



WITCH DOCTOR

MIRACLE STORY OF CONVERSION

DEDICATED & REARED IN WITCHCRAFT
40 YEARS AS A MACUMBA WITCH DOCTOR

A STARTLING WARNING TO SPIRITISTS
& CHANNELERS

LESTER SUMRALL

WITCH DOCTOR

by

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Unless otherwise indicated
all Scripture quotations are taken from
the *King James Version of the Bible*.

THE WITCH DOCTOR

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INTRODUCTION

The Witch Doctor with sad eyes said to me, "The demons who used to possess me said they would kill me if I came to America and told all. They reminded me that no deserter of witchcraft had lived." As we drove in my car across the high Rockies of the state of Colorado, I rebuked the devil and demons tormenting the former witch doctor, and assured him that he would live and not die.

1

THE AMAZING STORY OF MACUMBA AND UMBANDA DEVIL WORSHIP

Many times I have walked on finely broken glass with my naked feet without cutting myself.

“I have eaten mouthfuls of crushed glass and suffered no ill effects.

“Standing before awed worshipers of Umbanda, I have dipped long strings of rolled cotton into oil and set them afire. Then, I ate them as the flames licked upward.

“I have lit large candles, thrust the open flames inside my mouth, held them there and then brought them out still lighted.

“I have drunk burning rum from a

bowl without injury to my mouth or stomach.

"These feats were performed while I was in a trance and under the strong power of devils.

"I was for forty years a Macumba witch doctor—*Chief of the Terreiros*, they called me. I was not always aware of every act I committed while in a trance. For me to know, friends had to describe the deeds or show me photographs they had taken.

"You might be surprised that I never did those things except when the spirits were *angry* with me. They led me to believe I could appease their wrath by doing the things they demanded of me. Such deeds showed my continued devotion to them and always turned their wrath from me. By these daring acts, the devils knew again that I remained their slave."

Amazing words, are they not?

I heard them from the lips of a modern witch doctor, now converted to Jesus Christ. Arlindo Barbosa de Oliveira lives in the ultramodern city of **Brasilia**, the capital city of **Brazil**,

where he worked as a courier of confidential documents for the national government of Brazil. Most of his working hours were spent in the Presidential Palace. Arlindo was born in Rio de Janeiro, one of the great cities of the world. He knows nothing of primitive or jungle environment, such as that associated in the minds of many people with sorcery and witchcraft. Previously, he worked in a bank and for a public service company. He attended public school in Rio de Janeiro.

A Miracle Story

Arlindo is rather tall, of medium build and has a gracious bearing and ready smile. He wins friends easily.

His is a miracle story—a story that takes you deep into the mysteries of witchcraft and demon possession. "Prince of Darkness" is what Arlindo might have been called during his years in the weird and shadowy land of spiritism and devil worship. But today he is a born again believer, a miracle of God's power and spiritual

deliverance. His conversion proves again that God saves the worst of men—even those in league with the devil.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:36

Baptized To The Devil

If you were to sit down and talk with Arlindo as I have done for hours at a time, you would hear strange things. Unbelievable as it may seem, in a mysterious spiritist ceremony, Arlindo was baptized to the devil while in his mother's womb. The story of Arlindo reveals how real the devil and his demons are today. You must believe, for there is ample documentary evidence to support the facts of this story. Secondly, Arlindo wants you to understand that the devil will possess any human he possibly can; that he has weaker demons and stronger demons to possess people; that sometimes one demon lives within a person and sometimes many.

Thirdly, you must know that demon

power, as real and strong as it is, is no match for the power of God. Devils cannot cross the blood of Jesus Christ to harm any human being. The beautiful hymn, *Safe in the Arms of Jesus*, is literally true and could be sung every day and not just at funerals!

A Growing Movement

I urge you not to dismiss spiritism as a cult of fanatics associated with jungle or primitive environment. Spiritism is a rapidly growing movement. It flourishes worldwide. Brazil is a world leader in spiritism. Professor Dr. A. C. Pacheco e Silva, in his authoritative book, **A Umbanda No Brazil**, said, "This evil is so great that it can ruin this nation."

Arlindo says, "You must realize that not all you hear about witch doctors is true of *every witch doctor*. I know the very name brings cold chills down the spine of most sophisticated moderns. A witch doctor is not necessarily an ugly person, a depraved or wild man. He does not have to be a destroyer of human life or a curser

of mankind with woeful ills."

Arlindo told me several times that when any witch doctor claims he does only good, you can't believe him. He may want to do good, but the devil will do evil through him while he is in a trance, and he has no knowledge of what he is doing."

Arlindo, the Brazilian witch doctor said, "It was Jesus, whom I had never known, who walked into my room in a dream and told me witchcraft was wrong. I believed Him and sought for the true light of God. Every day I thank God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, for awakening me from my night of darkness and bondage and bringing me into the glorious light of His truth. I now give my testimony to help bring others into this light of heaven and the light of eternal salvation."

