Calvin College, told Christianity Today. “I’m tempted to call this blasphemy.”

Others complain that while there is nothing wrong with the doctrine in Young’s messages, they are concerned about the way she infers that while the Bible is inerrant and infallible, it is not sufficient – at least not for her.

In spite of these problems, the book has become a bestseller – something the publisher (Thomas Nelson) wants to see continue. For this reason, they decided to simply remove all references to God Calling from the book’s introduction. Instead, they are now insisting that these aren’t messages from God but are simply Young’s own thoughts and inspirations. This is just “Sarah’s prayer journal”, they insist, and she’s not really speaking for Jesus.