

The Reformation 

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REFORMATION

Part 6



Reformation of the 16th Century

It was at Wittenberg, in Saxony, Germany, that the first spark of the Reformation was struck when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church of All Saints on Oct. 31, 1517.

This spark kindled a fire of faith that spread swiftly throughout the length and breadth of the Roman Empire.

The main point of his theses was to reject the doctrine of work-righteousness and assert that in the Bible, justification was entirely the work of the grace of God. Also he emphasized the supremacy of Scriptures as the sole rule of faith and life.

Many other errors in the Catholic Church were exposed by Martin Luther. He entered boldly into his work as a champion of the truth. His voice was heard from the pulpit in earnest solemn warning. He counseled the people not to buy indulgences, but to look by faith to a crucified Redeemer.

Though Luther had been moved by the Spirit of God to begin his work, he was not to carry it forward without severe conflicts. The reproaches of his enemies, their misrepresentation of his purposes, and their unjust and malicious reflections upon his character and motives, came in upon him like an overwhelming flood. He trembled as he looked upon himself— one man opposed to the mightiest powers of earth.

When enemies appealed to custom and tradition, or to the assertions and authority of the pope, Luther met them with the Bible and the Bible only.

Satan was not idle, he realized the danger that Martin Luther was to his kingdom. Using the most powerful monarch, Emperor Charles V, he tried to stop the work of Reformation.

Immediately after the condemnation of Luther and the Reformation in 1521 at the Diet of Worms the Emperor issued the Edict of Worms. Part of this Edict reads as follows:

“We have therefore sent this Luther from before our face, that all pious and sensible men may regard him as a fool, or a man possessed of the devil; and we expect that after the expiry of his safe-conduct, effectual means will be taken to arrest his furious rage.

“Wherefore, under pain of incurring the punishment due to the crime of treason, we forbid you to lodge the said Luther as soon as the fatal term shall be expired, to conceal him, give him meat or drink, and lend him, by word or deed, publicly or secretly, any kind of assistance. We enjoin you, moreover, to seize him, or cause him to be seized, wherever you find him, and bring him to us without any delay, or to keep him in all safety until you hear from us how you are to act with regard to him, and till you hear from us how you are to act with regard to him, and till you receive the recompense due to your exertions in so holy a work.

“As to his adherents, you will seize them, suppress them, and confiscate their goods.

“As to his writings, if the best food becomes the terror of all mankind as soon as a drop of poison is mixed with it, how much more ought these books, which contain a deadly poison to the soul, to be not only rejected, but also annihilated! You will therefore burn them, or some other way destroy them entirely.

“As to authors, poets, printers, painters, sellers or buyers of placards, writings or paintings, against the Pope or the church, you will lay hold of their persons and their goods, and treat them according to your good pleasure.

“And if anyone, whatever be his dignity, shall dare to act in contradiction to the decree of our imperial majesty, we ordain that he shall be placed under the ban of the empire.

“Let everyone conform hereto.”

The answer Luther gave to the Emperor was, “I cannot subject my faith either to the Pope or to Councils; because it is clear as day, that they have often fallen into error, and even into great self-contradictions. If, then, I am not disproved by passages of Scripture, or by clear arguments,— if I am not convinced by the very passages which I have quoted, and so bound in conscience to submit to the Word of God, I neither can nor will retract anything. For it is not safe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

Many honest people in the church who had been concerned about the apostasy in it rejoiced in the work of Luther.

He returned to Wittenberg where he stayed in hiding 10 months. Yet he was not idle. During this time more than 200 different evangelical publications were printed and scattered everywhere. They were even translated into various other languages. His doctrines were heard in cottages, convents, castles, universities and in the palaces of kings.

God was in this work therefore Satan and his allies were defeated. The truth penetrated into the dark places of the continent.

Although Luther was threatened with prison, torture and death yet he did not turn back. When he received the papal bull to excommunicate him, he publicly burned it in the presence of a crowd of students, doctors and citizens of all ranks, and he did not burn only the bull but others book and writings of the church also.

When Luther came out of hiding and was to preach in the Wittenburg church, people flocked from all directions that the church was filled to overcrowding. That time he also completed the translation of the New Testament into the German language. This caused the priests to be alarmed. Now the common people could read the Word of God and discuss with them its precepts and expose the ignorance of the priests.

The Reformation did not die. When powerful foes were uniting to overthrow the reformed faith, and thousands of swords seemed about to be used against it, Luther wrote: "Satan is putting forth his fury; ungodly pontiffs are conspiring; and we are threatened with war. Exhort the people to contend valiantly before the throne of the Lord, by faith and prayer, so that our enemies, vanquished by the Spirit of God, may be constrained to peace." He never asked for the support of worldly powers. His only defense was the Lord. From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. The protestant reformers had built on Christ, and the gates of hell could not prevail against them.

The battle continues. The work of Reformation is not yet finished. The enemies of God's church are more than ever planning to overthrow the little flock of Jesus. The Roman power which ruled the world for 1260 years is gaining its strength again. The deadly wound has been healed and the fires of persecution will be re-kindled.

Today men like Martin Luther are needed to stand in the defense of the truth, who fearlessly rebuke the errors of the churches, who will go out to proclaim the Sabbath more fully in the face of the Sunday laws. Our only defense is in God, and in prayer to Him. Humanly this is not possible but in the power and the spirit of Elijah we can stand alone against the multitudes of enemies. May the Lord help each one of us to walk in the footsteps of these reformers and carry the torch of truth forward in these last days.

AMEN.

Timo Martin

Vol. 3:413. "God design that the exercise of benevolence should be purely voluntary, not having recourse even to eloquent appeals to excite sympathy. "God loveth a cheerful giver." He is not pleased to have His treasury replenished with forced supplies... The plan of redemption was entirely voluntary on the part of Redeemer, and it is the purpose of Christ that all our benevolence should be freewill offerings."

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD'S CHURCH

What is a characteristic? It is something that makes a person what he/she is.

Today there are many churches on this earth; an overwhelming number of Christian churches alone. How is a new follower of Christ to know which way they are to go? It can be rather discouraging to say the least, and can lead a person to simply give up their faith or decide to worship alone – feeling that church relation is not necessary.

Very briefly I will state here that, studying through prophetic history, God's church is accurately pinpointed. In the study of the book of Revelation chapters 14 and 18, we see the progression of the church in approximately the past 160 years. The prophecy ends with the calling out of the sincere people out from the fallen churches. We can also read Revelation 12:17 and study who the remnant of the woman's seed is. With these prophecies, among others, we see pointed out the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement.

This being the remnant church of God today, (according to prophecy) what characteristics should we expect to see within its borders? In the days when Jesus walked the earth, the Jewish nation was the church of God, but many of its members no longer bore the characteristics of God's people. It is not enough to know who God's church is, it is also important to bear the characteristics that reflect God's

character. I will briefly discuss a few of the important characteristics that God's church must portray today.

A FAMILY

The first characteristic I want to look at is found in Ephesians 3:14, 15. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Here we see God's church described as a family. If your church does not feel like a family to you, either you are separating yourself from God's family or your church is not fulfilling its responsibility. I have one friend who attends some other church and she tells me that in her church she feels like a stranger. She has no Christian friends within her church. All the fellowship and encouragement she receives from friends is from other sources outside her church. Yet, her husband insists she attends that church and she feels inclined to obey him. It is important to see this family atmosphere expressed in God's church where there is perfect love and unity amongst the members, regardless of their social class or cultural background. The truth unites in closer bonds than earthly families.

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the

building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord." Ephesians 2:19, 20. We are not strangers and foreigners in God's church. We don't need a Chinese church in one part of the city, a Spanish church in another part and an English church in a third part. We all get along. God's church is truly international.

There are many fallen churches that have an excellent family atmosphere also, yet this is not the only characteristic that God's church possesses. It is a necessary one, but not the only one.

THE HOUSE OF GOD

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15.

