



"Document Control"

TYPE: INFO DOCUMENT NUMBER: 9401410  
ORIGINATOR: 02 STATUS C DIRECTORATE STATUS  
\*\*\*\*\*

FROM: JONES, C. B., SCOTT; HUMAN POTENTIAL FOUNDATION

TO: DR. J. GIBBONS

DATE OF  
CORRESPONDENCE: 06/13/94

SUBJECT: FORWARDS SURVEY OF MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY CONCERNING  
"THE IMPACT OF UFOs AND THEIR OCCUPANTS ON  
RELIGION."

\*\*\*\*\*  
DIRECTORATE STAFF  
ASSIGNED: SKIP JOHNS ASSIGNED:

ACTION STAFF  
REQUIRED: INFO ACTION:

\*\*\*\*\*  
SENDER'S DUE DATE:  
OSTP DUE DATE: STAFF DUE DATE  
DATE COMPLETED: DATE COMPLETED/DEPT:

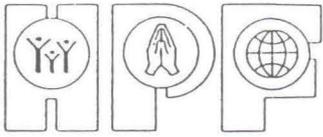
\*\*\*\*\*  
COPIES TO: DR. GIBBONS  
SKIP JOHNS

\*\*\*\*\*  
WHITE HOUSE TRACKING #: CONTACT PERSON:  
PHONE: EXT:  
REMARKS: SURVEY TO JOHNS.

OSTP RECEIVED: 06/16/94 DEPT RECEIVED:  
FILE: SCIENCE/UFOs

CENTRAL FILES:

Human Potential Foundation



John H. Gibbons, Ph.D.  
Assistant to the President  
for Science and Technology  
Old Executive Office Building, Room 424  
17th and Pennsylvania Avenues, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jack:

In my letter to you of May 26, 1994, I mentioned that a survey of members of the clergy concerning "The impact of UFOs and Their Occupants on Religion," had recently been completed. Attached to this letter is a copy of the survey, its results and analysis of the findings.

The survey is a reminder that we cannot safely focus on only a few parts of what UFO phenomena presents to the country and to the world. While the scientific and security issues are immediately nominated for attention, all other aspects of cultural also need be considered.

What responsibility does government have for this? I would suggest that it has only one primary responsibility: as quickly and thoroughly as possible, share with the public what special information the government has on the subject. Let the public and the myriad of private institutions, one being organized religion, be involved in the process of discovery, understanding and adjustment to the broader reality that UFO phenomena suggests.

The motivation for our approach to you and request for assistance in opening the government on this subject is to get the whole process moving. The government can't do it all, and it would be a serious political mistake and egregious system error for it to try to dominate the process.

What progress have you made in investigating the Roswell incident?

My best personal regards,

Sincerely,

*Scott Jones*

C.B. Scott Jones

Attachment as stated

*also*  
Date Rec'd 10-16-94  
ACTION to \_\_\_\_\_  
INFO to CHG Johns

June 13, 1994

*Survey to Johns*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIG of \_\_\_\_\_  
Stationery \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE DUE \_\_\_\_\_

# THE ALEXANDER UFO RELIGIOUS CRISIS SURVEY

*THE IMPACT OF UFOS AND THEIR OCCUPANTS ON RELIGION*

FOR:  
THE BIGELOW FOUNDATION  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

CONDUCTED BY:

VICTORIA ALEXANDER  
1350 VISTA MORADA  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501  
505-983-2133

# PRESS RELEASE

## STRONG FAITH REVEALS NO THREAT FROM E.T.S.

A recent independent survey, "THE ALEXANDER UFO RELIGIOUS CRISIS SURVEY", funded by The Bigelow Foundation of Las Vegas, Nevada, revealed that clergy believe their congregations would not be threatened by discovery of an advanced extraterrestrial civilization. For years, many have proclaimed that such a revelation would destroy the foundation of religious belief.

NOT SO, says the survey conducted by Victoria Alexander. In a pilot poll, theologians overwhelmingly rejected the notion. When asked if proof of E.T.s would cause a religious crisis, 77% disagreed.

Even when a more contentious hypothesis was suggested, that E.T.s claimed "to have made us," the clergy still indicated their religions would not be threatened.

The survey was based on a mailing to a randomly selected group of 1,000 priests, ministers and rabbis across the United States. Over 23% responded, indicating a relatively high interest in the subject.

The results were very surprising. For decades experts have been saying that confirmation of E.T.s would ruin our social structures, including religion. This is the first time anyone has attempted to compile hard data. It clearly refutes the experts. Further, for those who espouse a governmental cover-up based on fear of social disintegration, this study firmly indicates serious problems are unlikely. It may assist Congressman Steven Schiff's (R, New Mexico) inquiry into the unusual events surrounding Roswell, NM, circa 1947. Congressman Schiff has asked the Air Force for all related documents which many believe confirm a UFO crash. If so, this survey adds encouragement to the documents being released.

Most of the comments of the religious leaders indicated their faiths had been tested before and could withstand or accommodate the news of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTACT:  
THE BIGELOW FOUNDATION, 4640 SOUTH EASTERN AVE., LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

FOR FURTHER INQUIRY ON THE SUBJECT, CONTACT:

VICTORIA ALEXANDER  
1350 VISTA MORADA  
SANTA FE, NM 87501  
(505)983-2133

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract

Commentary by John B. Alexander, Ph.D

Methodology

Church Membership Figures and Geographical Breakdown

Pilot Survey

Statistical Analysis

(a) Spreadsheet

(b) Question Charts

Development of Questions and Analysis of Responses

Selected Comments from Survey

The UFO Community's Stance

Conclusions

Acknowledgments

## COMMENTARY

By

John B. Alexander

The results of this survey are very important. The numbers are not just statistically significant, they demonstrate unmistakable trends. Even though this was a pilot study, for the first time there are data concerning the perceived relationship between religion and the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life. The data are counter to the widely held belief frequently posited by many in the UFO community predicting doom and destruction in the wake of verifiable contact. While the numbers of respondents are relatively small (n=230), they are not insignificant. The strength of the responses strongly suggest the UFO pundits are generally wrong on this issue. Of course a larger study should be conducted to confirm or deny these intriguing results. However, it is unlikely that expansion of the study will alter the results.

One question that may be asked as a result of this survey is, "If the experts are so wrong about this issue, what else is wrong?" The concept that religion would falter or collapse if confronted by the reality of advanced extraterrestrial life, has been unchallenged. Maybe we need to challenge some of the other fundamental belief constructs of the UFO community.

There are some caveats that should be addressed concerning this study. First, the respondents are clergy with a vested interest in the continued support of religious faith. Second, it is anticipated that the clergy have an accurate understanding of the solidity of the belief structures of their parishioners. Coupled with the first caveat, we must be cautious in drawing ultimate conclusions. Third, while an unusually large number of respondents returned the survey, approximately 77% did not. Therefore, it must be assumed that those responding represent a selected part of that population. There is a need to accurately assess the views of a representative sample of all clergy.

Another issue is whether or not surveying religious leaders is indicative of the U.S. population at large. While religion is an important factor in American life, there is a large segment of the population that either have no religious affiliation, or do not practise their faith. To assess the impact of encounters with advanced extraterrestrial life on the total citizenry, a broader study should be done.

There is, I believe, an important message in some of the comments. A small group sent a clear indication that life on Earth is important and they are embroiled in fixing real problems. These issues are of very little concern to them. The question becomes, "has the UFO community vastly overestimated the relative importance given this topic by others."

Despite the caveats, this is a sound pilot survey. The results should be taken seriously by the leaders in the UFO field. They need to reassess the cavalier comments about the impact that advanced extraterrestrial life might have on the social and political structures of the U.S. and the rest of the world.

## METHODOLOGY

On Tuesday, March 8, 1994 I mailed 1000 pilot Surveys to randomly selected religious bodies in the continental United States. I obtained the names and addresses from PhoneDisc Reverse Fall 1993 (Data Base American Companies), which divides the country into five regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Central and West. I addressed the envelopes to Monsignor/Father, Pastor and Rabbi. Included was a self-addressed stamped return envelope. Based upon the figures presented below, 563 Surveys were sent to Protestant churches (i.e., Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, Lutheran, etc.), 396 to Roman Catholic Churches and 41 Synagogues.