Midnight Demon Worship

I had just arrived by Pan American Airlines in Brazil. It was a little past midnight on the first day of the year. We were en route to a hotel in Rio de

Janeiro when we came upon the world famous Cococabana Beach. I shall never forget the scene we witnessed and the sounds we heard on that occasion. Thousands of spiritists of the Umbanda and Macumba sects, all dressed in white, worshiped on the beach.

These spiritists had dug hundreds of small holes in the sand and placed lighted candles in them. The world famous beach was aglow with these small fires. As we approached, we saw spiritists tossing flowers on the waters of Guanabara Bay. They were praying to Emanja, queen of the sea or mother of the sea. Arlindo once told me he had known of these people throwing jewels and gold into the sea in the frenzy of their worship.

How strange it was to see thousands of spiritist worshipers, many of whom jerked and gyrated while they chanted incantations to demons. All of them seemed under a hypnotic spell and had an agonized look upon their faces. Their religion of Umbanda is part of their racial

heritage from Africa.

Umbanda is the strongest religious power in Brazil. Although this low spiritism has often been outlawed and its leaders persecuted, it grows by leaps and bounds. In Rio de Janeiro alone, 30,000 weekly meetings are held in backyards, living rooms, empty store buildings, or any available place.

Curses Bring Death

Macumba curses are known to bring death to people and this involves the leaders with the authority. They are frequently jailed. Still, the men and women of prominence in politics and society are its devotees. Despite all opposition, witchcraft flourishes like an evil cancer on Brazil's life.

What is this evil thing called witchcraft? How did it get started and grow to such proportions in the fifth largest nation of the world?

Brazil's interesting history gives you some insight into these matters and to Arlindo's race heritage. On April 26, 1500 A.D., Pedro Alvares Cabral landed on the shores of Brazil and claimed it for the King of Portugal. So

the first Europeans to live in Brazil were Portuguese. Brazil derives its name from a dyewood—brazilwood. The first colonists arrived by 1532 and founded the town of Sao Vincente.

Sugarcane became Brazil's staple crop. Once the Dutch invaded Brazil because of its sugar producing wealth, but were driven out by the Portuguese after 34 years.

Here is an interesting sidelight. Brazil is the only country in the Western Hemisphere to serve as the seat of a European empire. The Portuguese royal family lived in Brazil and ruled Portugal from Brazil between 1808 and 1821. The reason for this was that France invaded Portugal in 1807 and the royal family fled to Brazil.

Political Freedom

Brazil received its political freedom from the King of Portugal by writing him a letter, thus avoiding a bitter war. Modern Brazil has 20 states, five federal territories and one federal district. It has an area of 3,288,042 square miles--fifth largest nation in the

world. Only Russia, China, Canada and the United States are larger. Its extended coastline is 2,680 miles long and 90 per cent of its total population lives on that coastline. The city of Recife in the north is about as close to the continent of Africa as it is to its sister city of Porto Alegre in southern Brazil.

Brazil, in many ways, is fabulous and a land of contrast. Rich in natural resources, it possesses the largest virgin forest on this earth. In this 20th century, hundreds of primitive tribes in the vast Amazonian Green Hell are yet unreached and untold -- primitive people lost in superstition and demon worship.

In contrast there are the dazzling cities of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia. Though they have great edifices of stone and steel, spiritism is the reigning religious influence.

Evil Slave Traffic

Hundreds of years ago, prosperous plantation owners needed cheap labor to work their new land, so they turned

to the evil slave traffic from Africa to acquire this labor. Over a period of three hundred years, some 3,600,000 slaves were transported from Africa to Brazil, most of whom were either of the Sudanese or the Bantos group. Not until 1890 were the slaves set free and this by proclamation and without war.

These lonely slaves were the epitome of man's inhumanity to man. They were indeed lost souls, relegated to subhuman existence and treatment. They had been brutally captured in Africa and separated from their family and homes, placed aboard crowded ocean freighters unfit even for animals, and brought to the new world in chains. In Brazil, most of the Africans adopted the religion of their masters—Roman Catholicism—but they soon discovered that the same spirit gods of the jungles of Africa had come with them to the new world. Therefore, they used the images and ritual of the Catholic church, but retained their African religion in their heart—a religion of devil worship.

The Slaves Worship

This devil worship was about their only consolation in the new world. They were bought and sold as chattel property; they had to work hard in the hot sun; they were often beaten and ill-treated. Devil worship was in fact their only escape from harsh reality. It was their contact with the supernatural which gave some reason for their living.

Macumba is the African dance and Umbanda is the African religion. Umbanda simply means witchcraft, fetish ritual and the witch doctor. In *Folk Tales of Angola*, by Heli Chatelain, page 268, we read: "Umbanda is the faculty, science, art, office, business, of healing by means of natural medicines (remedies) or supernatural medicines (charms), of divining the unknown by consulting the shades of the deceased or the genii (demons who are spirits neither human or divine), of inducing these nonhuman spirits to influence men and nature for human weal or woe."