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, Christians had no literal church buildings. Jewish synagogues and heathen temples were seen in many places, but no Christian churches. We see the Christian believers gathering together in the homes of various members to fellowship. Yet, God was in their midst just as surely as He was there in the Sanctuary in the wilderness. A building cannot reflect the character of God, although many other churches like to point out the fact that they have so many churches, so many schools and hospitals – what do you have? It often seems that God's church is the poorest in the land. This has

been true from the days of Christ onward. Thus God's church is primarily the spiritual union of all its converted members, whether worshipping in the same room or far away.

Although they had no churches, Paul reminded them to remember how to behave in the "house of God". In the Jewish system of religion, everything is done in a very solemn manner. In their gatherings and assemblies, there was such a solemnity that no one dared to utter a whisper. All was silent as they felt the power of God in their midst. Now that they were worshipping in homes, they were still to regard the place as the house of God and conduct themselves accordingly – with the same solemnity as they used to have in their Jewish ceremonies. Just because they were in a house, they were not free to become more casual in their meetings, whisper or walk around unnecessarily.

We too must follow the counsel of Paul. To be truly the church of God, this characteristic is very important—our conduct in the house of God, whether it be in an actual church building or in a rented place or a home. Even after the Jewish ceremonies were over you never saw the young people running through the sanctuary or people milling about the sanctuary carrying on idle conversation. All speaking was done outside. We must follow the same counsel in our church settings. During a meeting in a home, that living room is the house of God, and must be given similar respect until the service is over. We must instruct our children from the youngest age regarding the

solemnity in God's house. There is to be no speaking, whispering, writing notes, unnecessary communication of any kind, out of turn. This is all a dishonour to God's house. After the service is over in a church setting— this must still not be allowed, until we have departed from the sanctuary. Of course we need to express patience when we have new visitors who don't fully understand the magnitude of the presence of God, but kind instruction will always bring the necessary results, and a godly example from the believers will be a great help. If we see children disrespecting God's house, instead of fretting over it and losing the Sabbath blessing, go and speak with the child or parent. Once you have brought this to their attention, if they are sincere, you will have won a brother. Why should the whole church lose a blessing because a parent neglected to restrain their child? We are the family of God and we must work together as a family to uplift and encourage those that are slipping.

ORGANIZATION

In the book of Isaiah, in chapter 5, we see a parable about a vineyard. This vineyard had a hedge around it and a tower in the middle. The Lord watered it and pruned it and gave it much loving attention, yet it only produced wild grapes. What do these symbols mean? "For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah this pleasant plant." Verse 7. The hedge is the truth that is a wall of protection from the enemy. The tower is the place that all the activity is overseen from. This tower signifies organization. The vineyard could not function

efficiently if there is not someone overseeing the work, making sure all the workers do their appointed tasks.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, being also many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

Here we see Paul comparing God's church to a body. He had just listed the Gifts of the Spirit, and then went on to state how they all work together. Today we see some churches who shun the idea of organization. They say that there should not be a president or leader, but all brethren are equal. They go on to state that should a church have some sort of organization it cannot be from the Lord. Comparing this idea to the body, does the body have a "president" who presides over the various functions of the rest of the body? It most certainly does. Should you lose a finger or a toe, or even your eyesight or hearing, your body would continue to exist. Even if your heart stops briefly, you can be revived and continue living. What should happen though, if the control center – the brain – should shut down? That would be the immediate cessation of life. Yes, God's church does need a control centre, although it is not limited to one person or one group of men. In the structure of the organization, the leadership position is of vital importance,

although different men may hold it at different times.

Also, the body is constantly in motion with its involuntary actions. What would happen if your heart decided to take a day off? Your blood didn't feel like flowing for an hour or two? Your lungs insisted on a timely rest? It cannot happen and retain life in the body. In the same manner, God's church must be in action. There is no place for inactivity in God's church. No one can sit in their seat, not bearing any responsibilities for the Lord, and maintain their faith. Soon their faith will weaken. God gave the Gifts of the Spirit to be a blessing to the giver equally as much as to the receiver. If we would count up the hours we spend on our own personal pleasure and the hours we spend in service to the Lord, I hope we don't find an unequal balance, or else we will hear the awful pronouncement in the end, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel, 5:27.

STRENGTH AND BEAUTY

"For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:2. God's church is pure. There are no adulterous relationships and unlawful connections with organizations led by Satan. God's church will not join societies such as the "World Counsel of Churches" or receive financial support for its institutions from sources that are questionable and will later dictate how things are to be conducted in those institutions.

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mind, . . . My dove,

my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. . . Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Song of Solomon, 6:2,9,10. We here see God's church compared to a beautiful woman – the choice one. Yes, God has a beautiful bride. She is to have a beautiful and pure character, but what does this "terrible as an army with banners" mean? God is not only looking for beauty but for strength and courage in His church.

"Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men who are more than weaklings." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 497.

THE NUMBERS

Often people will quote the number of members they have, or the amount of properties their church holds, as evidence that they must be the church of God. Some are competing, not so much to bring the truth as to increase their numbers feeling that there is strength in numbers. Jesus told the nation of Israel, "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people: for ye were the fewest of all people:" Deuteronomy 7:7.

God's church has always been small – a remnant. They tell us, "How can you have much of an impact on the world, you are so small? Come join with us, we are much bigger and together we can make a difference." Our answer should be, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6.

We will meet with many Christians in this day and age, who feel as though it doesn't matter what religious organization a person belongs to; as long as they love the Lord, they will be saved. Nothing could be further from the truth. We must seek until we find. We must know who God's people are, not only prophetically but also by the characteristics they bear. Do they have the characteristics of Christ? Otherwise we will become as the Pharisees, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Timothy 3:7. A knowledge of the truth goes much further than what we know in our mind. It is what comes out of our hearts. We will not be judged by what we know, but by what we did with that knowledge. If we see a problem in our personal lives, today is the time to correct the error and turn back to the Lord.

The latter rain will finally be poured out upon God's waiting praying ones; those that have come fully to reflect the character of Christ. God is just waiting for us today. Let us not allow this delay to continue, but do our part in preparation today.

Amen

Wendy Eaton



SUNDAY LAW

Daily we hear news about the coming of the Sunday Law. The churches are speaking of it. Governments are talking about it. The prophecies in the Great Controversy are being fulfilled which show us how close we are to the end.

The following Apostolic and Pastoral Letter from the Catholic Church is a clear indication of their intentions.

Apostolic and Pastoral Letter

Establishment and promulgation of our apostolic letter of his Holiness the Pope John Paul II. Initiated the day of the Lord in the encyclical document "Dies Domini" or Sunday as the mark or sign of its pontifical authority principal day of resurrection of Christ Jesus as successor of the apostle Saint Paul, ancient fisherman of Galilee and Capernaum.

We, Dom. Nicolau Gomes da Silva, main bishop of the Holy Syrian Orthodox Church in Antigua in Brazil and active member of the confederation of orthodox apostolic catholic churches in the west. We invoke as faithful members of the diverse apostolic orthodox rituals so that in agreement we may compare with six delegates to study in detail the Apostolic Letter Commissionary Faithful Congregation Ministry assigned by his Holiness Pope John Paul II on the 31st of May of 1998 (more one day, year and month of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ) where this document recognizes the obligation that must be fulfilled of the keeping of Sunday as the true day of the Lord, and sanctified it by the command of our Holy Mother Church through the Holy Father or Pope of reconciliation through the Augmentation of more one day minus one day will bring our apostate protestant brothers back who have deviated from our Catholic Apostolic faith. This indeed has worried greatly the Saint Pope John Paul II. He urges therefore the necessity to divulge this Apostolic Letter "Dies Domini" with its detailed pages regarding the subject of great importance for the Church of Christ in one all for certain thought the Holy Inquisition, the works of faith of the Tribunal of the Holy Office, tracing all the evangelists, spirits and others for the strengthening of our brotherly arms of the church of God through Saint Pope John Paul under one condition: Sanctify and religiously keep Sunday, the true day of the Lord, from creation of the world as it states in Genesis of the week of creation. (Genesis 1:1-31; Genesis 2:1-3). It was with this conception that His kindness Dom. Elias IV in provision determines that the Metropolitan Bishop Dom. Crisostomos Moussa Natanos Salama of Patriarchal Delegation of the Holy Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioquia in Brazil of the Holy faith of Antioquia in the pastoral letter pronounces in respect of this solemn document that it be sent to all, copies of this Pastoral letter on keeping Sunday.