The Surveys continued to come in daily and the project was closed Friday, April 29, 1994. (Three more Surveys were received after the closing date: One from a Protestant Pastor with comments and two from R. Catholic fathers, one with comments. Since the Statistical Analysis was already completed, these additional three Survey answers have not been included). 45 envelopes were returned due to insufficient address or addressee could not be located by mail service. I placed the Survey in a new envelope and selected another address by religious denomination and state.

Based upon the closing date figures, the total number of Surveys returned was 230: 134 from Protestant churches, 86 from Roman Catholic churches and 10 from synagogues. Of the 230 respondents, 62 (Protestant), 36 (R. Catholic) and 4 (Jewish) filled out the "Comments" section of the Survey, totaling 102 Comments. 141 respondents filled out the "Optional Information" section (86 from Protestant churches, 48 from Roman Catholic churches and 7 from synagogues). 81 Protestant respondents answered the "Approximate Size of Congregation" line, the numbers totaling 35,824 families; 45 R. Catholic respondents answered the "Approximate Size of Congregation" line, totaling 56,208 families and 6 Jewish respondents answered the "Approximate Size of Congregation" line, totaling 1,445 families. Combined, the 230 respondent's answer to this question totals 93,477 families. Of the 230 Surveys returned, 119 requested a copy of the Pilot Survey: 75 (Protestant), 37 (R. Catholic) and 7 (Jewish). (See Table 1).

The Survey consisted of one 11 X 14 legal size paper (printed on both sides) and a self-addressed stamped envelope. The appropriate number of Surveys began "Dear Father," "Dear Pastor" and "Dear Rabbi." The introduction to the Survey was intentionally brief, to respect the busy schedules of religious community leaders. I signed each Survey. Mr. Bigelow, who advised me on the initial planning stage of the Survey, made many useful suggestions which I incorporated. Most significantly, Mr. Bigelow wanted the inclusion of a section for comments. This addition greatly enhanced the Survey and added a very rich and thought-provoking aspect to the results. (See "Selected Comments from Survey").

Table 1.

SURVEY RESULTS	Protestant	R. Catholic	Jewish	TOTAL
No. of Mailings	563	396	41	1,000
Total returns	134	86	10	230
No. returned with "Comments"	62	36	4	102
No. returned "Optional Information"	86	48	7	141
No. responses "Size of Congregation"	81	45	6	132
Total No. of families in congregation	35,824	56,208	1,445	93,477
Requested copy of Report	75	37	7	119

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP FIGURES AND GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

The division of the 1000 Pilot Surveys was estimated by using figures obtained in the 1992 U.S. Statistical Abstract of the United States published by the Census Bureau. According to Chart No. 76. Religious Bodies-Church Membership, 1960 to 1989, and Number of Churches, 1989, the figures for 1989 are as follows: Protestant membership-79,387,000; Roman Catholic Church-57,020,000 and Jews-5,944,000. Based upon a U.S. population of 280 million, Protestants represent 28% of the population and 54% of church membership; Catholics represent 20% of the population and 38.6% of church membership and Jews represent 2% of the population and 4% of church membership. The fourth highest religious body, Eastern Churches, represent 1% of the population and 2% of church membership. These four religious bodies represent 52% of the U.S. population.

The geographical breakdown was arrived at by using Chart No. 78. Christian Church Adherents, 1980, and Jewish Population, 1990-States, published in the 1992 U.S. Statistical Abstract of the United States. Christian population (Protestant and R. Catholic combined) in the Northeast of the U.S. represents 24% of the total figure arrived at above, which was divided thus: Protestant-133 churches and R. Catholic-95 churches. Jewish population in the Northeast represents 52% and Surveys were mailed to 22 Northeast synagogues.

In the Midwest/Central region, 28% of the population is Christian, which was divided in this manner: total of Protestant churches:159 (113 in the Midwest and 46 in the Central region); R. Catholic churches: 111 (85 in the Midwest and 26 in the Central region). In the Midwest/Central region, 11% of the population is Jewish (represented by 4 synagogues).

In the South/Central region, 34% of the population is Christian, which was divided in this manner: total of Protestant churches:191 (141 in the South and 50 in the Central region); R. Catholic churches: 125 (105 in the South and 20 in the Central region). In the South/Central region, 19% of the population is Jewish (represented by 11 synagogues).

In the West region, 14% of the population is Christian, which was divided in this manner: total of Protestant churches: 85; R. Catholic churches: 64. In the West region, 18% of the population is Jewish (represented by 8 synagogues). (See Table 2).

Table 2.

		MIDWEST/ CENTRAL	SOUTH/ CENTRAL	
DENOMINATION	NORTHEAST			WEST
CHRISTIAN	24%	28%	34%	14%
PROTESTANT	133	159 (113/46)	191 (141/50)	85
R. CATHOLIC	95	111 (85/26)	125 (105/20)	64
JEWISH	52%	11%	19%	18%
	22	4 (2/2)	11 (5/6)	8

Victoria Alexander  
1350 Vista Morada  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
505-983-2133

Dear Pastor,

Your kind response to this pilot survey would be greatly appreciated by me. This informal survey deals with one specific topic, often raised by people in the government and scientific communities. Would irrefutable proof of intelligent extraterrestrial life in the universe have any effect on religious ideology in the U.S.?

You are in a position to assess your congregation's attitude on this subject. I feel your opinions would be invaluable to ascertaining the public's interest and thoughts about this fascinating and unusual subject.

Your responses are understood to be personal opinions only and will be treated as confidential research material. Your responses will not be construed as religious policy or used in any way to attempt to affect religious policy.

### Pilot Survey

1. Official confirmation of the discovery of an advanced, technologically superior extraterrestrial civilization would have severe negative effects on the country's moral, social and religious foundations.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. My congregation would perceive any contact made with a technologically advanced extraterrestrial civilization, direct or indirect, as a threat.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. The discovery of another intelligent civilization would cause my congregation to question their fundamental concepts regarding the origin of life.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. If highly advanced intelligent civilization exists elsewhere in the universe, the basic tenets of religion would be present.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Genetic similarities between mankind and an advanced extraterrestrial civilization would challenge the basic religious concepts of man's relative position in the universe.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had religious beliefs fundamentally different from ours, it would endanger organized religions in this country.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Scientific confirmation of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization is probable in our lifetime.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. It is unlikely that direct contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization has occurred or is currently ongoing.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. My congregation would question their beliefs if an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had no system of religion.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization proclaimed responsibility for producing human life, it would cause a religious crisis.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. I believe my answers to the preceding questions represent the views of my congregation.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for taking the time to assist me in this pilot survey of religious community leaders. A pre-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

Victoria Alexander

Is there a question I neglected to ask or a comment you would like to make? Your input on this subject would be of great value to my research.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Religious organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate size of congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you would like to receive a copy of my research paper.

## Pilot Survey

1. Official confirmation of the discovery of an advanced, technologically superior extraterrestrial civilization would have severe negative effects on the country's moral, social and religious foundations.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	4	3%	8	6%	19	15%	60	49%	32	26%	123	12	10%	92	74%
R.CATHOLIC	1	1%	3	4%	9	12%	37	50%	24	32%	74	4	8%	61	82%
JEWISH	1	11%	0	0%	1	11%	2	22%	5	77%	9	1	11%	7	77%
TOTALS:	6	3%	11	5%	29	14%	99	48%	61	29%	206	17	8%	160	77%

2. My congregation would perceive any contact made with a technologically advanced extraterrestrial civilization, direct or indirect, as a threat.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	3	2%	14	12%	25	21%	55	46%	24	19%	121	17	14%	79	65%
R.CATHOLIC	1	1%	13	17%	8	10%	40	55%	11	15%	73	14	19%	51	70%
JEWISH	0	11%	1	11%	1	11%	2	22%	5	55%	9	1	11%	7	77%
TOTALS:	4	2%	28	13%	34	16%	97	47%	40	20%	203	33	16%	137	67%

3. The discovery of another intelligent civilization would cause my congregation to question their fundamental concepts regarding the origin of life.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	1	1%	12	11%	6	5%	55	46%	46	38%	120	13	11%	101	84%
R.CATHOLIC	0	0%	11	15%	5	6%	34	47%	22	31%	72	11	15%	56	78%
JEWISH	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	5	55%	3	33%	9	0	0%	8	88%
TOTALS:	1	1%	23	11%	12	6%	94	47%	71	35%	201	24	12%	165	82%