Strange as it might seem, the white

masters heard of the strange power of some of their slaves and became interested to know more about it. In this way, the influence of African jungle religion slowly permeated Brazilian society. Today millions of Brazilians of high estate and low, black and white, are entangled in the power of demon worship.

2

BAPTIZED TO THE DEVIL

The Bible tells about a devout mother of Israel who made a vow to and a covenant with the Lord before her child was born. Even before the child leaped in her womb, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the service of God.

Through the years, I have known many mothers like Hannah. As a pastor of churches in America, in the Orient and in Latin America, I have often dedicated infant children of Christian parents to the Lord. But not until I met Arlindo Barbosa de Oliveira had I known of a mother to baptize her unborn child to the devil. But this is precisely what happened. In a

mysterious spiritist ceremony, he was baptized to the devil while in his mother's womb.

Arlindo's mother was an ardent spiritist. She was so absorbed in the mysterious workings of demonology that she desired her unborn child to be reared in the ways of witchcraft from birth and, if possible, to become the strongest witch doctor in the nation of Brazil. A few days before her delivery, she went to a powerful witch doctor and requested that her unborn child be baptized to the devil. The witch doctor was willing to try. He went into a seance and performed various rituals, including making a cross of blood over the unborn child. He begged the spirits to possess the child and use him in their services after his birth.

At a Tender Age

The success of this audacious venture with the devil was evidenced when Arlindo was only three years old. At this tender age, he went into a trance and revealed he had power to

call up spirits. The entire spiritist community was surprised. The witch doctor under whom he worshiped became very disturbed to see so young a child go into a trance. Therefore, he made a special prayer and offering to the devils, beseeching them to wait until Arlindo was at least seven years old before using him.

Prescriptions by the Devil

Evidently the spirits agreed with the senior witch doctor, for the child had no further manifestations until he came to his seventh birthday. When he was seven, Arlindo went into trances, talked with spirits and practiced spirit healings. Though he could not read or write at the time, he was able to write prescriptions which a pharmacist could read and fill. He wrote demon-inspired prescriptions for those who came to his mother's house. Soon he was recognized as a boy wonder among the Macumba worshipers.

Arlindo says that it is amazing, even to him, how he became a full-fledged witch doctor at seven when all the

other witch doctors of his acquaintance had to study under other witch doctors to learn witchcraft and only gradually came to have power to summon up demons. Arlindo was different in that he was born a witch doctor.

3

MACUMBA WITCHCRAFT

As I said, Macumba is the satanic dance brought over from Africa. Umbanda is the name of the religious sect.

Arlindo is, to say the least, interesting to talk to. His experiences are unique and seemingly inexhaustible. He exudes warmth of personality, friendliness and sincerity. When that big smile breaks across his face, one can see why he has won his way into the hearts of high governmental leaders.

Traffic With The Devil

This man has had perhaps the strangest encounter with demons and

the devil of anyone in this generation. For four decades, he trafficked with the devil, in a dark area of thought and mysticism where few men have dared to enter. It was only God's miracle power that was able to rescue him. I once asked Arlindo if my questions were embarrassing to him. "No," he replied. "I'm so glad to be free of the devil's power that I will tell you all you want to know. I will answer any question you may wish to ask."

Early in our conversation, I sought to pinpoint what I believe is the heart of witchcraft and devil worship. "Arlindo," I asked, "have you actually heard the voice of the devil?"

Without a moment's hesitation, he answered me. "Yes, Brother Sumrall, many times I have heard the audible voice of the devil talking to me. Let me put it this way. If a person who came to me for help did not have a great need, I would get the answer from the devil by his speaking into my ear with an audible voice. Those around me could hear the voice, but could not understand the words."

The Power Of Trance

"Suppose the request on the part of the person in need was more involved. Then what?" I asked.

"Then I would go into a trance to get a reply," he said. "A trance would last from 30 minutes to 72 hours. Many things would take place in a trance. Sometimes I would cut myself with a knife on my arms, face and legs."

Arlindo raised his sleeves and trouser legs and I saw dozens of scars where he had cut himself. "When I would come to myself," he continued, "my body would be bloody and wounded."

Dr. John Purdon of Dublin University, in his research, used an instrument to record variations of increase and decrease of pulse beats. He discovered that a person entering insanity had the same reactions as a medium going into a trance. Pulse variations of a maniac are identical with a medium. Mediums give up all mental control in order to go into a trance.

The Devil's Cruelty

Here before me was a fresh example of the devil's cruel nature. He is a hard taskmaster, incapable of good. He demands an awful price of anyone in his service, sometimes driving him to commit foul deeds. "A voice told me to do it," is often the confession of desperate men and women guilty of a heinous crime.

Arlindo revealed that being in a trance would often give him immunity from bodily injury. "When I was in a trance, I could take fire into my mouth with no harm. I could walk on broken glass without cutting the soles of my feet. I could fill a bowl with rum, set it ablaze and drink the liquid fire."

