

## THE SCANDAL OF CHRISTIAN GHOSTWRITING

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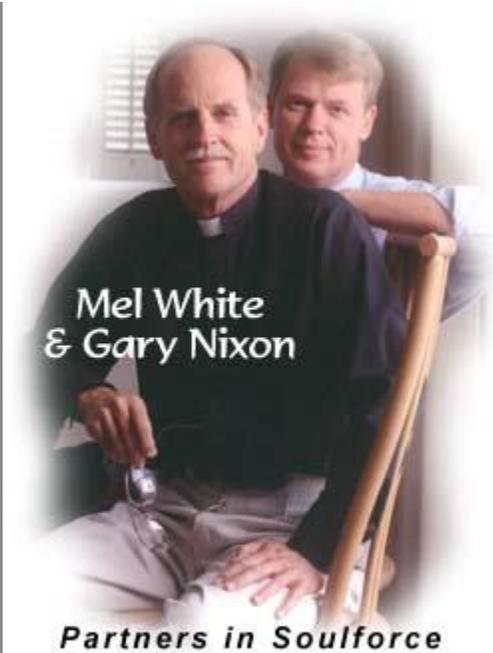
by Texe Marrs

*"...Readers pay exorbitant prices for the books of Christian superstars, never knowing that the volumes are actually written by no-name "ghosts." Among the big names pulling this stunt: Hal Lindsey, Chuck Colson, Jim Bakker, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Benny Hinn, John Ankerberg, Hank Hanegraaff, David Jeremiah and Jerry Falwell."*

Are some of the most cherished books in your personal Christian library written by ghostwriters, some of whom may be homosexuals, atheists, and New Agers? Before you answer "no", please read this article very carefully. A tragic and disreputable hoax is being perpetrated on unsuspecting Christians. And you might be one of the chief victims. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7)

The Reverend Mel White is a homosexual activist (**& Cofounder of Soulforce see below**) who lives with his male lover, Gary Nixon, in Dallas, Texas. "I am gay, I am proud, and God loves me without reservation," White recently told David Calkin, a Los Angeles Times reporter. White, who "pastors" a militantly gay church, is also a writer of many Christian books. But though he's the author, his name doesn't appear on the front covers. Instead, a Christian celebrity's name appears on each of Mel White's books. White is what the book industry fondly calls a "ghostwriter."

Soulforce Co-Founders & Lovers Mel White and Gary Nixon



## **Soulforce Vision Statement**

- "The purpose of Soulforce is freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance."
- **Soulforce Mission Statement**
- The mission of Soulforce is to cut off homophobia at its source -- religious bigotry. Soulforce uses a dynamic "take it to the streets" style of activism to connect the dots between anti-gay religious dogma and the resulting attacks on the lives and civil liberties of LGBT Americans. We apply the creative direct action principles taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to peacefully resist injustice and demand full equality for LGBT citizens and same-gender families.

### **Ghostwriting Rampant in "Christian" Publishing**

The scandalous practice of an unnamed and concealed person ghostwriting a book for a celebrity is rampant in Christian publishing. Virtually all the larger book publishing firms do it. The question is, is this practice immoral, dishonest, and deceitful?

After all, the buyer of these books thinks he or she is getting inspired information direct from the hearts and pens of men like Billy Graham and Pat Robertson, each of whom has used ghostwriters. The reader pays good money for a beautifully packaged book with the hero celebrity's picture and name on the jacket. Never would the buyer suspect that the book is actually written by a homosexual, an atheist, or a New Ager. Thinking that he or she is taking in digestible spiritual food, the book buyer has no idea the ghostwritten book may contain poisonous and insidious views hostile to Christianity imbedded in its text.

### **Big Name Personalities Use Ghostwriters**

Homosexual activist Mel White has been an influential, behind-the-scenes ghostwriter for many big name personalities. He's written speeches for Lt. Col. Oliver North. White has also authored at least two of evangelist Jerry Falwell's books, including, unbelievable as it may seem, Falwell's autobiography, *Strength for the Journey*. Falwell could well afford White's fee to ghostwrite his books. The Moral Majority preacher was given a one million dollar advance by the publisher! The Reverend Mr. White has also been the secret force behind some of Billy Graham's best known books, including Graham's prophetic bestseller, *The Approaching Hoofbeats*. Indeed, White once even closeted himself in a luxurious condo for weeks with the famed evangelist down in Acapulco, Mexico, writing a book.

However, you'll search in vain to find author Mel White's name on either the cover or the title page of the books he wrote for Billy Graham. Nor is Mel White's name openly connected with Jerry Falwell's books. "It was important," White now reveals, "that Jerry Falwell not be scandalized because his biographer was a queer."

Ghostwriter White also wrote Pat Robertson's book, *America's Dates With Destiny* but the gay reverend is not the only "ghost" whom the veteran host of TV's *The 700 Club* has used for his chart topping books. Reportedly, Robertson's recent #1 Christian bestseller, *The New World Order*, was also ghostwritten by a CBN staffer.