4. If highly advanced intelligent civilizations exists elsewhere in the universe, the basic tenets of religion would be present.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	32	26%	59	49%	24	20%	3	2%	3	2%	121	91	75%	6	4%
R.CATHOLIC	12	16%	33	44%	26	34%	3	4%	1	1%	75	45	60%	4	5%
JEWISH	2	22%	4	44%	1	11%	1	11%	0	0%	8	6	66%	1	11%
TOTALS:	46	23%	96	47%	51	25%	7	3%	4	2%	204	142	70%	10	5%

5. Genetic similarities between mankind and an advanced extraterrestrial civilization would challenge the basic religious concepts of man's relative position in the universe.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	3	2%	9	7%	14	12%	57	47%	38	31%	121	12	9%	95	79%
R.CATHOLIC	1	1%	4	5%	10	14%	39	53%	19	26%	73	5	7%	58	79%
JEWISH	0	0%	1	11%	4	44%	2	22%	2	22%	9	1	11%	4	44%
TOTALS:	4	2%	14	7%	28	14%	98	48%	59	29%	203	18	9%	157	77%

6. If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had religious beliefs fundamentally different from ours, it would endanger organized religions in this country.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	1	1%	18	154%	17	14%	55	45%	32	26%	123	19	15%	87	71%
R.CATHOLIC	1	1%	7	10%	15	21%	37	52%	11	15%	71	8	11%	48	68%
JEWISH	2	22%	0	0%	0	0%	4	44%	3	33%	9	2	22%	7	77%
TOTALS:	4	2%	25	12%	32	15%	96	47%	46	23%	207	29	14%	142	70%

7. Scientific confirmation of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization is probable in our lifetime.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	2	2%	7	6%	51	41%	39	32%	24	20%	123	9	7%	63	51%
R.CATHOLIC	2	3%	16	22%	25	35%	24	33%	5	7%	72	18	25%	29	40%
JEWISH	0	0%	0	0%	4	50%	4	80%	0	0%	8	0	0%	4	50%
TOTALS:	4	2%	23	11%	80	39%	67	33%	29	14%	203	27	13%	96	47%

8. It is unlikely that direct contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization has occurred or is currently ongoing.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	23	19%	53	43%	34	28%	10	8%	3	2%	123	76	62%	13	11%
R.CATHOLIC	8	8%	35	49%	21	29%	8	11%	2	3%	72	41	57%	10	14%
JEWISH	3	37%	0	0%	3	37%	1	12%	1	12%	8	3	39%	2	25%
TOTALS:	32	16%	88	43%	58	29%	19	9%	6	3%	203	120	59%	25	12%

9. My congregation would question their beliefs if an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had no system of religion.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	0	0%	11	9%	16	13%	51	43%	42	35%	120	11	9%	93	78%
R.CATHOLIC	0	0%	12	17%	14	19%	33	46%	13	18%	72	12	17%	46	64%
JEWISH	0	0%	0	0%	4	44%	1	11%	4	44%	9	0	0%	5	55%
TOTALS:	0	0%	23	11%	34	17%	85	42%	59	29%	201	23	11%	144	72%

10. If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization proclaimed responsibility for producing human life, it would cause a religious crisis.

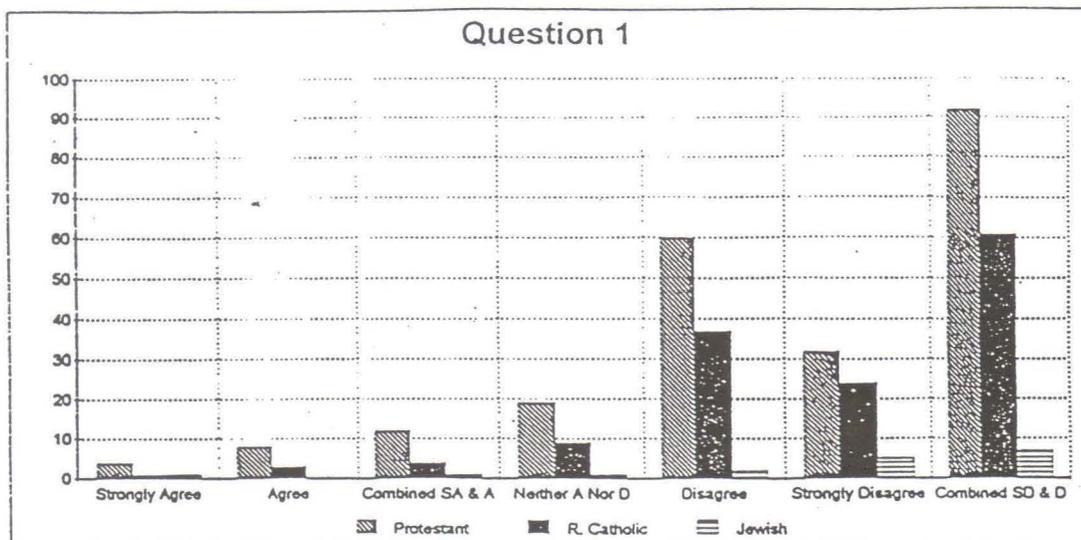
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	12	10%	26	22%	14	12%	37	31%	32	26%	121	38	31%	69	57%
R.CATHOLIC	1	1%	14	20%	20	28%	28	39%	8	11%	71	15	21%	36	51%
JEWISH	2	22%	2	22%	1	11%	1	11%	3	33%	9	4	44%	4	44%
TOTALS:	15	7%	42	21%	35	17%	66	33%	43	21%	201	57	28%	109	54%

11. I believe my answers to the preceding questions represent the views of my congregation.

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree Nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total Responses	Combined SA/A - %		Combined SD/D - %	
PROTESTANT	15	12%	73	61%	31	26%	0	0%	2	2%	121	88	73%	2	2%
R.CATHOLIC	3	4%	44	61%	21	29%	3	4%	1	1%	72	47	65%	4	6%
JEWISH	2	22%	2	22%	5	55%	0	0%	0	0%	9	4	44%	0	0%
TOTALS:	20	10%	119	59%	57	28%	3	1%	3	1%	202	139	69%	6	3%

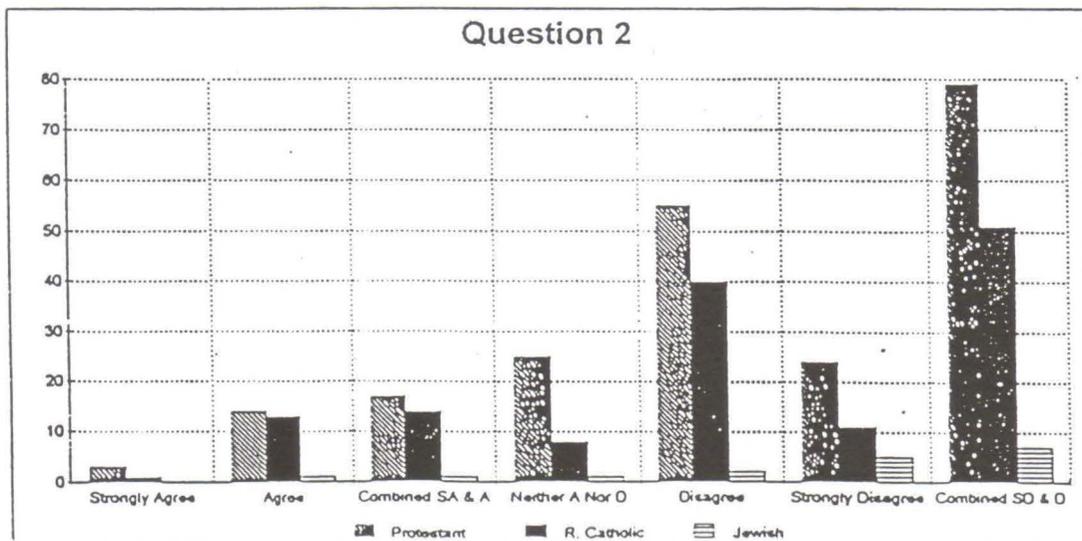
## Statistical Analysis

1. Official confirmation of the discovery of an advanced, technologically superior extraterrestrial civilization would have severe negative effects on the country's moral, social and religious foundations.