We, Crisostomos Moussa Matanos Salama, by the mercy of God, Bishop of the Holy Syrian Orthodox Church in Antioquia of the patriarchal delegation of Brazil in street Comendador Nohme Salomao #74 - Beautiful Horizon - MG - Brazil. We promulgate and decree this our Pastoral Letter, in the direction to evoke to the lord archbishops, bishops, fathers, deacons and delegates of the diverse orthodox communities in Brazil for an extraordinary Agreement on date being a mark over the Roman document of the Saint Pope John Paul II Successor of the Apostle Peter with the title "Dies Domini" that upraises Sunday as the true Day of the Lord in virtue of the Resurrection of Christ, glorious fact that was given to the first day of the week thus giving ample meaning to the biggest day that the world already recognizes through history: Sunday (Kirlake Hermera) that will be proclaimed in articles of the Confederation of Orthodox Apostolic Catholic Churches in the west in the presence of fathers, archbishops of the Saints Eastern Churches without lacking our Patriarch His Kindness Dom. Elias IV and also representatives of the Patriarchs of Russia and authorities of the Roman Apostolic Church through the Apostolic Nunciature for the CNBB (National Conference of Bishops in Brazil).

#1) That we may not tolerate the keeping of another "Day" by any religion without the full knowledge of Holy Father or Pope in that our catholic writers with the example of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John never mentioned another day

besides the Day of the Lord, Sunday, the Only Day of the Resurrection of Christ. For this we cannot accept another gospel. (Galatians 1:6-9)

#2) That we may not tolerate any belief of keeping another "day", according to the Bible and the Holy Tradition in the liturgy (Isaiah 1:13-14).

#3) That we may not tolerate Jews, Sabbath keepers, Adventists, and other sects that do not keep the Day of the Lord, Sunday and proclaim to create in the mind great theological wrongs against the moral and honoured customs bred richly in the traditions of the Holy Church.

#4) That we may not tolerate those who do not read or study the precepts determined by the Holy Father the Pope regarding the Day of Resurrection of the Lord, Sunday.

#5) That we may not tolerate any argument of the precepts with biblical texts that do not come with the explanation of the Live Magistrate of the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church who dominates the world in fulfillment of the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation.

#6) That we may not be able to tolerate any observer of other days, other than being the Holy Sunday, the Principal Day of Resurrection of the Eternal Incarnate God in virtue will be all debtors to fulfill the precepts of divine oracles placed by the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church. The Holy Spirit would guide in respect in the day of man's destiny.

#7) That we may not tolerate the transgressors of the day of the Lord, Sunday. In this case the judicial powers shall fall to effect through courts so justice to restrain and to the free choice of conscience of the disobedient and disorderly of the law given by Rome primarily by the Pope defender of the divine laws who judges and cannot be judged by any one.

#8) That we may not tolerate the transgressors for any reason. We will ask throughout the United States (ONU) severe punishment for the disobedient people who came since 1844 gathering up for its fold our catholic people who ignorant of the morbid interests of those transgressors of the law go preaching this Millerite spirit of Sabbath keeping that has contradicted the Holy Father the Pope with their "doutrinax" of keeping Saturday Sabbath and the mortality of the soul, the two main pillars of its heresy and heterodox in the world wide context.

#9) That we may not tolerate these transgressors for any reason, we will ask the United States authorities not to provide them with loans or mortgages for their publishing houses, their orphanages, their hospitals, their schools and this we say this letter with urgency to finish off with these lies.

CRISOSTOMOS MUSSSA MATANOS SALAMA
ARCHBISHOP AND PATRIARCHAL DELEGATE

"Beautiful Horizon", December 1998

The Catholic Church does not seem to be so concerned about other churches than of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The following document shows their objectives which they plan to gain. According to the Spirit of Prophecy they will gain their objective.

"I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday." Dorchester, Main Oct. 23, 1850

SPECIAL DOCUMENT FROM THE VATICAN (1997-2002)
The Catholic Plan to Evangelize the Seventh-Day Adventists

PROJECT
"The Most Desirable Sectarian Group"

Main point: *"To evangelize the Seventh-Day Adventists with the true gospel, constitutes the greatest gain of the Catholic Church to return the Protestants to Rome".*

OBJECTIVES

1. To infiltrate, among the Adventists, ideas, projects that could aid in bringing about a Catholic-Adventist closeness.
2. Make concessions that would tend to bring together Catholic thinking among the Adventists.
3. To look for, analyze, with the Seventh-Day Adventists common objectives for evangelization.
4. To dismember mistaken paradigms that the Adventists have about the Roman Catholic Church.
5. To demonstrate to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, that its origin as a church has no biblical basis.
6. To demonstrate to the Seventh-Day Adventists the falsehood of the writings of Ellen White.
7. To demonstrate to the Seventh-Day Adventists how prejudicial (dangerous) they are to world peace, their position about the Pope, the Virgin Mary and Sunday as the day of rest.
8. To point out to the Seventh-Day Adventists that their church has the highest level of apostasy among the Protestants, due to the theological shakings that characterize it.
9. To bare before the world the steps that the Adventist Church has taken, through its legitimate leaders toward the Catholics and ecumenism.
10. That the Seventh-Day Adventists understand that not to unite with Catholics and Protestants, to search for world peace together, they would be blamed for all the evils and/or disasters that may befall the world.

Sister White wrote, "And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will change all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will, be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-Sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying the reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.... Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected." Great Controversy 590, 592

Another sign for Sunday law is the attention given the 10 Commandments. This will bring the fourth commandment also to the attention of the people. To keep the law means to the people to keep Sunday.

When the State legislate on this, it means that the church and State are no more separate, but work in Unity.

The Detroit News, Friday June 18, 1999 - "*Educators, parents say little gained by posting moral rules in buildings.* Metro Detroit educators and parents say posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms won't do much good unless the students follow them.

Their comments follow a bill passed in the House that gives states the right to display copies of the Commandments in schools and other public buildings.

'I think posting the Ten Commandments is fine, but living by the Ten Commandments is even more important,' said Philip Snell, a member of the Allen Park Schools Board of Education.

The bill followed outbreaks of youth violence across the nation, which some lawmakers blamed on a lack of traditional values and discipline.

Opponents, however insist posting the commandments violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

'I think the Ten Commandments should be taught at home and not the school', said Birmingham parent Christine Szymariski. 'It bothers me, the issue of separation of church and state. I'm astounded that they allowed this to go through.'

Menominee Township in the northern Upper Peninsula displays the Ten Commandments in its chambers, but the movement has not spread to Metro Detroit.

The Melvindale school district recently found itself at the center of controversy when it decided to include books about creationism in its library.

'I have a big problem when it comes to religion and education. It's a fine line,' Snell said, adding that he would support posting the Ten Commandments in school.

'I'm not sure by allowing this in the school that we're opening the door for something else to happen.'

But educators and parents say schools can teach the kinds of values reflected in the Ten Commandments without teaching religion.

'We're already teaching those things implicitly in the things we do,' said Steven Gaynor, Superintendent of Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools. Posting the Ten Commandments 'won't necessarily change what we're doing in school. It's a symbolic thing.'"

To us all these signs mean to get ready the end is very near. Many among us are not prepared for these coming crises and will lose their faith. May God help us each one to awake and make our salvation secure. AMEN



Family Eaton leaving Canada and on their way to Australia

AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

PILGRIM PINES, CALIFORNIA

JULY 6-11

For the American Union Conference we gathered together in the beautiful country setting outside of the city of Los Angeles at a campground called Pilgrim Pines. The motto of the conference was "Fight the good fight of faith". 1 Tim. 6:12.