With a smile, he told me that if he had received a dollar for each time he had eaten handfuls of broken glass while in a trance, he would be a rich man. Such things were more than modern Americans could understand, I commented. Was it possible that he had never cut himself or injured the lining of his stomach with broken glass?

"No," he said emphatically. "I have never suffered any ill effects from eating broken glass."

The Power Of Trance

Arlindo found that the hypnosis-like state of a trance often produced some surprising adventures. A number of times, he related, he had gone into a trance at his home, lying on the bed. When he awoke, he would be wandering in a cemetery miles from his home and he would have no knowledge of how he got there.

We talked about the physical changes in a person's body when in a trance. "One is always cold," he told me. "When I was in a trance, my fingernails and my lips would turn blue. There are facial contortions and jerking of the muscles. One is definitely under the power of demons."

Devil Worship

Our conversation turned to the subject of worship at spiritist meetings. "We used a lot of music, especially drums, to beat rhythmic beats, to help

call up the spirits. We honored the spirits with drum music. However, because of my power as a witch doctor, I often called them to me just by meditation."

Physical Movements

From what I had seen and read of spiritist worship, I knew physical movements of the body were an important part of it all. Arlindo confirmed this. "Yes, we danced African dances under demon power with all kinds of body movements. These contortions were often beyond normal human movement."

Some years ago, Arlindo related, an American dancer, Josephine Baker, came to Brazil to study primitive dances. She attended many Macumba seances. A number of times she had Arlindo go into a trance and dance so that she could learn the intricate steps and maneuvers. He taught her several Macumba dances.

Arlindo slightly knew Josephine Baker. She was a professional dancer, born of Negro parents in St. Louis, and

had lived most of her life in Paris, where she had become a celebrity.

"What was her purpose in Brazil?" I asked Arlindo.

"She planned to adapt our Macumba dances in her public performances and teach them to American and European people."

"This means she came to Brazil to learn dances which had originated with demons and which she could pass on to others."

Arlindo agreed. "That's what she had in mind," he said. "And the people will not realize that they are dances of the devil."

On the other hand, how else can you explain the wild and sensuous gyrations of the modern music and dance except that it is attributable to demon power. If there is any one thing the devil can properly lay claim to, it is the modern dance and music.

The Macumba Trance

In Macumba worship, Arlindo explained, the people clap their hands in rhythm as they sing and dance. With

this, the witch doctor moves slowly to semi-consciousness and to a coma. With these rituals, he uses gun powder, candles, wine, beer, and cigar ashes to worship devils.

How utterly strange that these things should be a part of worship. No one who has ever attended a spiritist worship meeting could help but notice the inevitable cigar. Every photograph of the sect I have viewed always reveals evidence of cigar smoking. I asked Arlindo why this should be the case.

Spiritual Vibrations

"Most all spiritists smoke strong cigars, or *cheroots*, when they worship in the belief the smoke brings on spiritual vibrations. Thus they inhale the smoke deeply into their lungs. It also helps the medium go into a trance. When the medium blows the smoke into the face of the one he is praying for, or making a request to the devil for, the smoke becomes a magnetic power and helps him yield to the spirits."

"What did you do with the gun powder?" I asked.

"In a seance," he explained, "I would put the gun powder in the palm of my hand and let the person who needed prayer strike a match to it. The fire did not burn me, but the petition of fire was granted me by the devil. As the smoke filled the room from my hand, the devil would speak and I could make the request."

Arlindo usually responded readily to my questions. If there ever was any hesitancy in his answers, it was only that he wanted to make sure he understood the question. Our conversations, of course, were through an interpreter. Arlindo did not understand or speak English.

"And the candles?"

"In Macumba," he replied, "we always had an altar like the Catholics. We had African gods and Catholic saints together with candles."

When Arlindo mentioned this, I recalled that I had read in the outstanding book on spiritism, *A Umbanda No Brazil*, by Dr. Boaventura Kloppen-

burg, that "The majority of the Terreiros continue to call themselves Catholics." Arlindo's testimony bore this out. He also affirmed that spiritists use a Roman Catholic rosary. "They have always belonged to the Roman Catholic church," he said, "so they are accustomed to using the rosary. However, the devils required diverse types of rosary and had the people pray different kinds of prayer through the rosary."

I was curious to know why spiritists used wine and beer in their worship. Arlindo gave me an astonishing answer.

"Because different devils demand wine and beer," he said. "Some would demand white wine, some would demand red wine and some would demand very expensive wine or they would not perform for me. On certain days, some of the devils would demand drink and the same devils on another day would demand meat.

"The greatest thing the demons wanted was blood. They would scream: 'I want blood; I want blood!

We can have no worship until you produce blood!' "

As we delved into the peculiar rites of witchcraft, it became apparent the use of blood in sacrifice was predominant in devil worship. I asked Arlindo to explain what this blood was supposed to do.

"The gods who are devils demanded blood," he replied. "We could not contact them without blood. Not all of the demons wanted the same kind of blood. Some demanded goat blood, others chicken blood and still others the blood of a dove or pigeon."