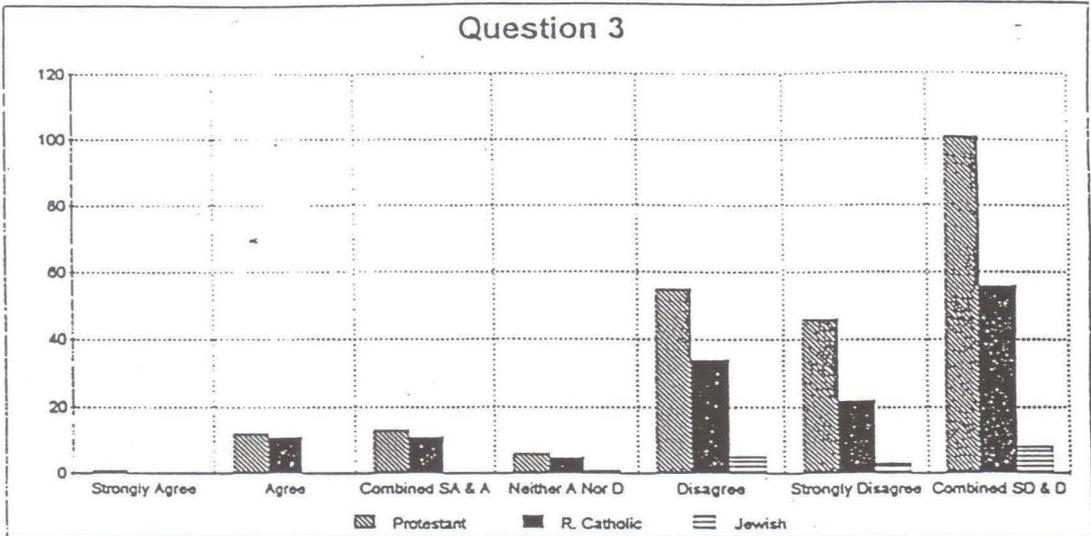
"Hypothetical question - God is still creator if they did find something." A Protestant Pastor

2. My congregation would perceive any contact made with a technologically advanced extraterrestrial civilization, direct or indirect, as a threat.



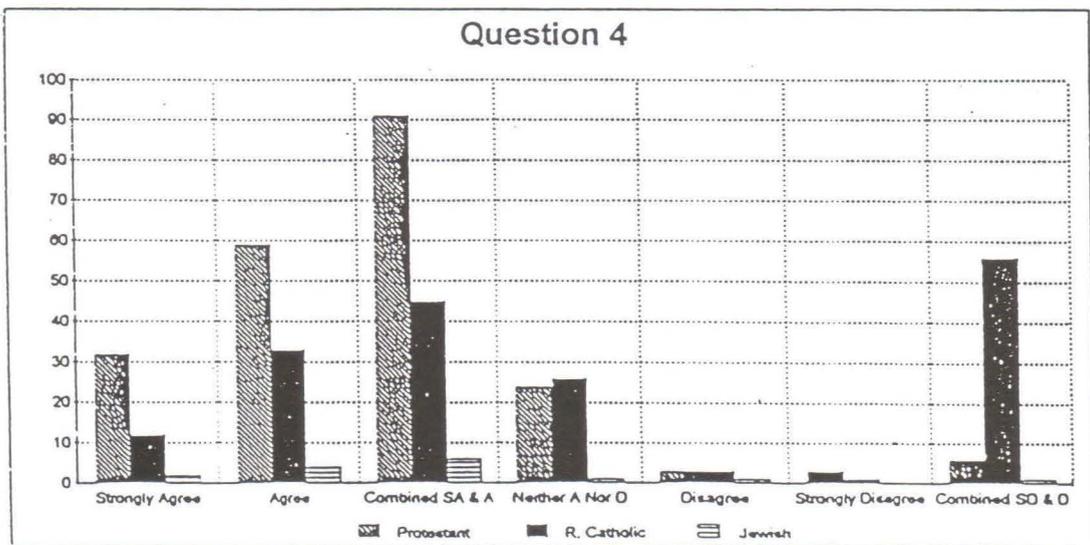
"I wouldn't, but they would." A Protestant Pastor

3. The discovery of another intelligent civilization would cause my congregation to question their fundamental concepts regarding the origin of life.



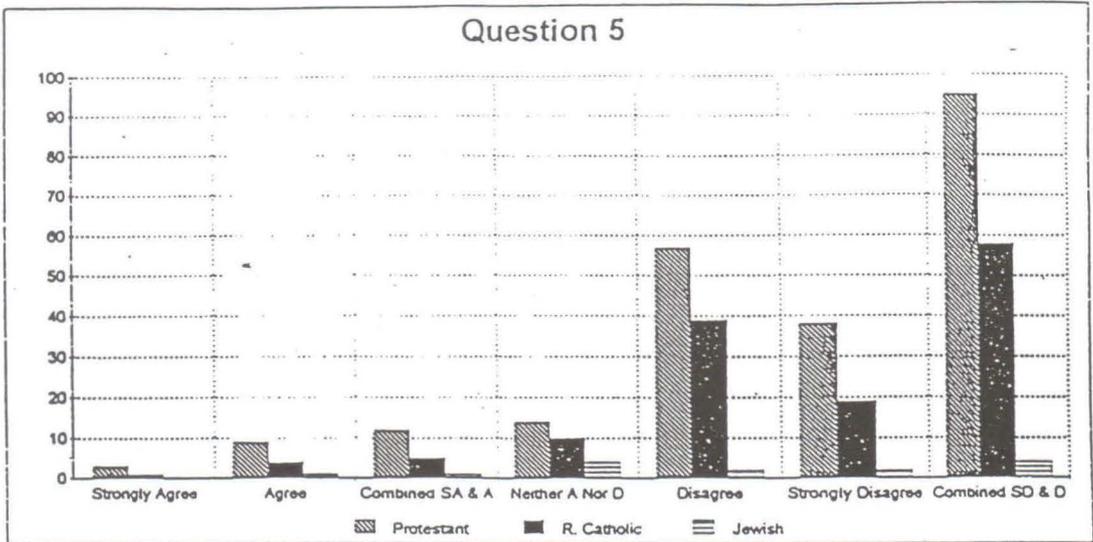
"God still created everything." A Protestant Pastor

4. If highly advanced intelligent civilization exists elsewhere in the universe, the basic tenets of religion would be present.



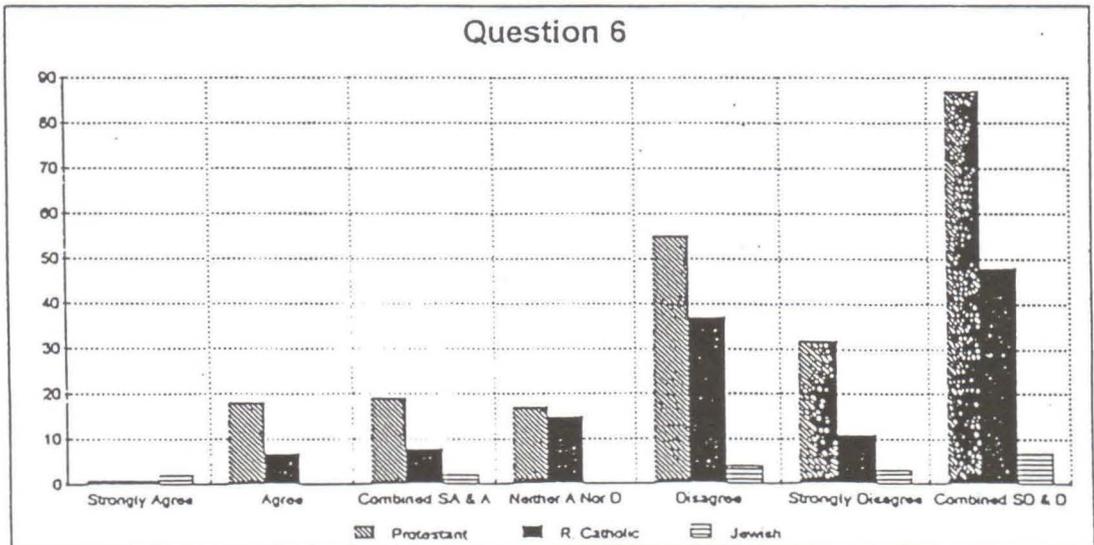
"Satan's Kingdom is religious. He is the Prince of the power of the air. He is very intelligent." A Protestant Pastor

5. Genetic similarities between mankind and an advanced extraterrestrial civilization would challenge the basic religious concepts of man's relative position in the universe.