On Tuesday evening the conference was opened by the new American Union President, Br. Branko Cholich, who gave us some encouragement to watch and be ready for Christ is coming soon. Even though God's church is not very big, God still puts His fence around it, yet very few choose to enter in.

Each day from Wednesday to Friday, various workshops were presented on different topics. Much discussion went on as we all learned from these seminars. We will give a brief summary of the workshops:

Br. Jim Schendel:

Presented the topic of "Established in the Truth". It is very important at this late stage of earth's history that we understand the truth. We must not only believe but our faith must grow as we act on these beliefs. Br. Schendel then went on to share 14 principles regarding the importance of studying and knowing the prophecies for ourselves. The Bible makes a very profound statement. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Br. Guillermo Gamallo (Spain):

He shared with us, "Standing Strong Against the Darts of Satan." Looking at the foundation in prophecy for God's church. Rev. 1:1. William Miller, Edson, Bates, James and Ellen White were no

doubt servants of God. They saw and understood the sanctuary truth and the meaning of the prophecy and that the Sabbath is essential to this message. Exhortation to uplift the doctrines of the pioneers and to go back to the foundation of the SDA message was given. Also, slides were presented showing Loyola's triumph over Luther and other Vatican and catacomb scenes. Br. Gamallo read from EW, p.63 about the danger of the messengers neglecting to present the present truth and instead dwell upon important matters. We must study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to fortify our minds against all the errors in our time. Only those who are led by the Holy Spirit will be able to discern truth from error. Revelation 18 shows us God's people's responsibility to share the fullness of present truth to the world.

Oscar & Isabel Valles:

"Sharing the Gospel." We explored various means, new and old of sharing our faith. If we are going to give others our message for this time, we must spend time in study, patiently learning to know Jesus and ourselves. Men of humble minds will be led to give the message for this time. While worldly training can be important, yet for our work if we have the leading of the Holy Spirit, God will train us to share the gospel. We cannot change overnight, but if we dedicate time to sharing our faith, Jesus will transform us to be like Him.

Br. Lambert Hazelhoff:

"Saving Others-Save Myself". Elder Lambert Hazelhoff spoke to us on the subject of health and by helping others with their needs, we

can save ourselves and open the way for presenting Jesus to them. The best way to learn is by teaching others. If you teach you will have to know what you are talking about. He spoke of the importance of Medical Missionary work. We are all commissioned to preach the gospel and it can be done in various ways.

He then went on to share some interesting facts about the human body and continued speaking of various herbs and their uses for ailments. When we go to teach we should take with us, cayenne, echinacea, charcoal, etc. As we are able to tell people what to do to get their health back, they will gain confidence in us and then we can present the message of salvation also to them.

Sis. Wendy Eaton:

She spoke with the women regarding various women's issues. She started by presenting the woman's role from the Bible. The woman's role is to be one of subordination to man—not inferiority.

She continued her presentation by discussing various issues concerning women and the part she may play in the downfall of a marriage relation. Women are not to become idle and lazy as they stay at home as this will lead Satan to take control of their imaginations and led them into an unreal world spurred on by novel reading and excess TV watching. Women are to be active as Solomon wrote about in Proverbs 31:10-31.

Further discussion went into sexual issues. What is often termed "normal" by society and nominal

Christianity is not normal for God's children and we must educate our youth and new members in these lines. We closed with a brief discussion on the appeal Sis. White makes to mothers in the raising of their children and keeping them sexually pure. Women have a great responsibility in the raising of their children and their success, to a great degree is dependent on the mother's dedication to her work.

Br. Jerry Eaton:

Br. Eaton held a workshop for men only. We live in a sex-saturated age when Satan's attacks against the family are fierce. Does God have no answer for this? 1 Tim. 2:9,10 tells us that dress reform is the foundation which the Lord has given to defeat the enemy and re-establish the blessing of love, sexuality, home and family. Different problem areas were explored, with the men suggesting solutions and the Word of God bringing the answers. Encouragement for commitment to home, family and our gracious God were given as we closed.

Br. Antonino DiFranca:

Br. DiFranca spoke about Christ our Righteousness. He introduced his subject by reading Jeremiah 23:6. When we think of righteousness it is something we do not have. It is obtained by faith from God. He addressed the issues:

1) Man's Natural State:

The Lord only is righteous. We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

2) How Sanctification is obtained. Acts 2:38 tells us to repent. Our sins may be many but if we repent, we will be forgiven.

3) Justification is offered to man freely. You are justified, not because you are worthy but because the Lord loves you. Justification is being fully pardoned from your sins.

4) How Righteousness by faith is received. It is a gift of God. Because of his mercy He saved us. Justification must become more than a doctrine to us. It must become a reality. This is the message of today. Righteousness by faith, sanctification by faith, day by day growing into the perfection of Christ.

Br. Prudent Katicle (South Africa):

"Marriage and the church." He gave counsels on how to have a strong marriage. Marriage must be nurtured just like a plant must be watered and cared for, so the marriage must be cared for. Men must give praise and encouragement to their wives and not rule with an iron hand.

Home life is very important. A Christian in the home will be a Christian everywhere. Marriage is to work in union. There are distinct roles that are working together for a common goal. Both male and female were created in the image of God.

Srs. Sandy Schendel & Margie Homstroem:

"Counsels to Teachers and Students." Our children are not to be educated by the god of Ekron--those who keep not the commandments of God. God is our greatest teacher. "The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul." With God at Dawn, p. 326. The work of education and redemption are one and this is not possible in public schools.

They gave an idea what public education was like 100 years ago in the time of Ellen White. It seemed pretty good, but why did Sis. White say that it is no longer safe to send our children to public schools? Slowly they are turning away from Christianity and the influence is not good for the

children. Sis. White counsels that we are to establish church schools. Even though we are not a rich people, we are to go forward by faith.

They presented many testimonies from Sis. White where she counsels against the public school system and having thoroughly converted teachers who will teach our children from the Bible. In the USA there has been progress away from Christianity in schools. 1925--Scopes Trial. Creation was taught up until this date and evolution was brought in. 1962--School prayers were banned. 1963--Bibles removed from schools. 1980--It was not constitutional to post the 10 Commandments in schools.

While Christianity is banned in schools, humanist ideas and New Age theories are freely taught. They encouraged parents to decide today not to allow their children's future to be destroyed in public schools. Follow God's alternatives of a church school and home schools. We then watched a slide presentation concerning how the Lord blessed the building and making of the "Small Cloud Christian School" in California.

Br. Timo Martin:

"How the Spirit of Prophecy can save us." Angel Gabriel appeared to Sis. White over 2,000 times. When we have a problem and ask God for help, He may not give us a direct revelation but may point to the Testimonies because the instruction may already have been given. Everyone wants to be saved and there is ample instruction in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy regarding our salvation.

Several examples were given where Sis. White saw direct revelations of people's secret sins and they confessed, bringing them salvation. In the Bible we read a

few verses concerning the story of Cain and Abel, but in the writings of E. White there are 8 pages about this story and we can understand the lesson more fully. There are Cain's in the church and there are also Abel's in the church.

Is the Bible enough for us? Or do we need the Spirit of Prophecy? If God thought it was enough, why would He make so much effort to take this poor and weak woman and have her write over 100,000 pages? If we refuse to read the Spirit of Prophecy books, we neglect to accept the light heaven has sent and we sin. Many are lost due to lack of knowledge.

What is the purpose of the Spirit of Prophecy writings? Our salvation. If it is important to us we will make more effort to read and study. "Sis. White and Salvation" Many false theories started to creep into the SDA church after 1844—they were going from one extreme to the other—saved by works alone or saved by faith alone. She was given many messages to keep them on track. Very few understood the golden middle way. Most went one way or another. Some make the mistake of leaving their confession to their death bed. They keep sinning during their life trusting that God will forgive with no real change in life.

We can do good acts and still not be saved. We can pay tithes, be vegetarians, keep the Sabbath, but unless our character is changed it is of no value. One of the most common themes that Sis. White wrote and spoke about was justification by faith. She realized human perfection is something man does not have—it is something we are striving for.