In *The New World Order*, "Pat Robertson" correctly warns readers that Freemasonry is an evil, Luciferian conspiracy. Yet, incredibly, Robertson's Christian Coalition subsequently held a "Road to Victory '93" conference in Washington, D.C., at which high-level Freemasons gave the keynote addresses! Pat Robertson's guest speakers at the conference included Senator Bob Dole, 33rd Scottish Rite Mason, and Senator Jesse Helms, yet another 33rd Mason.

Pat Robertson's book, *The New World Order*, also fingered the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) as a Satan led, conspiratorial project. But at his "Road to Victory '93" gala, Robertson's keynote speaker was none other than Congressman Newt Gingrich. One worder Gingrich just happens to be a loyal member of the same group which Pat's

book exposes as a devilish front the CFR! The title of Gingrich's speech for the Christian Coalition conference was "Renewing American Civilization."

We are thus faced with these two alternatives: (1) either Pat Robertson did not even bother to read the best-selling book, *The New World Order*, that sports his celebrity name as author on its glossy cover; or (2) he allowed his name to be placed on a book, the contents of which he does not even believe in.

### **Can We Trust Christian Publishers?**

My investigation of the Christian book world has uncovered the disgusting fact that the majority of books supposedly authored by famous Christian personalities are, in fact, the product of ghostwriters. Both novels and non-fiction books are involved. Sometimes, the real writer is recognized in the acknowledgments section or elsewhere in the book; but most often, he or she is not. Some celebrities, such as Chuck Colson, write their books "with" an unknown collaborator. In such cases, the ghostwriter's name is occasionally shown on the front cover in small, unassuming type. But shouldn't the cover jacket of these books have a warning label or notice revealing what percentage of the book is written by Colson and what percentage is the product of his lesser-known co-writer? Who really writes Colson's books - him or his collaborator? Whose ideas do his books reflect? The book buyer also deserves to be told some facts about the ghostwriter or co-writer, so that Mel White-type incidents are minimized. For example, a woman named Ellen Santilli Vaughn is listed as the co-writer of many of Chuck Colson's best-selling books, including his ecumenical-oriented book, *The Body*. But just who is "Ellen Santilli Vaughn?" What is her background? Is she a Christian...a Catholic...a Protestant...a New Ager? How much of the contents and philosophy of Chuck Colson's books is Ms. Vaughn responsible for?

Another prime example is prophecy teacher Hal Lindsey. Very few people know that Lindsey's mammoth bestseller, "The Late, Great Planet Earth," was actually written by a woman, Carla Carlson. To his credit, Lindsey has publicly admitted this. The question remains, however: Who is Carla Carlson? Why was she involved in writing Lindsey's book? Why is her name not highlighted on the cover, in bold letters equally as large as those of Hal Lindsey? And finally: Are all of Hal Lindsey's books similarly written by unknown ghostwriters?

It is shameful that such vital and basic information is withheld from the book buyer. Shouldn't truth-in-packaging rules apply to publishing the way they do to other consumer product industries? Anything less would be a scam on my readers.

### **How to Make a Bundle from Ghostwritten Books**

Now please understand: I do realize that in a few cases, it is perfectly acceptable for a talented professional writer to work with an expert or authority on a technical subject. An

engineer, a medical doctor, a dietitian or a scientist researcher may find it expedient to work with a writer. But in such cases, it is the expert who has the original concept for the book. He dictates most of the text, and the book is based solely on his knowledge, ideas, work, and research.

This is rarely the case with celebrity Christian authors. Publishers are continually searching for "hot," new topics for books that can make them a lot of money. Usually, they, not the celebrity, choose a title for the book and only then contact and recruit the chosen celebrity. Publishers have been known to hire entire teams of writers and researchers to produce books.

Often, the greedy celebrity author merely gives the finished product a cursory look-over and adds his verbal blessing to the project. The celebrity is pleased because he knows he will make a bundle, with only minimal effort on his part. His name goes on the cover, and millions of Christian buyers are deceived into believing the celebrity, inspired by God, personally wrote every word in the book.

### **The Profit Motive is Paramount**

It thus becomes crystal clear why publishers and celebrity authors conspire to produce ghostwritten books. The reason is simple: money, money, money! A best-selling, hardcover book with the glittery name of a Graham, Robertson, Colson, or Lindsey on the cover can bring in five to ten million dollars or more in income.

The celebrity "author" also profits - he can rake in as much as two million dollars per book. No wonder the rush is on by publishers to constantly create new, mostly fluff titles and to line up their ghostwriters with name celebrities known to be guaranteed money-makers in the Christian marketplace.

