

***Counterfeit Revival* by Hank Hanegraaff (Word Publishing, 1997; 315 pages).**

Reviewed by John A. Battle

A major new force has appeared in many churches around the world during this decade, and it is rapidly spreading today. On the Trinity Broadcasting Network leaders of this movement receive world-wide publicity. People in church services laugh uncontrollably, are “slain in the spirit,” bark like dogs, lie motionless for hours, jump, hop, or make wild movements, or get the “jerks.” Religious practitioners exert hypnotic control over large audiences. It has many names, including the Toronto Blessing, the Laughing Revival, or similar titles. While it has been associated with the Vineyard movement, this new wave of supposed Holy Spirit “intoxication” is spreading to many other churches, both Charismatic and non-Charismatic.

Hank Hanegraaff, president of the Christian Research Institute and well-known to radio listeners as the “Bible Answer Man,” has done us a service by detailing the origin of this movement, and by documenting its leaders, its principles, and its practices. His earlier book, *Christianity in Crisis*, dealt with the false prosperity gospel and the heretical doctrines of many popular preachers and evangelists today. Now Hanegraaff exposes the perverted theological underpinning of this false revival, and contrasts it with the external results found in genuine revivals, such as the Great Awakening of the eighteenth century in America. The author is thorough and careful in his documentation, yet he is passionate in defending biblical reformation. This new movement, which claims new revelations from God, is a danger to the church and a destroyer of souls. The false theologies and aspirations of these “counterfeit revivalists” need this exposure, for in some degree they are infiltrating the thought and practice of many today.

I heartily recommend this book; it should be in every church library.