Sis. Wendy Eaton:
"Train up a Child".

Much wisdom is needed in raising children. Satan wants our children as his own. Only through much prayer and guidance from the Lord can we be successful parents. Many have no idea how to be parents when their first child arrives. It is important to read Child Guidance and receive instruction from the older parents in our midst.

Although some character traits are inherited, many are learned from parents. If we are irritated or angry in frustrating situations, children think this is acceptable behaviour.

Discussion surrounded regarding the proper methods of discipline. Never should anger be shown or the child feels like a victim instead of guilty, when they are really guilty. If we make mistakes we must be humble enough to confess to our children. If we keep Christ at the center of our life and discipline our children as God would discipline us, we will have much more success. Unity in the family in every trial is of utmost importance.

Br. Henry Dering:
"Last Day Counterfeits"

Satan has more success if he brings counterfeits that look like the real thing instead of bringing outright error. With the use of slides, Br. Dering presented 13 counterfeits that Satan is using today with much success. Starting with the creation vs. evolution counterfeit, he has successfully brought many other counterfeits to the key doctrines of our faith such as: Spiritualism/death, eternal hell fire, Sabbath/Sunday, method of baptism (immersion or sprinkling), etc. false christ's, prophets and churches will appear, sweeping many into the wrong direction. How can we detect a counterfeit? We must know what the genuine is by studying the Bible, praying and being led by the Holy Spirit. Most

important is that we know Jesus Christ.

Friday morning worship was led by Sis. Evelyn Rivera. She spoke about faith that works. We need to have a faith that works. It is possible to have a faith that doesn't work. If we have faith as a mustard seed we can move mountains. Faith is contagious. When Bartholomew heard that Jesus was coming, he could not keep quiet. He shouted, "Son of David, have mercy on me."

On another occasion, Jesus was preaching in a crowded house. A sick man could not get in so he had his friends let him down from the roof. Power was available to everyone but only one was healed. Jesus saw their faith (Mat. 5:20) including those who carried him and He healed the man. Finally there was the woman who found healing by touching the hem of Jesus' garment. These three all had faith with works and they found healing.

Br. Timo Martin:

"Perfection by the Spirit of Prophecy"

He continued his study from the day before. After justification we need to continue in the sanctification process. Justification is received by faith and not by works. Sanctification is also received by faith and grace.

Questions were asked. What is perfection? Do we need it for salvation? How do we gain perfection? Sis. White says that the goal of sanctification is perfection. She continues by saying that every sin can be overcome. In various other places she stresses the importance of perfection. God requires a perfect, sinless character to be accepted into heaven.

How can we obtain this perfection?

1) Complete surrender. Not our will but the will of God be done. We need to be completely surrendered to God's will. Every day Jesus submitted to the will of His Father. All thoughts, words and actions must be guided by the Holy Spirit.

2) Humility. We cannot go to heaven with human pride. It doesn't matter what people say to us, we will not be offended. If you told the apostle Paul that he was the worst of sinners, he would have said, "Yes, I am".

Are we still tempted? Yes, and the only way to overcome some sins is by prayer and fasting. If we yoke up with Christ, He will help us to carry our yoke. He doesn't take the yoke away, but helps to carry it.

Are we free? We will then go where Christ will go. People who do not love Jesus will find religion boring. With Christ, all is joy and happiness.

3) Bible reading every day. You will slowly change. Sanctification is not sinning less and less day by day. While we sin we are not even in the justification process yet. We are converted and sanctified when we start bearing fruit. Perfection is possible. Job was a perfect man. The parents of John the Baptist were blameless (Luke 1:6). Only God's church teaches that sin can be overcome and we can be perfect before God.

Sis. Amelia Schendel:
"The Human Brain"

The brain is often compared to a computer. If we compared a brain to a computer, the computer would have to perform so many tasks that it would be impossible. The brain is superior. She spoke of how the brain works, explaining briefly the different parts of the brain and what tasks they perform.

In order to recognize Satan we must keep our brains intact. How do we do this? Guard the avenues of the soul—control what you watch on TV, don't go places where you will be tempted by sight. Guard your five senses so that Satan doesn't come in.

Sis. Schendel focused on the taste sense. She did a study on excitotoxins. Monosodium glutamate was discovered for use as a flavour enhancer and is now widely used in manufacturing. Glutamate is an amino acid and your body needs it but too much can be toxic. Your brain can't handle it. The brain is like a muscle and must be exercised. The best way to exercise it is to read and study the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

Avoiding excitotoxins (MSG, aspartame, hydrolyzed vegetable protein) will help the brain to work better. To help clean out the brain from past mistakes, anti-oxidants will help (Vitamin A, C, E, selenium, zinc, calcium, and magnesium, COQ10). Protect yourself.

Our first parents lost Eden through indulgence of appetite and it will take a tremendous amount of willpower to regain that which was lost.

Steiner & Marianne Myhre:

"A Good Profession" was a workshop that made us examine our own faith. Why don't we plead for the Holy Spirit? The church has been promised the Latter Rain but only if we appropriate to ourselves all the Former Rain. Satan presents to us all sorts of substitutes for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but we must reject these in favour of what God can do for us in changing and transforming us into God's image.

Br. Antonino DiFranca:

"The Science of Prayer"

Communication is very important in today's world. Communication with God is even more important. The communication lines are always open. Prayer brings us into communion with God. Our prayers should be as a conversation with God as to a friend. Prayer is the breath of the soul, a constant connection with God.

In some cases God will not answer prayers. When King Saul prayed in 1 Sam. 28:6 God would not answer. Why? If we study the history of King Saul, we shall know that he did not live in obedience to God's will. If we cry unto the Lord in sincerity, God will hear our prayer. Sometimes He may not answer our prayer with, "yes", but that doesn't mean He doesn't answer. As we pray, it brings us closer to God and we receive His blessings. Every sincere prayer will receive an answer from God.

Br. Mike Alford:

"The Wiles of the Devil"

The media was the topic of this workshop. Spike Lee, a producer of movies said that the media is how you control people's minds. Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the devil. The different types of media are: TV, movies, magazines, novels and the Internet. The TV has been accepted into the church but it is not necessarily bad. But as TV gets worse and worse, we can become comfortable with it. Therefore, we need to discern our relationship with the media by spiritual protection, for our own sakes. When we are at movies we support studios who make other junk movies. The studio makes what sells these days. We are being manipulated by the corporation. Such examples as the endorsements of the Superbowl—wasting a lot of money. Violence

and killing in movies affects our minds, just as when the good guy kills the bad guy, we accept it, meaning we ourselves are murdering in our hearts. There are lots of things on the Internet that are not appropriate for children. The Internet can be good for researching information, but Satan uses good things for bad purposes.

Br. Henry Dering:

“Ecumenism and Sunday Legislation”

On Friday evening Br. Dering spoke that we are living in the end time in this world. The three religious groups mentioned in Rev. 16:13—Catholicism, false Protestantism and Paganism—are rapidly uniting faster than we realize. They are finding common ground to unite together on such grounds as the war on drugs, abortion, etc. Br. Dering shared many of the latest events from news clippings in which the Pope is going and reaching out to different denominations, from Lutherans to Hindus. Billy Graham and the Pope are working together in evangelistic work. The Pope is sending letters to the various organizations urging them to make Sunday laws. Many shocking events are occurring in the religious world and we must be ready for the end is sooner than we may expect. All the world is wondering after the beast and following Rome. The Pope’s plan is to go to Jerusalem in the year 2000 where all the world religions are represented. With Jerusalem under his control, he has most of the world. The mark of the beast is coming. Will you be ready?

Br. Prudent Katide opened the Sabbath with the topic, “They Followed His Star”. In vision, Balaan saw a star arise from Jacob. The Bible tells us of Wise Men coming from the East followed a star. They were astronomers and saw an unusual star in the night

sky. In those days, this strange sight was an omen of something important to happen. They found the answer in the Bible and went to Israel to find out what this star meant. Br. Katide continued to relate the story in detail of the Wise Men.