### **Truth Telling is in Order**

So what's to be done about the lucrative, yet unethical and dishonest, practice of the ghostwriting of Christian books? I believe it is time for some truth telling. Thomas Nelson, Word, and all the other wealthy conglomerates who disguise themselves as "Christian" publishers should step up to the plate and give us a list of which books have been written by "ghosts" and which were really penned by the authors listed on their covers. That's the least they should do to come clean. Better yet, these greedy publishing houses and their celebrity stable mates should quit trying to fatten their coffers and make bucks off gullible Christian readers. They should cease their publishing of ghostwritten books entirely. [http://www.scionofzion.com/ghost\\_writers.htm](http://www.scionofzion.com/ghost_writers.htm)

## **The Scandal of Christian Ghostwriting—An Update**

My audiotape investigative report, [\*The Scandal of Christian Ghostwriting\*](#), has

caused quite a stir. Some Christian celebrities who use ghostwriters are panic-stricken. Many are wiggling and squirming in discomfort. They are embarrassed that their money-making scam was finally unmasked for what it is: A deception on the buying public. Readers pay exorbitant prices for the books of Christian superstars, never knowing that the volumes are actually written by no-name "ghosts." Among the big names pulling this stunt: Hal Lindsey, Chuck Colson, Jim Bakker, Billy Graham, and Oral Roberts.

After my exposé, several of these men quickly circled their wagons and tried to come up with excuses. Charismatic faith healer Benny Hinn took the direct approach. He went on Paul Crouch's *Trinity Broadcasting Network* and personally introduced *his* ghostwriter! Hinn gave the lame excuse that his books were anointed by God, but he just needed help in getting it all into words and into book form.

David Wilkerson phoned me to discuss his situation. "I am responsible for my book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*," insisted the Times Square pastor.

Wilkerson went on to say, "I did go to Sherrill's office almost every day for over a year to work on the book. Together we hammered it out. But he was not really a ghostwriter. I personally approved every word, every page."

I do give David Wilkerson credit for at least admitting that someone helped him write his book. And I believe him when he states that he personally approved every word that was written. Moreover, I do not think that David Wilkerson was motivated by money when his book was published.

Wilkerson's book was a biographical account of his true-life experiences in New York City as a street preacher. His justification for obtaining help is that he is not called to be a writer—he's called to be a preacher.

I give Brother Wilkerson the benefit of the doubt. I do wish, though, that he had checked out the beliefs and background of writer-helper, John Sherrill. Sherrill, is, in fact, a rabid ecumenicist who enthusiastically promotes Roman Catholicism and is a member of the apostate, ultra-liberal Episcopal Church (World Council of Churches). Is such a man qualified to "assist" a bible-believing evangelist in writing a book?

Sherrill was also a paid writer on the staff of the late Norman Vincent Peale, a 33rd degree Mason. Peale was the guy who made a mint with his false teachings about "positive thinking." The liberal Reverend Peale promoted spirit channeling and automatic writing. He encouraged communication with the dead. (For proof, see Wanda Marrs' book, [\*New Age Lies to Women\*](#), and my book, [\*New Age Cults and Religions\*](#).) I am not implying, of course, that Sherrill has such beliefs, but he was on Peale's staff.

John Sherrill's own book, *They Speak With Other Tongues*, is well known in Charismatic circles—2.5 million copies of the book have been sold over the years to ecumenical-minded charismatics. Yet, the book is devoid of true salvation knowledge and woefully

lacks a legitimate, born again Gospel message.

In his book, Sherrill promotes Catholicism; he praises the Popes and gushingly quotes Catholic priests who practice speaking in tongues. In agreement with Vatican doctrine, Sherrill writes that, "The Eucharist is at the center of our worship life."

### **Pat Robertson Admits to Ghostwritten Book**

Then we have the case of Gene Kapp, who happens to be "vice president of public relations" for Pat Robertson's *The 700 Club*. In answer to an inquiry by a friend of *Power of Prophecy Ministries*, Kapp blatantly misled when he stated: "*Pat Robertson does not use 'ghostwriters' for any of his books.*"

In the very next sentence, however, Kapp contradicts himself. "Mr. Robertson," Kapp writes, "did utilize Mel White as a freelance temporary in 1984, before White publicly announced that he is a homosexual, to assist in the writing of *America's Dates With Destiny*."

Sorry, Mr. Kapp, but your lack of credibility is showing. In my possession and reprinted here is a letter signed by Pat Robertson, Kapp's boss. In the letter, Robertson admits that yes, he did use a ghostwriter for his more recent book, *New World Order*. In his letter, Robertson states flat-out: "The ghostwriter on the book was Mr. James Black."

O.K., Pat: Now, that you have finally admitted that you did use a ghostwriter—exactly as I reported in my audiotape report, *The Scandal of Christian Ghostwriting*—don't you think it would be proper to call Mr. Kapp, your VP for public relations, into your office, stand him upright, and plainly tell him: "Quit misleading people. It's not good public relations!"

While you're at it, Pat, why don't you just do the right thing yourself: Stop putting your name on books ghostwritten by others. That, in my opinion, is a form of lying.

The same can be said for John Ankerberg, Chuck Colson, Hank Hanegraaff, David Jeremiah, Hal Lindsey, Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell, and all the others who handsomely profit from ghostwritten books.

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Texe Marr's audiotape, [\*\*The Scandal of Christian Ghostwriting\*\*](#), is available through the ministry for \$10. Order your copy now by using our on-line shopping cart or, for faster service, please call our order line, toll free, at 1-800-234-9673.

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