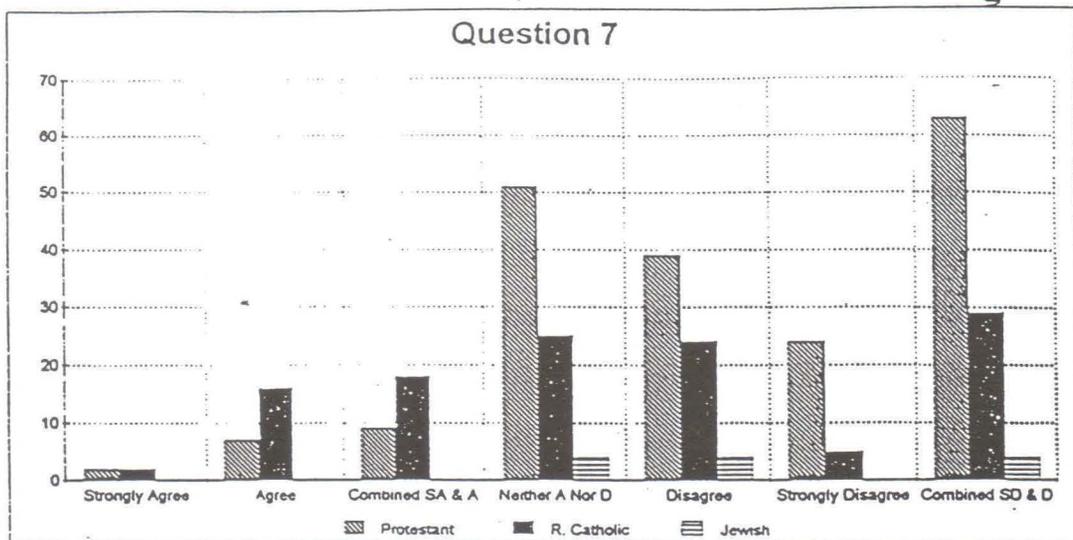
"We like to play MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE." A R. Catholic Father

6. If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had religious beliefs fundamentally different from ours, it would endanger organized religions in this country.



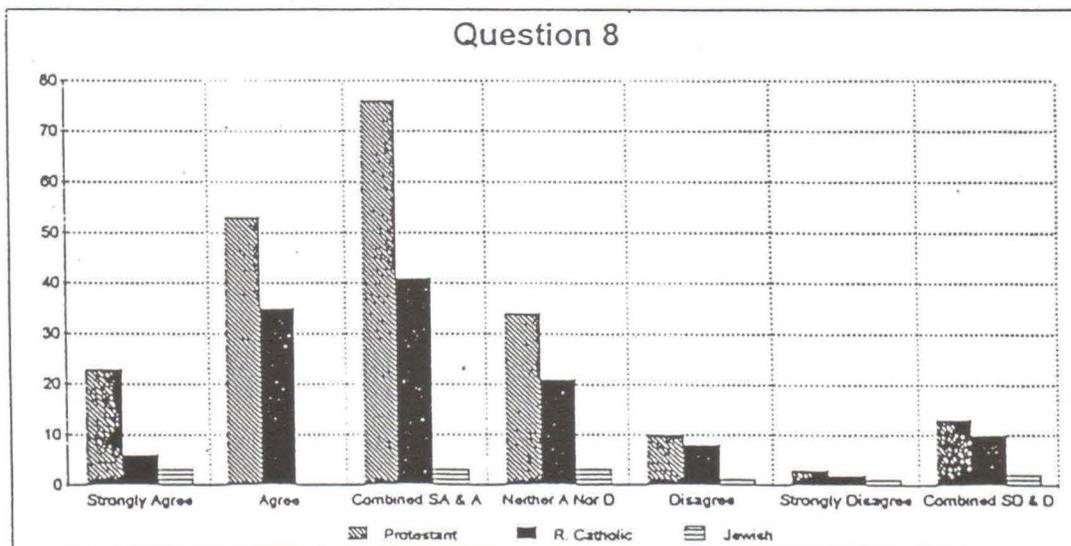
"We'd have a religious war and wipe the suckers out." R. Catholic Father

7. Scientific confirmation of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization is probable in our lifetime.



"Angels. They DINE WITH US every day." A Protestant Pastor

8. It is unlikely that direct contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization has occurred or is currently ongoing.

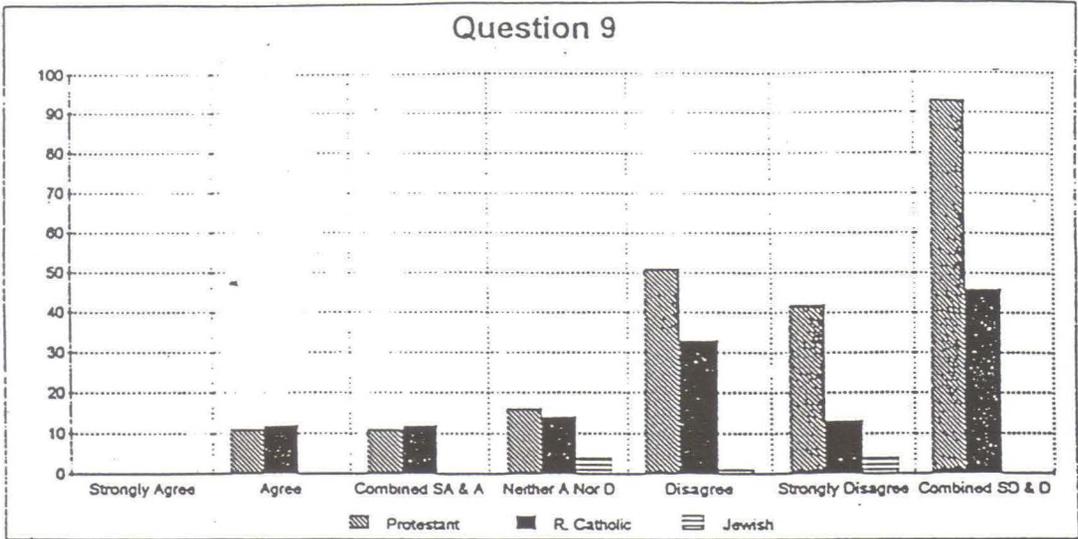


"It seems probable we will eventually make contact with people elsewhere. I don't see any reason to expect they will likely be more advanced than us. It could well be the opposite." A R. Catholic Father

## ABSTRACT

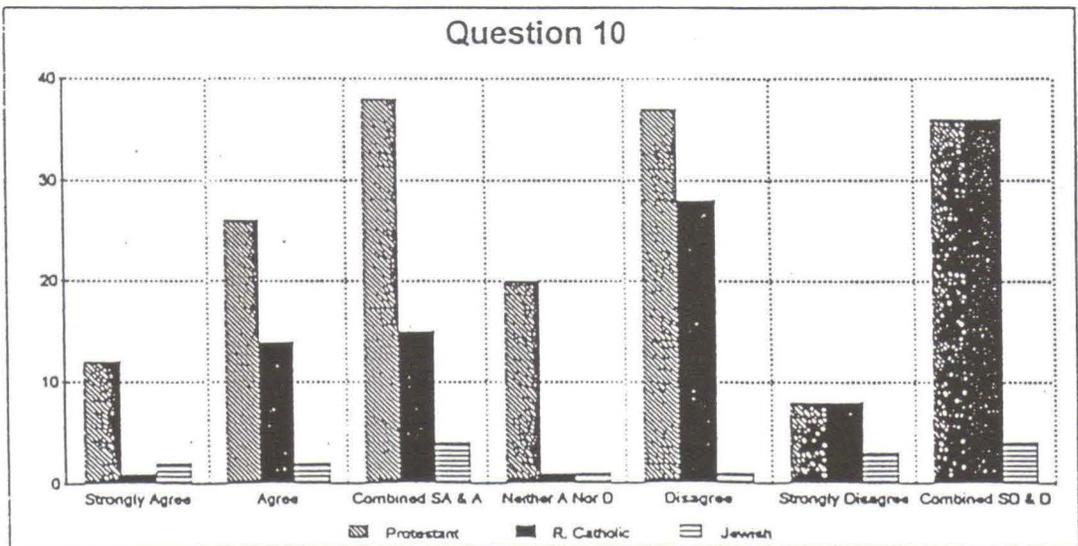
*The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis Survey* addresses just one of many problems facing the UFO Community: how would organized religions in the United States react to confirmation of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization. The results of this pilot survey are straightforward and remarkably simple.' The theologians surveyed would not feel their faith and the faith of their congregation would be threatened. The following results, based upon a 23% return (230 surveys) should have a significant and meaningful impact on the UFO Community, its doctrines and attitudes.