"The devils also had different ways of using this blood. Some devils had us spill the blood on the ground; some had us rub it on the human; and some insisted that we drink the blood."

"At times, a witch doctor extracted the blood of humans and drank it. Some of the demons had us pour blood into bowls and then offer it to them as a gift."

"One god had me to offer a dove, and this was always a good omen. I offered this blood and told the person to

go to the Roman Catholic church and as the priest was raising the host at the altar, he would be healed. That is exactly what happened."

I asked Arlindo who were the gods of spiritism and Macumba, and if he had known many of them personally.

"There are many," he told me. "When I was a Macumba witch doctor, I personally knew of over 100 demons. Oxala is the one we called the big god."

"One devil would not tell me his name, but called himself the Captain of Host of the Insane."

"You must remember there are classes of devils. I consulted one who called himself 'The Exchange of Heads.' I had called this devil to heal a man who was expected to die of a terrible sickness. 'Exchange of Heads' told me to baptize the man with the blood of a rooster from head to foot. I killed the rooster, poured and rubbed blood all over the man. He did not die of that disease."

"Brother Sumrall," Arlindo continued, "there are legions of demons—

demons without number. When I went to a different place to live or to visit, I could always contact the spirits there. As I say, I have had at least 100 spirits working for me."

"How did these spirits come to you?" I asked. "Did you invite them to come or did they come unbidden?"

"Both ways," he said. "Sometimes they would come unbidden or voluntarily; at other times, I had to seek their presence."

A Lifetime Career

Arlindo had made a lifetime career of witchcraft and devil worship since he was baptized to the devil before he was born, and at the age of three went into a trance, thus revealing that he possessed extraordinary power to call up spirits. I was naturally curious about this power over the years. I wanted to know if the demon power was always constant, if he had the same amount of devil power when he was a child as when he was an adult.

Arlindo told me that from childhood he could go into a trance and bring up

demon spirits. "I would say that I developed understanding as I grew older, but the power always remained the same."

Arlindo said cultism and spiritism are on the rise, not only in Brazil, but also around the world.

The Bible makes it clear that demon power will be as intense in the last days of this age as it was in the days when Jesus Christ was upon the earth. I feel the church needs to be enlightened and warned. I believe it is going to be in direct conflict with satanic power as never before. At all costs, it must be made aware of demonic power, purposes and strategems.

I asked Arlindo to tell me more about demons. Do they ever fear humans or each other?

Devils Respect Authority

He gave me an answer that could be surprising.

"Yes," he said, "devils do respect authority. All spirits have a certain category. When a spirit meets another

of lesser degree, he commands him, and when he meets one of higher degree, he bows to him. The spirit who belongs to you always tries to protect you from other spirits who would like to take you away from him."

"What about the matter of discernment? Could a witch doctor read a man's need from his mind without having to be told what his need was?"

"Yes," Arlindo said, "there were times when I could tell a man what his needs were without having him explain to me what they were."

People are invariably drawn into false worship like spiritism because of human needs, because of heart hunger. Tragic indeed that their needs cannot be met with God's power instead of demon power. Such allure is an indictment of Christian forces and vision. It is the same story repeated over again—too little and too late.

"Did you ever meet a real intelligent devil?"

"Yes, I have. I remember one of the most prominent spirits I ever dealt with. This intellectual devil knew all about politics. For example, he could

tell me when the President of the United States was consulting with a certain diplomat of a foreign country, and moreover, what they were discussing."

"The next day, the newspapers would carry the story of the President in conference with this diplomat."

"For this reason, government men came to me and requested that I consult with this spirit for them."

Demon Language

"I have known of spirits to impart such power and intelligence to witch doctors that they were able to speak in a language they had never learned. I have heard several languages in spiritist meetings—Japanese, German, French, Spanish and English. It was always for some person present who spoke that language—a message from the spirits to him. The devil would take the throat of a Terreiro and speak words that he had never heard or did not know what he had said."

Arlindo's Brother Killed By An Evil Spirit

People who turn themselves com-

pletely over to the devil make dangerous overtures. It was my understanding that oftentimes people are killed during the rituals of witchcraft. I pointedly asked Arlindo if this were true. Arlindo assured me it was true and for several reasons. Sometimes one man works against another in hatred through the witch doctor.

Arlindo's own brother was killed by a curse when he was only six years of age. I asked Arlindo if he himself had ever been near death, and he replied, "Not once, but many times."

"Once I was offering a gift to the mother of the sea. While in a trance, I walked into the deep waters of the bay and if another witch doctor had not called me back by human power, I would have perished in the waters."

"On another occasion, I came out of a trance and discovered a dagger all the way through my leg. I had pierced myself while in a trance. The spirit told me to pour corn liquor and cigar ashes on the wound, and warned me that if I went to a doctor, I would surely die. I did as I was told and the wound healed."

Spiritism and demon worship endangers the lives and health of its devotees. While in Brazil, I learned that demon worship is making mental wreckage of segments of society.