The Lord has a star for us to follow today also. When He tells us to move, we should move. We are the Reformation of the last days and if we are not faithful, the Lord will pass us by and go to the humble shepherds with the message. Let us trust the Lord and He will take care of our needs.

Morning worship on Sabbath was led by **Br. Timo Martin**. To change the old to be new is impossible for man. A fruit that has decayed must be thrown out as no human science can make it fresh. Also, the man who has become evil cannot be made good by human wisdom or efforts. What is then needed? The only thing that can accomplish it is a miracle of God, a new creation. He that is in the Lord Jesus is a new creature, all old things are passed away. This is the purpose of our life in this world. Philosophers have tried to find the purpose for our existence here and have not found any. The Bible alone gives us the answer. The character of Jesus, His image can be reproduced in us; but it is not an easy task. The Lord has to bring us into trials, sorrows, and into a furnace fire. It is a painful process. We must die to ourselves that Christ can live in us. Apostle Peter recognized the value of these trials that he said, “They are more precious than gold”. How many Christians today value the fiery trials above worldly riches? But, by these trials we learn to love our enemies. The perfect character of Jesus becomes visible in us. In heaven one day Jesus explains the meaning of these trials to us, and

we will thank Him for them. The way of the cross leads home. We must follow Jesus to the judgment hall to be condemned falsely. We must carry the cross as Jesus did. Finally we are to die upon it. Then only can we follow Jesus to glory.

After a lively teacher’s meeting conducted by Br. Lambert Hazelhoff, Sabbath School was led by **Br. Art Schendel**.

The divine service was spoken by **Br. Antonino DiFranca**. “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.” Amos 4:12. We see from the signs of the times that the end is near. Jesus soon will come and we must prepare for heaven. Jesus is coming in search of His people. We have been lost and He wants to take us home. The enemy is near us. He never sleeps, he goes to every family and church to cause problems. He is a roaring lion, but we must resist him. At the time of Jesus, one prophet came to prepare the way for Jesus. We are called to prepare for His coming.

How would you feel if a prophet came to you as Isaiah came to Hezekiah and told you that you will die soon? Your life will be no longer. What will you do in the remaining short time you have? You would make certain preparations. We must prepare for Jesus today because we know not when the end will be. A major area of preparation is to prepare the heart. We need a spiritual reformation also in Sabbath observance. Often we are tempted to do wrong things and think wrong thoughts. Dress reform must also be addressed and the proper preparation be made. Let us honour God with our dress. We must be faithful in our work among our friends and relatives. It is time to watch, pray and work. Now is the time for those who are sleeping

to awake and put oil in their lamps and be purified from every sin.

Br. Idel Suarez:

On Sabbath afternoon, Br. Suarez spoke about "Principalities and Powers". Spiritualism is sweeping our world today along with Sunday observance. The 10 Commandments are a wall around God's people. Sin has made a gap in the wall. The Roman Catholic Church made a new wall with a new commandment with Sunday in place of Sabbath. "Sunday rest is the worker's right that the state must guarantee." This was written in a book by Pope John Paul. Sunday law is coming very soon.

The United States is becoming more religious. They recently voted that the 10 Commandments be posted in schools and all government offices. Why will the Sunday law be pushed the most in the USA? Because the Sabbath has been most widely preached here.

Br. Suarez showed us from the latest news how the Sunday Law is closer than we realize. The religious unity in the world is almost complete. We have only

two choices today. Either we make a covenant with God or with Satan. You will either keep Sabbath or follow the beast.

We must put on the robe of Christ's righteousness and repair the wall. How do we do that? Accept that you are a sinner. Believe in Jesus as the Redeemer. Confess all sins. Do the commandments.

Before dinner the young people brought us a blessing through music and song.

After dinner, **Perumall Dasappa** led the Sabbath closing worship. The problem of the world today is that "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Today the world is looking at us. Are we ready to meet the challenge? What is the challenge? It is to be lights in this dark world. We are challenged to be loving and kind in a cold and hateful world. We are challenged to honour marriage in a world where divorce is common. We are challenged to be moral in an immoral world. We are to fight the good fight of faith.

What we sow we shall also reap. Are we sowing for the world or sowing for heaven? It is a challenge to sow for heaven. Many Bible characters were challenged, like Joseph in Egypt.

There is nowhere written that it is impossible to be a Christian. When someone visits your house or church, do they leave knowing Jesus? If not, your church is lifeless. Our challenge in this world is to be living Christians.

Sunday morning **Sis. Fela Yon** conducted the morning worship to close the conference, by speaking on the topic of "Lay Hold on Eternal Life". Eternal life is offered to us free and it is our duty to lay hold on it.

As a last thing we were invited to visit a cemetery where a mural of Christ's life is displayed. The last picture was Christ in heaven with his redeemed people.

We all departed to our various churches and homes, richly blessed from this spiritual feast.

AMEN



Workshop in progress at the conference

1999 American Union Officers

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Delegates to the General Conference

Branko Cholich, Henry Dering

Alternates: 1st—Oscar Valles, 2nd Lambert Hazelhoff



Brothers Timo Martin and our minister Perumall Da Sappa
from South Africa with his Daughter at California
Conference.

YOUTH WORKSHOPS AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

The first youth workshop was led by **Br. Manny Dasappa** of South Africa. The topic of the workshop was on decision making. Various discussions were raised, such as: 1) What are our sources of decision making? The main source of our decision making is the Bible. Other sources include the library, television, and computers. A bad example is when you reach high school age and you are influenced by peer pressure, and end up going along with the crowd, because at that age you want to be accepted.

2) Who would you go to for decision making? People you trust, such as family and good friends. Or it could be teachers or people you don't even know.

There was a discussion on relationships and finding the right mate. And also, if you were meant to be married or if you were meant to be single. Several people gave testimonies on their life decisions. The main point was, when you make a decision and pray about it, make sure that it is not according to our will or our wants, because it may end up being a total disaster, but always pray that it will be God's will that His will be done in our lives.

The second youth workshop was led by **Elder**

Idel Suarez, Jr. of Tampa, Florida. The topic of the workshop was on the geological patterns on the earth. This workshop was a slide presentation of Mt. St. Helen and various volcanic actions. Slides showed geographical patterns of Mt. St. Helen before its eruption in the early 80's, and patterns after the eruption, making many geographical changes. Discussion on the biblical account of Noah's flood and how even Jesus testified of that catastrophic event in Matthew 24. Formation of canyons occurred in one day after the Mt. St. Helen eruption, indicating evidence contrary to the supposed formation of it for millions of years.

There was the old man living near Mt. St. Helen for all his life and he experienced tremors and the sort. But when authorities told him to escape because the mountain was going to explode, he did not heed this warning because he experienced disaster before. But Mt. St. Helen exploded and he died. The main point is that we need to be ready. Jesus will come back soon and people ignore this fact. But when He does come, those people will regret that they did not heed the warnings of God's servants.

The third youth workshop was led by **Elder Jerry Eaton** of Vancouver,

Canada. The topic of the workshop was on exploding the myth of evolution. There are two types of religion: creation and evolution. We stressed on several concepts of evolution. Instead of dinosaurs living millions of years ago, they actually lived, along with humans only several thousand years ago as evidenced in fossil records in Texas and Russia.

Job witnessed dinosaurs, land and sea during his time and it was after the flood. (Job 40:41).

The theory of evolution was masterminded by a person called Charles Darwin who resented that God with all his being. Though he proposed an evolutionary theory, he could not explain the complex biological form of the human eye, which is a small part of the human body. We also spoke about the universe and how light is decreasing in speed, therefore throughout history it was never constant. And how earth could not have formed slowly in a molten form, but rather the evolution of the earth was instantaneous as evidenced in the materials found inside of granite. The main point is that we should not run away from God, who created a beautiful world for us to live in, but rather turn to Him who loved us and died for us.