9. My congregation would question their beliefs if an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had no system of religion.



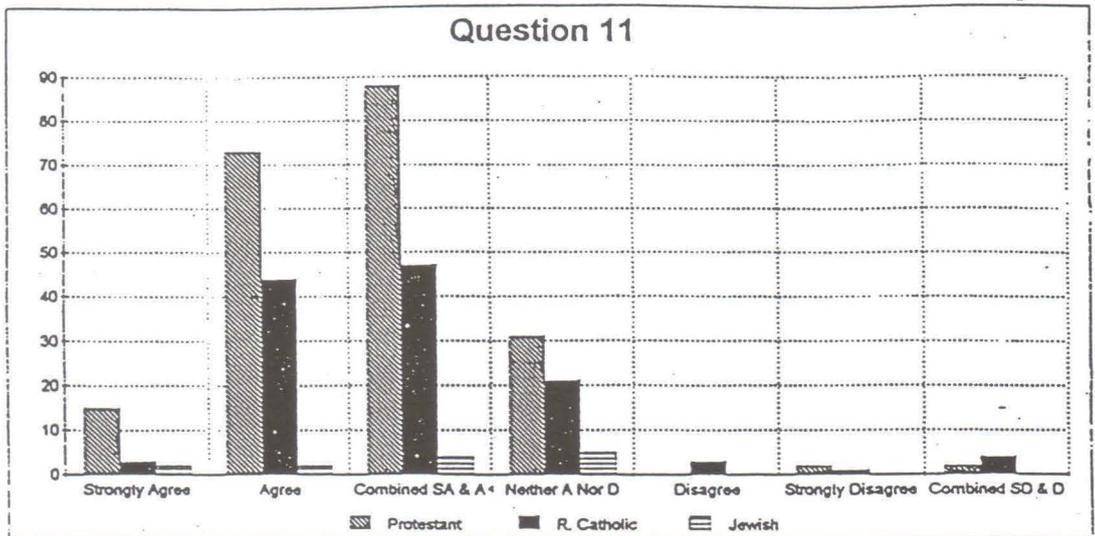
"We'd go preach to them." A R. Catholic Father

10. If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization proclaimed responsibility for producing human life, it would cause a religious crisis.



"If such civilization were "advanced" it could not make such an absurd claim." A R. Catholic Father

11. I believe my answers to the preceding questions represent the views of my congregation.



"They are at least my views. The certainty of my faith rests on the revelation of Jesus Christ, in any life form in God's created universe." A Protestant Pastor

## DEVELOPMENT OF QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

*Would irrefutable proof of intelligent extraterrestrial life in the universe have any effect on religious ideology in the U.S.?* The UFO Community maintains there are several reasons the U.S. government has withheld information on the UFO phenomenon (and its component aspects). A reason prominently offered is that there would be a religious crisis in this country. Yet, in my research I could find nothing to substantiate this premise. This conundrum led to the hypothetical question: if a mass UFO landing were to take place how would pastors, priests and rabbis address the event to their congregation? What if, in the weeks that followed a face-to-face contact, we found out (as the UFO community's leaders proclaim) these obviously technologically superior beings had no religion?

The development of the survey was predicated upon designing concise, simple questions addressing these concerns without bias. Careful analysis of the questions by UFO aficionados will note that attention was paid to addressing the prevailing theories within UFO circles. The aim was not to dispute or confirm any position, but to allow those individuals who are directly responsible for community religious life to express their opinions and general attitudes.

Question 1, **"Official confirmation of the discovery of an advanced, technologically superior extraterrestrial civilization would have severe negative effects on the country's moral, social and religious foundations,"** was designed to introduce the basic concept to be surveyed, without alienating the potential respondent with such oft-putting buzz words as "UFO sightings, E.T.s, abductions, evil aliens, hybrid babies, etc. An overwhelming 77% of the respondents, representing the three major religions in this country, rejected this hypothesis.

Whereas, Question 1 dealt with the country's moral, social and religious environments, Question 2, **"My congregation would perceive any contact made with a technologically advanced extraterrestrial civilization, direct or indirect, as a threat,"** goes straight to the heart of another ongoing UFO controversy. In the context of current ufology, UFOs and their inhabitants are threats to our society. 67% of the total respondents chose "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree"; secondarily, a total 16% chose "Neither Agree Nor Disagree," while only a total of 2% chose "Strongly Agree" and a total of 13% chose "Agree." Clearly, another indication that this is merely a perceived threat entertained solely by the UFO community. This question also subtly addresses the implied threat of "advanced technology" and "hostile intentions." Excepting what is meant by "threat," respondents elected to dismiss the consideration altogether.

Question 3, **"The discovery of another intelligent civilization would cause my congregation to question their fundamental concepts regarding the origin of life,"** addresses the issue of the unique status of humans in the universe. Since some

religious organizations maintain Man at the pinnacle of development, the existence of another advanced civilization could challenge that concept. The question impacts on the meaning of the doctrine that God made Man in His own image. Once again, a majority of the three groups surveyed agreed. 82% of the total respondents chose "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree"; while a total of 6% chose "Neither Agree Nor Disagree." Question 3 received the smallest total percent, indicating a strong interest in the statement. Evident by the statistics stated herein and confirmed by the comments of respondents, the majority feel the religious faith of their congregation would overcome such proclamations by an unknown, external group.

Question 4, "If highly advanced intelligent civilizations exists elsewhere in the universe, the basic tenets of religion would be present" queries the respondent on his/her views regarding the relationship between intelligence and religion. This question introduces the philosophical aspect of religion's place in Man's development. Would a "highly advanced intelligent civilization" have long since dispensed with religion in favor of science and knowledge? The theologians comments are straightforward and unambiguous in supporting their faith: Man's relationship to God is unique; however, God is the creator of all things. Many respondents, in fact, would be very curious about God's relationship to other beings; was there "original sin" and how did God reveal Himself to them. Since our Judeo-Christian model is based on Adam and Eve's fall from God's grace, God's relationship to other beings would be different in all its dimensions. 70% of the total respondents to the survey chose "Strongly Agree" or "Agree," while only a total of 2% chose "Strongly Disagree" and 3% chose "Disagree." Viewed as an indicator, one would infer these responses are not those of individuals whose belief structure could be easily shaken.

Question 5, "Genetic similarities between mankind and an advanced extraterrestrial civilization would challenge the basic religious concepts of man's relative position in the universe" is a variant of Question 3 and 10 and is meant to clarify a persistent UFO Community belief which states that accounts of alien interest in humans is grounded in our genetic similarities. Is Man's place in God's universe unique or is God's image manifold throughout the universe? Would knowledge of other intelligent beings with similar genetic makeup confirm an evolutionary process rather than a divine one? The theologians surveyed responded with a total percentage of 77% for "Strongly Disagree or Disagree." Only 2% chose "Strongly Agree," while a relatively low 14% chose "Neither Agree Nor Disagree."

Question 6, "If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had religious beliefs fundamentally different from ours, it would endanger organized religions in this country" is a variation of Question 4. Essentially, would people abandon their religion for another based on the source being (at least technologically) far more advanced? Also, this addresses the UFO community's assumption that an extraterrestrial civilization would bring their religion here and there would be mass conversions, thereby destroying our own religious beliefs. Once again, the variation of the question did not elicit different conclusions: a total of 70% of the respondents chose "Strongly

Disagree" or "Disagree," while again, 2% chose "Strongly Agree" and 11% chose "Agree." However, these responses disregard the proven anthropological thesis that the superior culture always subsumes the inferior culture.

Question 7, "Scientific confirmation of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization is probable in our lifetime," received the total highest percentage of 39% for the response "Neither Agree Nor Disagree." While the total response for "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" was high at 47%, there has been a consistent trend in the Survey responses which shows an interest in the theological challenges such contact would provide without fear their faith would be at risk. No doubt there is a uniform lack of importance of issue here and how low the priority is.

Question 8, "It is unlikely that direct contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization has occurred or is currently ongoing," was designed to elicit information about the respondents knowledge of reported contacts and abductions. The answers strongly reflects that, regardless of claims of widespread UFO sightings and an unrelenting onslaught of alien abductions of humans, theologians have not been exposed to this information in a manner that would indicate a responsiveness to even consider the proposal. 59% of the total respondents chose "Strongly Agree" or "Agree." In hope of better UFO Community relations with religious bodies, we note that a combined 12% of the respondents chose "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" and a total of 29% had no definitive opinion on this question, choosing "Neither Agree Nor Disagree."

