

----- Original Message -----

**From:**

**To:**

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:24 PM

**Subject:** What happens when the power of positive thinking fails?

Every Christian ought to read Dave Hunt's classic book, *The Seduction of Christianity*. In it he describes the origins of New Age "Christianity" as has been displayed in Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral. The New Age movement is nothing less than westernised Hinduism repackaged so that shallow "Christians" would buy it and take it to church with them. Norman Vincent Peale bought it more than fifty years ago and sold it to Robert Schuller, who became famous and wealthy selling it to men like Bill Hybels and Rick Warren. In turn, they repackaged it to suit the subcultures where they lived and became even more famous and wealthy by selling it to new evangelicals. They built their houses on the shifting sands of a humanistic gospel of self esteem. So, what happened when "the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house (?). "Jesus said, "Great was the fall of it." Matt. 7:27

Friends, we ain't seen nothin' yet.

Bro. Buddy Smith

### **Crystal Cathedral Megachurch Files for Bankruptcy**

Amy Taxin

Associated Press Writer

Mon Oct 18, 2010

**GARDEN GROVE, Calif.** – Crystal Cathedral, the megachurch birthplace of the televangelist show "*Hour of Power*," filed for bankruptcy Monday in Southern California after struggling to emerge from debt that **exceeds \$43 million**.

In addition to a \$36 million mortgage, the Orange County-based church **owes \$7.5 million** to several hundred vendors for services ranging from advertising to the use of live animals in Easter and Christmas services.

*"Tough times never last, every storm comes to an end. Right now, people need to hear that message more than ever,"* Sheila Schuller Coleman, the Cathedral's **senior pastor** and daughter of the founder, told reporters outside the worship hall decked with a soaring glass spire.

*"Everybody is hurting today. We are no exception,"* she said.

The church, founded in the mid-1950s by 33rd degree Freemason Rev. Robert H. Schuller Sr., has already ordered major layoffs, cut the number of stations airing the "*Hour of Power*" and sold property to stay afloat.

In addition, the 10,000-member church cancelled this year's "*Glory of Easter*" pageant, which attracts thousands of visitors and is a regional holiday staple.

The church was founded at a drive-in theatre and attracted congregants with its sermons on the **power of positive thinking**. Its worship hall opened in 1970 and remains an architectural wonder and tourist destination. Schuller took the plans for the building to the pope for his approval.

The "*Hour of Power*" telecast, filmed in the cathedral's main sanctuary, at one point attracted 1.3 million viewers in 156 countries. Church leaders said the Crystal Cathedral's Sunday services and weekly-telecast "Hour of Power" **will continue while in bankruptcy**.

Other megachurches have also **suffered from the downturn** and reduced charitable giving.

Crystal Cathedral saw revenue drop roughly 30 percent in 2009 and simply couldn't slash expenses quickly enough to avoid accruing the debt, said Jim Penner, a church pastor and executive producer of the "*Hour of Power*."

Vendors owed money by the church formed a committee in April and agreed to a moratorium to negotiate a repayment plan with the Crystal Cathedral. But after several filed lawsuits and obtained writs of attachment to try to collect their cash, it was difficult to keep the group together, Penner said.

Now, the church is avoiding credit entirely and spends only the **roughly \$2 million it receives each month in donations and revenue**, Penner said. The church still hopes to pay all of the vendors back in full, he said.