

CANA DISCUSSION PAPERS

The present series of short discussion papers written by members of the CANA Publication Group are intended to stimulate thought and discussion that we each may grow in knowledge and understanding in our personal search for truth.

Paper 1: *The Christ* by Adrian Smith. His thesis is that Jesus of Nazareth is but one manifestation of the Christ, God's creative Word. So to say that Jesus is the Christ is not the same as to say the Christ is solely Jesus. He suggests that this understanding might be the basis of dialogue with the other great religious communities

Paper 2: *Christians Today Opening to a New Awareness* by Daren Kemp discusses 'Marks of a New Age Christian', 'Christaquarian', 'Some Public New Age Christian Figures' and asks 'Is there a New Age Christian?'

Paper 3: *Christian Reincarnation?* by Don Macgregor. In his summary he says "Because the Bible is not conclusive about various issues does not mean that they are wrong. The Bible is not conclusive about what heaven and hell are, about the Trinity, about slavery, women priests, homosexuality, and a myriad other issues. Reincarnation is not condemned within the Bible, although it was a popular belief at the time of the New Testament. It is simply not addressed."

Paper 4: *The Lost Kingdom of God* by Adrian B. Smith. The author suggests that over the last decades there has appeared a swing from a Church-centred Christianity to a Kingdom-centred Christianity: indeed, a return to the original Gospel Good News. This is such a profound shift that it fundamentally alters the Church-world relationship and all that such a vision implies.

Paper 5: *Christ Consciousness* by Gillian Paschkes-Bell. In this paper, the term 'Christ Consciousness' is seen in terms of two patterns, those of creativity and of healing. Creativity is seen as the fundamental divine attribute, and identified with the quality of love. Healing is seen as the quality of love as it is transformed when creative processes are interrupted. The background to this understanding is drawn from Christian and Holistic literature, as well as from interviews with individuals.

Paper 6: *Religion and Spirituality* by Adrian B. Smith. The author shares his conviction that a spiritual revolution is taking place of which the Church is not taking account. He explores what it is that is attracting young people away from the Church towards this emerging spirituality.

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