Dr. A. C. Pacheco e Silva, a medical authority and psychiatrist, declared that the major cause of mental illness is spiritism. "In more than 24 years in my work as a clinical psychiatrist, I have observed innumerable cases of mentally disturbed people as a result of active participation in spiritist meetings. It is one of the most pernicious practices and should be combated with every means available because of its danger to public health and its contribution to the total ruin of many homes. The law is loose and gives these people fantastic liberty which can ruin a nation so involved."

I asked Arlindo why people were so attracted to spiritism. Exactly what was it that the devils claimed they could do for people?

Devils Make Promises

He told me the devils make claims

to do everything that God does. They claim to make promotions possible at work. They claim to bring prestige and riches to the ones they possess. They promise more than they can deliver, and in the end they simply destroy all that is good.

Teaches Reincarnation

Having discussed at length the rituals and practices of Macumba spiritists, I asked Arlindo to tell me something of their doctrines or teachings.

Arlindo answered emphatically "Macumba teaches reincarnation." He himself had taught this doctrine, but when the Lord appeared to him, he knew immediately it was a lie.

Spiritists are taught nothing and know nothing about basic truths or the plan of God, the future of the world and the return of Christ to this earth.

To the spiritist, Jesus Christ is simply on the level of Oxala, or the big god. Spiritists use this name interchangeably.

They also have Oxun, who is Mary the mother of Jesus. They pray to her at rivers and waterfalls.

They also have Oxalufan who is something like the Holy Spirit. Spiritists pray to Roman Catholic saints. For example, they pray to St. Anthony to protect their marriages, as they pray to St. George, the warrior god, to win their battles.

I asked Arlindo if he ever felt that he was doing wrong or evil.

His answer was that he never felt he was doing wrong, that instead he believed he was being persecuted. "I turned to the devils for help. They would always speak to me and tell me when the police were searching for me as there were national laws against witchcraft. I could look into a certain mirror and tell when the police were searching for Macumba worshipers. Sometimes the devils would make distracting noises which led the police in another direction from where I was. In all my years as a witch doctor, I was never caught by the police."

After Deliverance

"Arlindo, do you still have to resist these evil spirits?" I asked as we concluded my interview.

"Yes," he replied, "I do have to resist them even though I am a Christian."

"Sometimes the presence of these spirits annoy me, and I have to beg Jesus to make them go away."

"Of course the demons hate me now that I have deserted them."

"I believe in the true God. He that is now within me is greater than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

4

WITCH DOCTOR CONVERTED TO CHRIST

Could a man who was baptized to the devil before he was born and who devoted 40 years of his life to witchcraft ever come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and have a rich experience in God?

The answer is yes! Arlindo Barbosa de Oliveira is a living example of the truth that God's power is the same today.

Believing the people of America would like to know how this conversion came about, I have set forth this account of it just as Arlindo told it to me.

"In the beginning, God led me slowly and kindly. It was my last year as a witch doctor that I dreamed a most wonderful dream. I saw a beautiful white man with lovely blue eyes and long hair—a man over 30 years of age. He came to me in my dream and said, 'Arlindo, do not follow this witchcraft any longer. It is all bad and evil.'

"I answered this beautiful man in my dream and said, 'I don't know you, but please believe me. Macumba is not bad. I help men find jobs, I heal the sick.' Looking at me tenderly and sadly, He said, 'Yes, Arlindo, it is all bad and it is not the work of God.'

"I was disturbed. I said to Him, 'Please tell me how it is bad.' He answered me in these words, 'It is enchantment and witchcraft and it is the devil's power and not God's power.'

"When I awoke from my dream, I was so distressed I did not know what to do. Spiritism was the only religion I had ever known in my life. I was a true slave of witchcraft, devoting from 12 to 16 hours of every day to its prac-

tice. For days afterward, I thought of little else but the dream. It would come back to me and torment me."

Jesus Returns 30 Times

"During the next year, this beautiful white man with blue eyes and white hair appeared to me in my dreams about thirty times. Sometimes a dream would come once a week; other times, once a month. One thing was sure: very slowly I was wanting to leave witchcraft. I began to love this man of my dreams and to believe Him. I could now see the evil in my companions which I could not see before. By this time, I truly wanted to desert witchcraft, but I found fear in my heart. I was afraid the devils would kill me."

Turned to the Catholic Church

"Not knowing where to turn, I went to a Roman Catholic church and consulted a priest. I explained to him how I was baptized to the devil before I was born and had been a witch doctor for 40 years. I told him about the dreams that I had had during the last year, and that I wished to confess my sins and become a Christian."

Questioned by the Priest

"The first question the priest asked me was, 'Are you married?' I answered, 'Yes, I have a wife and one daughter.' Then he questioned me, 'Were you married by the church?'

"I told him in reply we were married in a civil ceremony.

"Then the priest said he would not talk with me nor help me until I brought my wife and we were married in the church.

"I was willing to do anything to get a good conscience and peace in my heart. I spoke to my wife about the dreams I had and about my talk with the priest and asked her if she was willing to have a church wedding.