Question 9, "My congregation would question their beliefs if an advanced extraterrestrial civilization had no system of religion," once again reaffirms the main theme of the Survey. Is religion an antiquated concept, barely surviving in our scientifically-oriented, forward-thinking society? Would contact with an "advanced extraterrestrial civilization" without a religion be God's death knell? From the responses we can reasonably infer that it is assumed that faith in current beliefs would remain firmly established. No respondent chose "Strongly Agree" as an answer.

Question 10, "If an advanced extraterrestrial civilization proclaimed responsibility for producing human life, it would cause a religious crisis," addresses Ufology's centerpiece theory. That theory suggests that alien beings had something to do with our evolutionary process, or in its more developed form, actually came to Earth and seeded us. This theory postulates that aliens can manipulate life and in effect, design life for their own intentions and needs. Since the creation of life is considered by religion to be solely God's province, this question lies at the root of UFO abductee's experiences. With abductees and UFO researchers claiming "they made us" the link between God and Man has an interloper. (This question received two "Dumb Statement" remarks). Again, a significant agreement among the three religious groups emerged, with a 54% total choosing "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree."

Question 11, "I believe my answers to the preceding questions represent the views of my congregation," was a question suggested by Mr. Bigelow. This summarizes the Survey with regards to who's views are being represented. This answer garnered the second highest total percentage of 69% (highest total response was Question 4, at 70%). Several theologians gave two sets of answers noting which were personal views and which views they felt were those of the congregation. The total high percentages for the three questions specifying addressing congregational viewpoints (Questions 2, 3 and 9) attest that respondents' consider themselves arbitrators of their communities social perspective.

An additional point to be considered is that 15 respondents returned the survey without answering the questions, yet 14 chose to write comments about the subject. It is significant to note that 14 of the 15 were Catholic fathers, while the other was a Protestant pastor. Their input was incorporated in the Comments section of this Report.

## SELECTED COMMENTS FROM SURVEY

It was extremely difficult to select comments for inclusion in this section of the Report. Some of the comments have been edited to allow for as many voices as possible to be heard. This part of the Survey was highly interesting and informative. Many of the respondents accompanied the survey with personal letters, religious pamphlets, quotations from the Bible and recommendations for further reading. An overwhelming majority of respondents showed an interest in the Survey topic and offered suggestions. Some of the respondents were interested to know who I was and what was the intention of the Survey. Several of the respondents requested further correspondence with me, which I have obliged.

Of the 230 Pilot Surveys that were returned, a total of 102 had comments. There were 63 comments from Protestant Pastors, 36 comments from R. Catholic Monsignors/Fathers and 4 comments from Rabbis. Selected examples are provided in two categories.

First, comments that support the dominant view.

A PASTOR (WA):

"What about the positive potential of an encounter with extraterrestrials? Questioning ones beliefs is not equivalent to abandoning those beliefs. I personally would be thrilled by such an encounter, and I am not afraid of losing God in the encounter. If God is who I believe God to be, then God is God of the cosmos."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (KS):

"These are basic tenets of our faith that cannot be surrendered to any threat in our "intelligible knowledge" and our capacity to know, a Divine Creator personally involved in our existence. That is an act of faith."

A PASTOR (MN):

"I do believe God made the heavens and Earth so therefore all is made by him. "Angels – etc. – could be considered extraterrestrial. There has been contact on earth with them – that has not caused a religious crisis."

A PASTOR (ID):

"Thanks for the chance to give my opinion. I'm an old "Trekkie," and would be thrilled to meet an alien. The Bible suggests the possibility of life in other places several times – the most intriguing being John 10:16. Good luck with your project." [Ed. Note: "And other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." John 10:16.]

A PASTOR (NJ):

"No one with a strongly Bible-based faith would not find such knowledge interesting, but would not be shaken."

A PASTOR (WI):

"Interesting! We've discussed some of these possibilities. Most of my congregation believe there is the possibility of E.T.s, but maintain that they had to have been created by the One God who created the universe. The Bible neither includes nor excludes this possibility."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (MN):

"I think it would be absolutely exciting if we ever uncovered advanced extraterrestrial civilization. However, I don't think it's very likely - or why haven't "they" discovered us yet and told us?? It won't make any difference anyway because the same God is still in the "driver's seat." "

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER:

"Perhaps there is a race of intelligent beings out there who have never fallen from grace and who have made very great technological progress over many thousands of years. God is infinite and the possibilities that He created could well be infinite also. We should not fear the possibilities there may be in the universe."

A PASTOR (PA):

"If there were beings on another planet, would they be in need of redemption? Or, would they have "original sin?" I must tell you that the notion of original sin has undergone some evolution among progressive believers. Columbus, OH):

"I note that, somehow, an underlying assumption in your questions is that "advanced technology = morally/philosophically superior." Look around you, Ms. Alexander. Would you say our technology has made us better, or simply more likely to abuse ourselves, others and our environment with what we have discovered. No, an "advanced" society does not threaten me as a religious person."

A PASTOR (MT):

"I suspect contact has been made with extraterrestrial advanced life. I suspect that they are (would be) committed to non-interference and would have the technological means to acquire all information desired by them."

A PASTOR (AZ) :

"...Do not believe that extraterrestrials would shake up the faith of my folks, any more than the discovery of people in the "New World" shook that of our ancestry in Europe."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (AL):

"Your survey was lots of fun and actually theologically challenging. If there were discovery or contact made with extraterrestrial intelligent life, it would require a re-articulation of church doctrine and thought - but I personally don't think, necessarily a re-invention of new doctrine or thought. In other words, I believe it (dogma) would continue to hold water. Perhaps a good analogy would be the acknowledgment that the earth wasn't the center of the universe. New knowledge of significance often threatens but is not necessary opposed to faith."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (PA):

"If there were beings on another planet, would they be in need of redemption? Or, would they have "original sin?" I must tell you that the notion of original sin has undergone some evolution among progressive believers."

A RABBI (OH):

"Any findings one way or another will not affect Judaism in any way. Who cares if the government knows if there is any other civilizations. Haven't we enough problems to deal with here?"

Second, comments covering a range of other views; notably, how little value some put on this topic. However, these opinions are equally significant.

A RABBI (NY) wrote at the top of the unanswered survey:  
"You Must Be Joking"

A PASTOR (NY):

"I believe this kind of survey is a hypothetical exercise in futility. You could well ask if religious beliefs would be affected if we found out people were being reincarnated into watermelons, or some other such nonsense. The whole survey assumes the possibility of "extraterrestrial civilizations" is a fanciful assumption in my view. I do believe in the supernatural, by the way – as in spiritual beings – angels and demons – which may account for some of the mysterious sightings."

A PASTOR (VA):

"This is a very unlikely thing to happen – God created Heaven and Earth and Man was created to replenish the earth – I do not believe in extraterrestrial civilization."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (PA):

"With everything else that I have to do, did you expect me to do this?"

A PASTOR (WV):

"If there were extraterrestrial civilization it would be the Part of Hell turned loose in the Tribulation Period that the Bible speaks about. Therefore I am not answering any of the above questions that would add to the trick of Satan that I personally believe that he will unleash upon the world in a future date."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (IA):

"We sincerely doubt anyone is discussing this after talking to some people."

A MONSIGNOR/FATHER (MI):

"Try raising funds to feed hungry and clothe naked!"

## THE UFO COMMUNITY'S STANCE

The cognoscenti of UFO research attribute the United States government's current position on UFOs to the "Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects Convened By Scientific Intelligence, CIA, January 14 - 18, 1953," popularly known as The Robertson Panel, named after its Chairman, Dr. H. P. Robertson. It has been widely believed that the aforementioned report indicated that knowledge of the existence of UFOs would cause mass public hysteria and threaten religious beliefs. Building on this, UFO fringe groups claim that alien beings have informed our government that "they made us" and its this information, if revealed to the public, that would bring about the collapse of religion as we know it. Unfortunately this religious quandary myth has no basis in fact since the undercirculated "Robertson Panel Report" never addresses the religious implications of UFO sightings.

Tab A of the Report summarizes the Panel's findings.

"2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:

- a. That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.

