

MEL TARI, ANOTHER CHARISMATIC FRAUD?

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Mel Tari is a charismatic.

He claimed that a revival and miracles had occurred in Muslim Indonesia. There were people being raised from the dead and water was being turned into wine. But there is no corroboratory evidence of this.

Yet he writes about this in his book Like a Mighty Wind.

As has already been said people will buy sensational books. It does not mean the buyers agree with what is written.

Tari further claims that this was evidence that the miracles of Jesus were being performed today and without Jesus being physically present.

This book has been translated into about nineteen languages and the author has made a lot of money out of it.

Years later, he is being sued for allegedly defrauding missionaries out of almost £300,000.

Christine Kline, who works with Youth with a Mission, states that she turned over a large inheritance to Tari who promised to invest the money in a safe Trust. Christine planned to spend the rest of her life as a missionary and live off the interest from her safe investment.

That Trust never existed.

Tari invested most of the money in a firm called All Seasons Resorts which later filed for bankruptcy. Tari promised to give all of Christine's money back but failed to do so. There are others who handed over money to Tari to invest and they cannot get their money back either.

One may ask why did people give money to Tari in the first place? Was it because he was a Christian and easily believed?

Christine Kline of Denver had met him in 1983 when he was speaking in Hawaii about the miracles in Indonesia. She had had a wild life with drugs but had been converted but was a young and naive Christian. He found out about her large inheritance and boasted that he was a financial expert. He tried to persuade Christine to sign a document stating that she had given him the money as a gift.

The case went to Court and Tari was found guilty and had to pay 1.1 million dollars in damages. This was in 1994 when Tari was 48 and Christine Kline was 41.

It was proved that he was a fraudster and a liar.

It is sad to relate that Pentecostals and charismatics have within their ranks so many crooks. Having said that, it must be realised that most Christians, particularly those who adhere to the Scriptures, are honest people

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