"Rather than being willing, my wife became very angry. She told me that she had been closely associated with Catholic priests when she was a girl, that I was the one who had led her deep into spiritism, and that she had no intentions of ever seeing a priest or being married in the Roman Catholic church."

The Broken Image

"I returned to the priest, explained to him that my wife did not like the church and would not consent to a church wedding.

"The priest ordered me to purchase an image of Christ, take it home and kneel before it until my wife was willing to obey. I purchased this image, but when my wife saw it, she became so angry that we had a fight and the image was broken to pieces. Very sadly I returned to the priest, determined to talk with him. I said 'Father, I want to leave witchcraft. You must help me. I feel that I am going to die. Where will I go?'

"The priest answered, 'There are three places the dead go. Some go to heaven, some go to purgatory, others go to hell.'

"Father, where would I go if I died?"

"You would go to hell." the priest replied.

"I began pleading with him by saying, 'You are sending my soul to hell because you refuse to forgive my sins. Anyway, is my salvation collective? Or

is it personal? Can't I go to heaven without my wife? Can't I go to heaven by my own prayers?

"The priest replied, 'Until you bring your wife, there is no further discussion.'

Deserted Witch Doctor

"Now my home was in bad shape. My wife was continually angry with me for leaving spiritism. Then one day I arrived home and found that my wife, with my daughter, had deserted me and moved out of the house while I was at work and took all of the furniture with them. I found my clothes lying on some papers on the floor.

"No human can ever know how desperate I felt. I went to a bar and drank three or four quarts of rum, but the spirits were so strong within me that I could not get drunk. I repeated this for several days.

"In this condition, I visited my sister and she had pity upon me and kept me at her home. She took me to a Protestant church that she attended, but I did not like their teaching, as they

did not seem to meet my personal needs. Their main doctrine was keeping Saturday for worship rather than Sunday. I was so full of rum it didn't matter what day they kept.

"Across the street from my sister's home was a full gospel church. The pastor became very interested in my situation. He was very kind to me. He would come over to the house and read the Word of God to me and pray for my salvation. He continued this until I came into a glorious experience of knowing the true God as my Saviour, and not the devil.

"Then he prayed with me until I received the power of the Holy Ghost. He asked me to testify of my deliverance. This brought real joy to my heart. I began to win people to Jesus in the President's Palace where I worked."

DEVIL WORSHIP AND THE END OF THE AGE

The Bible describes the devil as a personality of great pride who desired to be worshiped. Isaiah 14:12-13 pictures a dramatic scene in heaven, wherein Lucifer audaciously attempted to exalt himself equal with God. To accomplish this, he staged an abortive revolution against Jehovah. From this fall, he became the devil and Satan, making this earth his abode and seeking the worship of men.

As man is made in the image of God and created to worship God, the devil's greatest achievement is to deceive man and cause man to worship him and not God.

In his wilderness temptation of Jesus, the devil's great strategy was to get the Son of God to fall down and worship him, but in this he miserably failed. Jesus answered him in wisdom and truth: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." His words point up the truth that only as men and women worship God alone, and serve Him, are they properly related to life and to eternity.

Despite his failure in his temptation of Jesus, the devil has deceived many. Millions of souls find momentary pleasure, momentary satisfaction, some measure of political and economic gain, by avoiding God and serving the devil. Multitudes have come under his power in ignorance, not knowing God or the Bible. Some are seeking an escape from reality and become possessed of the devil. Others are grasping for power to lord it over their fellow man, only to find themselves slaves of the devil. Some are seeking a thrill in the night, only to find themselves plagued with evil spirits.

Devil worship is making strides among the illiterate and among the cultured of every country. And the results are in evidence on every hand. Mental breakdown, among other things, is increasing at an alarming rate. Visit most any hospital in a metropolitan center today, observing the crowded conditions and the human wreckage and you will see firsthand the ripened fruits of devil power and influence.

There is no hope for these wretched souls apart from the power of God.

Christian World Challenged

The Christian world is thus challenged as never before. Diana of the Ephesians is crying out for the blood of the apostles and will scream louder in the days ahead.

Large cities in America have become centers of evil cults. Heathen priests of India use the Saturday religious section of daily newspapers to propagate their doctrine of reincarnation. Japanese missionaries, entering this country in great numbers, are

winning converts to Buddhism on the West Coast and in other parts of the country. They are making a drive toward the 70 million Americans who have no church affiliation.

A timid and worldly church cannot cope with demon power. Cold and indifferent Christians, lacking in Holy Ghost power, create a ripe climate for unholy spiritual aggression. Someone has wisely said, "Let there be less of the world in the church and there will be more of the church in the world." I might add a church cleansed and on fire for God is a church of power.

The living, vital, triumphant church of the Lord Jesus Christ must rise up in apostolic power and storm even the gates of hell. Christ has promised that the very citadels of Satan would not stand before His victorious church. This book calls for action.