CURRENT SCENE

Cuba and China – politically and the Moslems religiously:

What do these very diverse political and spiritual bodies have in common? They are the last obstacles to worldwide religious and political domination for the Vatican and Washington. And they are rapidly falling to the overwhelming influence of American dollars, political power and the artful workings of the Pope and his agents.

Cuba will allow Christians to evangelize this spring, *Religion Today*, www.religiontoday.com, Feb. 25, 1999.

“Cuba is allowing Christians to evangelize openly for six weeks. Protestant groups plan to hold an Evangelical Celebration May 3 - June 13 including stadium rallies, street outreaches, and house-to-house visitations, International Christian Concern’s Pastor Steve told *Religion Today*. He and several U.S. ministers visited 30 Cuban churches recently.

“Evangelicals will preach throughout the country. Pastors are training members in evangelism and discipleship and are planning events in every city. ‘They are very excited and are expecting a tremendous response,’ Steve

said. Plans are tentative because the government has not specified what activities will be allowed. It canceled a previously approved stadium rally last year at the last minute.

“The event is ‘unprecedented and unheard of’ in the communist country, Steve said. Church construction is against the law and most evangelicals meet in illegal house churches. Pastors have been arrested, beaten, and jailed, and those who elude arrest are often threatened with loss of employment, he said.

“There have been cracks in the wall that are promising and encouraging, Steve said. Intimidation of pastors and the crackdown on house churches has decreased in the past six months. Government officials appear to be building a relationship with evangelical leaders and ‘testing the waters’ to see how they handle religious freedom, he said.

“Government officials told evangelical leaders in Havana that they want to develop a better relationship with the church. ‘The government may be trying to co-opt Christian leaders to create a government-controlled church, or granting freedoms so U.S. ministries will contribute more money to the Cuban church, which benefits the economy,’ Steve said. ‘The government has recognized the social benefits of Christianity, such as decreases in crime and corruption,’ he said. ‘The evangelistic outreach will open

a floodgate that the government can’t contain,’ Steve said. ‘Cuba’s church rivals China in its growth and enthusiasm. They are mission-minded and optimistic about the future.’

“Many young people are becoming Christians. ‘The ranks of the Communist Youth League are depleted because young people grew cynical about communism and found its promises empty,’ Steve said. Despondency and suicide are prevalent among youth who are ‘looking for truth and a reason to live,’ he said. When they come to church ‘they see a joy and love that communism can’t provide.’”

Since the Pope has visited Cuba last year there has been a drastic change in Fidel Castro’s attitude toward “Christianity”. And the brand of Christianity that has come to Cuba is the watered-down, once-you’re-saved-you’re-always-saved kind of evangelism that the Pope loves. Exactly what the United States, the most wealthy nation in the world advances so well in preaching as well as practice. (Unfortunately, their wealth is leading them to doctrines like spiritualism, denying the law of God, and the basic truths of the gospel – the necessity of overcoming sin. Of course, without this doctrine, the church quickly becomes corrupt.)

Also China, that is rapidly becoming a capitalistic country economically, is still holding onto the forms of communism politically.

Technological inroads like computers and the Internet have seriously eroded the communist practice of repression of information and knowledge of the West, though.

The vast underground church in China has been well known for decades. There, the church has great influence, albeit in a clandestine way, but nevertheless is a great force for change. And those changes are rapidly coming to a society bound in the malaise of Communism for more than 50 years.

The time is rapidly approaching when the people of God have to rise and shine, have to show that the truths for this time make a definite difference in overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil. We must show that the three angel's messages are exactly what a world in sin and darkness needs now more than ever. This message is perfectly adapted to the needs of the terminal generation. The health message is designed to help those sick and polluted bodies and minds to find healing, grace and strength through Christ. Jesus' message of guarding the sanctity of life is there to show the way out of war and bloodshed as is His message of guarding the sanctity of the family the way out of the immorality so rampant in society. (Of course, in communist societies there are so many souls who have lost all hope specifically because the gospel in its pure form has not been preached to them.

This is why we must reach them now as the empty philosophy of communism is failing them.)

May Jesus' love and righteousness be fully represented in you and I, that we may have a part in giving the Loud Cry, the message of His righteousness to the world.

The Moslems religiously:

With the war in Kosovo being against Moslems on the part of the Orthodox Serbs, it seems that one of Europe's ancient hot-spots is once again heating up. Again, the Papacy is playing both sides against the middle in this, because he counts both the Russian Orthodox church, (which recently agreed to be united with the papacy, after nearly a 1,000 years of being separate) and the Moslems as allies. (The Moslems and the Catholics were the only groups that came out of the last two U.N. conferences in Beijing and Cairo united politically and religiously.) Of one thing we can be sure, since "last day events are rapid ones," it will not take much more to bring the Moslems on side once the calamities of the last days start to fall. By the turn of the year and the new millennium, the Papacy wants to have total and complete religious and political domination, and he is well on track to achieve this by the end of the year. (To verify this, please refer to *The Keys of this Blood* by Malachi Martin, the Vatican insider.)

(For those of you who may think that the nominal SDA church is somehow

providing a barrier to Sunday being embraced and the Mark of the Beast being passed in the U.S. and eventually all over the world, next months' *Current Scene* will address that issue.)

Shush. The guy in the cubicle is meditating – spirituality is the latest corporate buzzword *U.S News and World Report*, May 3,1999

"It was perhaps, the last corporate taboo. In boardrooms and company cafeterias where it might once have been *de rigueur* to trade jokes about sex, even the most naive newcomer knew that uttering that other S-word-spirituality could mean instant professional death. A decade ago, when Martin Rutte, a Santa Fe, N.M., business consultant, told colleagues that he wanted to bring the notion into his practice, 'They laughed,' he recalls. 'They said, 'are you nuts? Your reputation will go down the tubes.'"

"But corporate America may be in the midst of a Damascus conversion. In the past decade, more than 300 titles on workplace spirituality-from *Jesus CEO* to the *Tao of Leadership* - have flooded bookstores and Rutte and other like-minded consultants suddenly find themselves the darlings of business circles. Last fall, the executive forum of the American Management Association finally ventured into the waters with a session on corporate spirituality in Florida. And two months ago, when

2,000 global powerbrokers gathered for the elite World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the agenda included confabs on 'spiritual anchors for the new millennium' and 'the future of meditation in a networked economy.' Indeed, 30 MBA programs now offer courses on the issue. It's also the focus of the current issue of the *Harvard Business School Bulletin*.

"No matter that nobody seems to agree on exactly what the term means. 'What's new is that it's just entered the mainstream,' Rutte says. He traces that development to the International Conference on Business and Consciousness last November in the Mexican Resort of Puerto Vallarta: there, Michael Rennie, a partner in the Australian branch of consulting giant McKinsey and Co., conferred the ultimate credibility on the subject by reporting how his team was wielding spiritually based training techniques to boost clients' productivity and profits. 'It was seminal because it was McKinsey,' Rutte says. 'It was like Nixon in China.'

"At Boeing headquarters in Seattle, Craig Elkins, the manager of applied thinking and creativity, leads training programs designed to open spiritual dialogues that will unfetter employees creativity - and not incidentally give the company a competitive edge over archrival Airbus. 'If your people aren't allowed to bring their whole selves to work -

body, mind, and soul - then you're not going to win,' he says.

Out of the Closet.

"According to Judith Neal, director of the Center for Spirit at Work at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, one reason for the growing acceptance of the notion is that more and more CEOs and high-level managers are coming out of the closet about their own spirituality.' For example, Monsanto CEO Robert Shapiro, who meditates twice a day, didn't flinch when word leaked that he had led a three-day meditation retreat for 15 of his top executives - an event that has evolved into five similar programs at the St. Louis based multinational.

"Not everyone is a convert, however. 'If an organization thinks it's only going to take a one-day seminar to get more productivity out of its employees, that's basically a sort of snake oil,' says Jay Conger, a professor of management at the University of Southern California.