3. The Panel further concludes:

- a. That the continued emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these parlous (perilous) [sic] times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning of the protective organs of the body politic."

Our sharply defined separation of church and state would lead very few to interpret "the body politic" as including religious dogma. Yet many have made this intellectual leap and this fallacy continues to haunt the UFO Community. *The UFO Religious Crisis Survey* should point the right way and clear the path of one of many obstacles.

*However, it might be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than an UFO advocate to change stated opinions.*

"The UFO abduction phenomenon presents a particular problem for some organized religions. From the beginnings of history groups of human beings, recognizing the power and potential perils of spirit forces "out there," have taken upon

themselves the task of guiding us through the "ultimate matters" (Zock 1990) of life. Religious leaders instruct us in the nature of God, and determine for us what spirit beings or other entities may exist in the cosmos. The Catholic Church in the Middle Ages, for example, in its zeal to impose a particular sort of monotheism based on the Trinity, quite ruthlessly suppressed the nature-worshipping polytheism of much of Europe.

There can be little place, especially within the Judeo-Christian tradition, for a variety of small but powerful homely beings who administer an odd mixture of trauma and transcendence without apparent regard for any established religious hierarchy or doctrine. It is one thing to acknowledge that "spirit" resides in the universe and "we are not alone." It is quite another for "spirit" to show up in such odd and threatening form, created partially in our own image. At best, this would seem puzzling and difficult to integrate. At worst, to the polarizing perception of Christian dualism these dark-eyed beings must seem to be the playmates of the Devil (Downing 1990). Eastern religious traditions, such as Tibetan Buddhism, which have always recognized a vast range of spirit entities in the cosmos, seem to have less difficulty accepting the actuality of the UFO abduction phenomenon than do the more dualistic monotheisms, which offer powerful resistance to acceptance."

John E. Mack, M.D.

*"Abduction"*

1994. Charles Scribner's Son, New York

"It is not unusual for a person to seek answers to the disturbing qualities of their lives through organized religion – usually evangelical Christian groups. When the abductee tells the minister that strange things have been happening to him, the minister frequently invokes "demons" or demonic possession. It is the devil's work. Prayer and faith will vanquish the demons and allow the victim to lead a life free from harassment."

David M. Jacobs, Ph.D.

*"Secret Life"*

1992. Simon and Schuster, New York

Remarkably, many abductees liken their abductions to religious experiences. The religious imagery is best exemplified by Betty Andreasson Luca, the UFO Community's most respected and admired abductee.

"Are you my Lord Jesus? I would recognize my Lord Jesus." Oh, it says -"I love you. God is love, and I love you," they said or whatever it was. I say *they*, but it seemed like one. [*Sigh*]"

"Why was I brought here?" Betty asked again.

"Because I have chosen you."

"Why won't you tell me why and what for?"

"The time is not yet. It shall come. That which you have faith in, that which you trust."

Betty defensively proclaimed her Christian faith: "It is true. I have faith in God, and I have faith in Jesus Christ. Praise God, praise God, praise God. There is nothing that can harm me. There is nothing that can make me fear. I have faith in Jesus Christ!"

"We know, child," the voice answered. "We know child, that you do. That is why you have been chosen. I am sending you back now. Fear not...Be of faith. Your own fear makes you feel these things. I would never harm you. It is your fear that you draw to your body, that causes you to feel these things. I can release you, but you must release yourself of that fear *through my son*."

Betty Andreasson

*"The Andreasson Affair"*

by Raymond E. Fowler

1979. Prentice-Hall, New York

## CONCLUSIONS

*The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis Survey* addresses the question of what effects the news of the confirmed reality of an advanced, extraterrestrial civilization would have on religion. The results conclusively demonstrate that the religious leaders surveyed believe that the faith of their parishioners is both sufficiently strong and flexible to accommodate this information. Contrary to the belief widely held in the UFO community, it is highly unlikely that such news would yield a religious crisis.

While the media does not pay much attention to the importance of religion in American life, figures released by The American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel found that money contributed to religion totaled \$56.7 billion in 1992. Sociologist Jeffrey Hadden of the University of Virginia has said, "Religion is one of the most interesting subjects in life. It is still shaping history as much in the late 20th century as it did in previous centuries." Given the considerable influence of religion on American life, the views of organized religions are important when predicting how our society might respond to very unusual circumstances. The acknowledgment of the existence of advanced extraterrestrial life would clearly fit the profile of such an extreme circumstance.

The opinions of religious congregations in this country have not been accurately assessed by the UFO Community. As *The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis Survey* illustrates, religion should not be summarily categorized as unresponsive or inflexible to challenging matters. They do not appear to be in danger of disintegration over news the UFO community believes would overwhelm them.

The perceived inflexibility of organized religions is a misconception. While the Roman Catholic Church's policies may be defined by the Pope and the Vatican Council, a recent survey by the Los Angeles Times found that a significant number of priests and nuns in the United States are questioning many of the church's edicts. The poll also found that one out of five priests (21 percent) say they frequently counsel Catholics to follow a course of action that contradicts official church teaching on morals. This clearly shows that priests, made aware of the needs and feelings of their parishioners, will align themselves closely with members of the laity. Priests attitudes and advice to their congregation is not automatically dictated from Rome and as a whole they are open to concerns and changing opinions of their congregation. This is of special importance to the UFO community, as it attempts to bring the subject matter of UFOs into mainstream understanding and acceptance.

There is a wealth of additional information contained in this pilot survey. *The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis Survey* was initially intended as a gauge to evaluate theologians interest in the question of UFOs impact on religion. The 23% return rate is

very high for a mailed survey and indicates that there is an interest which needs to be seriously addressed.

The significant conclusion to be drawn from this pilot survey is that religious leaders did not believe that their faith and the faith of their congregation would be challenged by contact with an advanced extraterrestrial civilization – one with or without a religion. According to many of the respondents, it would confirm God's glory as creator of the universe.

There are similarities between religion and the UFO Community which should not be ignored. While there are people who deny the existence of God, angels, demons and miracles, most people have strong beliefs and faith in these matters. Generally this faith is generated without having direct contact with any of these entities or events. Similarly, there are many people who believe UFOs exist. Of these, there is a substantial number who think aliens interact with humans, sometimes on a recurring basis. Again, not all the people who hold these views claim to have actually experienced them.

It is evident from a lack of mention in the comments, that UFO abductees have not sought the counsel, guidance and support in the churches or synagogues responding to *The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis Survey*. Yet, by responding to my request to participate in the survey, all the participants showed a willingness to assist, even though some considered the topic of minor importance or a fanciful hypothesis. None of the respondents claimed knowledge of the UFO phenomenon or abduction experience from a congregation member. From *The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis Survey* comments, the conclusion can be made that abductees are, as a group, not reaching out to the available spiritual and emotional counseling offered by established religious groups. An oft-repeated reason – fear of ridicule – would appear to lack substance. The purpose of religious bodies within a community is surely to counsel the spiritually and emotionally afflicted, whatever the cause. None of the comments from respondents countered this. Perhaps the respondents who had negative opinions (and those who did not respond at all) would have reacted differently had they been exposed directly to the subject matter from a member of their congregation.

It would be of significant value to the UFO Community to reassess its long-held position on the impact confirmation of UFO's would have on religion. We should respond to the openness and interest of organized religion in this country, as this small representative sampling of theologians indicates. In conclusion, based upon this pilot survey, religion is not threatened by challenges. The UFO Community should seriously review its statements regarding religion and solicit the participation of American religious bodies in addressing the mystery of UFOs.

The UFO Community would do well to seek the guidance and interest of religious groups. Religions have faced many adversities in their long struggle for acceptance and the UFO Community should find a kindred spirit here.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I'd like to thank all the participants for generously giving their time to answer a survey from an unknown, unaffiliated source. I regret that many of the respondents chose anonymity, especially those with negative comments, since I would have liked to send every participant a copy of the *"UFO Religious Crisis Survey Report."* I did not take offense by any of the comments but was pleased they responded to the subject matter. All the comments are highly valued and of much interest.

My grateful thanks to Robert Bigelow for sponsoring the survey, his encouragement and enthusiasm, prescience and trust in the project, faith in me and strong, positive vision.

My special thanks to my fabulous husband, John B. Alexander, for his blessed patience with me and demand for philosophical purity and excellence. John selflessly worked on the construction of the questions, stuffed and sealed envelopes and generously handled all the statistical work for the Survey.