God in His Word has not left us unguarded. A born-again believer can identify evil spirits by the Holy Spirit. Try the spirits and see if they be of God. (I John 4:1)

Evil Spirits in Government

There are certain areas of society where the devil has worked successfully and where he will work successfully with great intensity in the last days. One of these is in *government*. Men can become demon inspired in their thirst for power over other men. The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 4:4.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

When I traveled across Siberia and Russia, I was conscious of demon power in the very atmosphere. Most Christians agree that men like Lenin and Stalin had given themselves to demon possession.

While I was preaching in Germany during the Nazi regime, I had German mothers tell me their sons had been taken to Nazi youth camps for training and, upon their return, seemed pos-

sessed of a spirit. Their arrogance and disobedience and threats to inform the Gestapo if they did not have their way caused deep sorrow on the part of Christian parents. Most Christians realize that Hitler must have been possessed of evil spirits. His voice and eyes gave evidence in public and his strange melancholy and actions in private showed it.

The Word of God tells us in Daniel 10:2-3, that the prince of Persia fought to keep Daniel's prayer from being answered. In the Book of Revelation 16:13-14, we read,

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

The "beast" mentioned is the Antichrist, the last gentile ruler of this

earth during the Great Tribulation. Increasingly there will be demon power demonstrated in government. Men will seek for absolute power over other men and the devil will offer it.

Demon Power In Religion

Another area where demon power will be evident is in *religion*. The heathen will have greater power to hold their benighted followers. Witchcraft will not be limited to backward people in far off lands. It will flourish on the main streets of our cities.

America saw this with the rise of Father Divine. Some laughed at him, but others with whom I have dealt found supernatural power in him which they desired. One high school teacher was a devoted follower. She had lived in his "heavens" in New York and believed she had seen miracles. She was ready to work for him in Australia. She had been reared in a Christian home and attended a Bible church.

Several nations have their own "Father Divine." The devil is raising up

his leaders all around the world at this moment. The Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 11:14 said, "...Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." In this religious area, we must observe religion as it tries to become involved with governments. In the Great Tribulation, the Beast and False Prophet work together to deceive the world.

Sometimes the devil seems very religious. Here is where the gift of discerning of spirits is so necessary today. In one of my meetings in Poland, a woman on the front seat seemed too religious. She was singing and praying. My spirit did not agree with hers. When she was counseled from the pulpit, she barked like a dog and had to be carried from the meeting. She was possessed with a religious devil. We know people by the Holy Spirit and by their works.

Crime and Morals

There are many other phases of modern life where we must watch for demon power. One is crime. Very often

criminals say, "A voice told me to commit murder." They, no doubt, are telling the truth. They are demon possessed. It is my feeling that all suicides are demon possessed. The devil urges them on until he pushes them into eternity, lost and without God.

Another area to observe is morals. Over and over again the Bible warns of uncleanness and corruption. (See II Peter 2:10, 12.) Adultery is a spirit and sodomy is a spirit. For a person to be free again, it takes the power of God to cast out the unclean spirit.

At present, I am having more people come to me for help to be free from demon oppression than for almost any other need. Fear and confusion are not part of the Christian's equipment. God gives us "power, love and a sound mind."

Forbidden of God

One may ask, "What is wrong with spiritism?"

It is forbidden by God. (Isaiah 8:19, 20; Leviticus 19:31; 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:10.) God took King Saul from

his throne because of witchcraft. (I Chronicles 10:13; I Samuel 28.) It has seven wrong doctrines:

1. Spiritists deny the deity of Christ. They refuse to accept His blood for salvation. They do not believe in His resurrection. Christ to them is only an advanced medium. In this, they are anti-Christ.
2. Spiritists deny the personality of the Holy Spirit. Christ promised another Comforter. He is come, but spiritists do not believe in the Third Person of the Godhead.
3. Spiritists deny the resurrection of the dead and the existence of heaven as the eternal home of the faithful. Rather, they teach reincarnation and progression through perpetual rebirths upon this earth.
4. Spiritists do not believe in a personal devil.
5. Spiritists do not believe in a literal hell.
6. Spiritists do not believe in the original fall of man in the Garden of Eden.
7. Spiritists do not believe in the immi-

nent return of the Lord Jesus from Heaven to take His bride to be forever with Himself. Of course, they do not believe in the judgment of God upon man for his sins.

The entire world staggers down the road toward devil worship. Heathen philosophies and demon religions lead their benighted multitudes in the worship of the devil. All idol worship is demon inspired. Paul said, "The gods of the heathen are devils." (I Corinthians 18:20; see also Revelation 13:3, 13-14.)

At the end time of Gentile rule, the age will be marked by great demonstration of demon power. The Antichrist will deceive earth's millions.

Reader friend, as you read the story of Arlindo de Oliveira, as you come into greater awareness of demon activity, may it cause you to draw closer to God and make you realize the times in which you live. Remember, in the last moments of this dispensation, the devil shall come as an angel of light.

Ask the Lord in prayer to keep your heart pure and upright, to instruct you

in all truth, to illumine that which is dark, to deepen that which is shallow, that every chapter of your life might witness to His power and glory.