"But others insist that spiritual openness can be a tool to recruit and retain the best high-tech talent. 'In this job market, a lot of young people can call their own tune,' says Corinne McLaughlin, director of Washington's Center for Visionary Leadership, 'so they want more of a sense of meaning from their work.' Proponents claim that history is on their side. Lewis Richmond, a former Buddhist monk turned catalog software tycoon and author of *Work as a Spiritual*

Practice, points out that Buddha himself found enlightenment out of a 'serious case of job dissatisfaction' as an Indian prince 2,500 years ago."

One of the main CEO proponents of this new "spirituality" is Robert Shapiro, the head of Monsanto. Monsanto is the very same corporation which has legally repressed the findings of Canadian government scientists who were assigned to find out the effects on humans of Monsanto's bovine growth hormone. (This is the same hormone which makes the cow grow faster and thus saves money for the rancher, but also is wreaking havoc with ever decreasing ages of puberty in North America for those who ingest any cow-based animal products.) So we can readily see that this kind of spirituality has nothing to do with principle, but rather only "productivity and profits." For those who know and believe in a loving Savior, isn't all this kind of spirituality "snake oil"? Meditation is a practice that should fill us with the person and work of Jesus Christ, rather than empty us, making the mind and soul ready for His Satanic majesty. "...But thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written herein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8

By Jerry Eaton

Go ye therefore...



“When your labours are not required among the churches you should go out in new places and prove your work.” T2 pg. 151.

We are not to always stay in one place our whole lives. In Matthew 28:19 we read, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations.” When a church is full with people and not all the people are able to take part since there are so many others, then it is time for people to begin going to other places. We should not be satisfied by reaching out only in North America. We must try in every corner of the world. That will hasten Jesus’ soon coming. A missionary is to get churches started and then move on to get more started. A church should never be left so long that it becomes stale; with little enthusiasm for God’s Sacred Word.

At first it may seem difficult for people to start churches on their own, especially when they are used to crowded churches. It will be difficult, at first, to worship with only a few people. If we are sincere Christians though, this reaching out to people will seem natural. Without trying true Christians will shed light that will influence people to a great degree. Let us try our best to be a light in this darkened world, and therefore hasten Christ’s Second Coming.

We should also strive to be a great benefit for the church today. There are a few big differences between the Christian and pagan religions. Christians were the first to go and teach all nations, while the pagans remained in their countries lacking zeal and activity. The gospel and the Love of Christ are the only two things that can break down the barriers of languages, races, traditions etc... God’s love naturally destroys the ugly things of Satan. In churches we must be as brothers. That’s the only way we can withstand the devil.

Also many pagans and some Christians believe in mindless services, and the doctrine of only believe and you will be saved. Or even worse once saved always saved. While believing is important we must also be knowledgeable Christians. We must study to show ourselves approved unto God. If a Christian is not growing in knowledge he is shrinking and therefore exposing himself to error. Only intelligent Christians are true Christians. It is important to receive deep instruction while we are preparing ourselves for baptism.

Jesus promised us, as he was ascending to heaven, that He would send us a comforter. Although, we do not know much about the Holy Spirit we must believe God’s promise and trust in Him. In that way the Holy Spirit’s power will be poured upon us as in the Pentecost. When Jesus said, “teach all the things I have commanded you,” to the disciples, it was not His will that anything be omitted from what He told them.

So let us teach all things and witness to every one that we can. For the Lord has something for every one of us to do in hastening his coming. The greatest gift for our labors will be seeing those who we had witnessed to enjoying heaven for eternity.

Richard Eaton



REPORT FROM THE JAMAICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

December 24-27, 1998

THEME: *Therefore be ye also ready: for in an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh. Matt. 24:44*

Great was the joy of the believers who convened at the beautiful site of Camp Curtis, St. Mary, for this year's youth conference. Everyone had a feeling of togetherness, a need to share the love of God and it was with such an atmosphere that conference began at 2:15 p.m.

The opening of the conference was done by our Field President, Bro. George Gowie, whose use of the text found in 1 John 3:1-3 brought home to us "what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God". He also made clear the fact that we were sons and daughters of the devil, but by accepting Jesus, by surrendering our will to him and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives we are now the sons of God.

The conference was blessed with a variety of presentations on the lives of the people of God, and the requirements he makes of his people. Among these were workshops entitled The Faithful Few in which the true people of God from creation to our present time was shown as those who stand firm for the truth and was obedient to God while all around them was apostasy. These people were always the minority; Caring The Temple, a workshop dealt with how we should care for our bodies as it is the temple of the Holy Ghost. This highlighted the care

of the colon. eating plenty fruits and raw vegetables, taking an enema from time to time along with fasting and regular exercise is a good ways to care for our colon. It is through the colon that many illnesses enter the blood stream and therefore the entire body.

There were lively discussions on the law with the focus on the ceremonial laws and how they were fulfilled in Christ. Another discussion was on our children, God's heritage, and the care that should be given them. For children to be properly trained, parents themselves must be trained and well disciplined for their children to follow in their footsteps or live exemplary lives.

Wonderful items of praise was made in songs as children and adults lent their voices to make this conference a memorable event.

Grand meals on more spiritual foods were very nourishing, energizing us for service to our Lord. One such meal was our early Friday morning breakfast, as Daniel's experience in the royal court of King Darius was served by Sis. Merlene Campbell. Faith in the Lord and obedience no matter what the cost, giving our all to him, is the only way that we can be able to stand, as did Daniel.

The Sabbath of the Lord was beautifully spent as we gathered for Sabbath School and Divine Service. These two services were filled with both warning, reproof and encouragement. Great attention was paid to these two services.

In the afternoon, going on to the close of the Sabbath, were two workshops entitled "I have a dream" and "through the valley of death". The former dealt with spiritualism and its effect on religion. We should also be careful of the things we dream and especially of putting meaning to them as we can be ensnared in Satan's trap. We should also learn how our brain works and what influences our dreams; the latter took us through a journey on the lives of the martyrs in the Dark Ages and to the persecution to be faced by the remnant people in the passing of the Sunday Law. We were encouraged to make our hearts right with God now and live a consecrated life daily, as by so doing the Lord will fill us with His spirit and enable us to go through this period of persecution.

Early Sunday morning we travelled to a river to witness the baptism of two dear sisters who have decided to dedicate themselves to the Lord. The service, performed by Bro. George Gowie, was wonderful and solemn. Later in the morning these sisters were extended the right hand of fellowship. Following this, we were all given the opportunity to welcome our new sisters personally.

This wonderful and blessed conference came to a close with many testimonies given by brethren and visitors of the wonderful working of the Lord in their lives.

May the Lord continue to bless us as we continue to be faithful to Him is my prayer.
AMEN



**Brother Gowie with the children at the
Jamaican Youth Conference**

BAPTISM IN VANCOUVER

On June 27, the Vancouver church joyously gathered at 3rd Beach, Stanley Park for the baptism of Jeffrey Ho. This beautiful location is well known throughout Vancouver and on this day there were many passers-by. It was an excellent opportunity for the three angel's messages to be preached, so as Jeff's family gathered together with God's people, we shared a few precious Biblical truths.

Br. Jeff has already stood for these truths with many of his former church members and leaders. Jeff has also made experiences in helping out with developing truth-filled literature here in our local church and for the work in Canada.

We are thankful that all of this began with a simple, friendly conversation between Jeff and Br. Angelos on the bus. Jeff had shared his own testimony pamphlet with Br. Angelos and in turn he was asked if he would like to study the Bible.

Let us pray for Br. Jeff that he may continue to study, share his faith and be a pillar in God's church.

By Jerry Eaton



Jerry Eaton with Br. Jeff who was baptized and David and Jonathan Olmos who were transferred to the Vancouver church.



Wedding party for George and Olga Williams



Baptism of Jeff Ho in Vancouver

INDEX

Reformation Part 6	2
Characteristics of God's Church	5
Sunday Law	8
American Union Conference	12
Current Scene	20
Go Ye Therefore...	23
Report from Jamaica	24
Baptism in Vancouver	26
O Love That Will Not Let Me Go	28



O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee:
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That In Thy sunshine's blaze its day,
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not in vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.*