

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

the **TRUTH**
the whole **TRUTH**
and nothing but the **TRUTH**

APOSTASY IN OUR MIDST &
ERNIE'S REPENTANCE

VOLUME 2



FOR MY PEOPLE
MINISTRY©

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For My People Ministry
P.O. Box 8207
Marysville, CA 95901

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email@formypeople.org

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all those involved in the research, compilation, writing, editing and graphics that made this book possible. I wish to say a special thank you to the former 4 His People Ministry Board and other compilers as well as the new For My People Ministry Board and others who have dedicated their time and talent to this project. Individual names will not be mentioned because the real authors are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May each reader prayerfully study what is written herein and realize that it is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. . . . Ernie Knoll

*And ye shall know the truth, and
the truth shall make you free.*

John 8:32

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	1
Introduction.....	1
1. Apostasy/Spiritualism.....	3
Introduction	3
Terms and definitions	9
Apostasy.....	19
New Theology vs. true theology	27
Ecumenical/Interfaith movement	41
Celebration movement	64
Church growth	68
Spiritualism	77
Psychology	82
Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP)	87
New Age movement	98
Charismatic church services	104
Purpose Driven movement.....	136
Emerging church movement	140
Young Adults/Youth/Children	230
Schools	261
Media	303
Honor of men	317
Medical work	322
SDA Leadership.....	334
Know your enemy	373
SDA pillars of faith	375
Cry aloud.....	377
It is time	387
A remnant.....	389
Church militant vs. church triumphant	392
Disfellowshipping	396
The purified SDA Church	398
One master	399
Summation	401
Conclusion	403
2. Ernie Knoll's Fall and Repentance	405
Introduction.....	405

Prophets are human	406
Abraham's lies to Pharaoh and Abimelech	406
Jacob deceives his father	407
David's deception and sin with Bathsheba	408
Peter the cowardly apostate?	410
Moses dishonors God	411
Solomon wanders far from God	412
Jonah the disobedient prophet	413
Ernie's fall	413
Ernie's repentance	416
Chapter conclusion	418
Appendix A	419
Appendix B	440
Appendix C	466
Appendix D	468
Index	471

Preface

Early Writings, p. 78

I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "*last days*"; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles. (Acts 10.)

To those who may circulate this little work, I would say that it is designed for the sincere only and not for those who would ridicule the things of the Spirit of God.

From the compilers: May the Holy Spirit guide and bless you as you prayerfully study His words in this book.

Introduction

In volume one of *the TRUTH, the whole TRUTH, and nothing but the TRUTH*, Ernie Knoll's critics were answered in great detail and were shown that their reasons for rejecting Ernie as a messenger of God were founded on subjective human opinions. In this volume, we turn to address the apostasy that exists within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as instructed in Ernie's "The Boardroom" dream. (To read the full dream, see the introduction in volume one.)

The Boardroom, April 24, 2009

"Show how I said to not support the spiritualism which is within My church. Reveal how My church is in apostasy, but remember that I will cleanse My church. Show how it will not fall but will stand and be stronger. Show the evidence of the apostasy and the truth I have written from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy...."

Currently, the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are calling for revival and reformation. This should be commended, except that there is little mention about what we are to reform from. In order to have true reformation, the errors that have crept into the church must be plainly brought to view and repented of. Just as Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door of Wittenberg, so chapter one of this volume seeks to plainly reveal some of the apostasy that exists within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 372

Again, I was shown Martin Luther, whom God raised up to do a special work. How precious to him was the knowledge of truth revealed in the word of God! His mind was starving for something sure upon which to build his hope that God would be his Father, and heaven his home. The new and precious light which dawned upon him from the word of God was of priceless value, and he thought that if he went forth with it, he could convince the world. He stood up against the ire of a fallen church and strengthened those who with him were feasting upon the rich truths contained in the word of God. Luther was God's chosen instrument to tear off the garb of hypocrisy from the papal church and expose her corruption. He raised his voice zealously and in the power of the Holy Spirit cried out against and rebuked the existing sins of the leaders of the people. Proclamations went forth to kill him wherever he might be found; he seemed left to the mercies of a superstitious people

who were obedient to the head of the Roman Church. Yet he counted not his life dear unto himself. Luther knew that he was not safe anywhere, yet he trembled not. The light which he saw and feasted upon was life to him, and was of more value than all the treasures of earth. Earthly treasures he knew would fail; but the rich truths opened to his understanding, operating upon his heart, would live, and, if obeyed, would lead him to immortality.

The church of Luther's day rejected the call for reformation, just as the church has in most generations. Instead of accepting the messages from heaven, church leaders called for Luther's death. Will it be different today or will history repeat itself?

The final chapter in this volume addresses a time during Ernie's ministry where he failed to walk by faith and like so many prophets in the Bible, he fell into sin. Ernie is not proud of this time, but is so thankful that we have a merciful and loving God who looks upon the heart and sees not as man sees. We are reminded that all of us, no matter who we are, need to submit ourselves to God and resist the devil every day.

(Please note: While *the TRUTH, the whole TRUTH, and nothing but the TRUTH* was being prepared, the two chapters in this volume were originally known as chapters 9 and 10. To make it easier to read, it was decided to divide the book into two volumes. Volume one contains chapters 1 through 8 and volume two contains chapters 9 and 10.)

Chapter I

Apostasy/Spiritualism

Introduction

Please note: Unless stated otherwise, the information from websites was collected in 2010. Underlining has been supplied for emphasis.

Please pray for discernment before reading this chapter. Study and research for yourself to learn the seriousness of what we have only begun to show. May the Holy Spirit be your Guide. The information in this chapter will be effective to those who are converted or wish to be converted. These are testing messages and warnings for those who sincerely desire to do the will of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

In volume one, instructions were followed that were given to Ernie Knoll in the dream "The Boardroom." If needed, please see the Introduction for further information. We showed how Ed Reid, Steve Wohlberg, Eugene Prewitt, Ángel Rodríguez, David Gates, Vance Ferrell, Linda Kirk, and Laura Lee Jones have not stated the truth concerning Ernie and have been instrumental in leading many to believe he is a false prophet. The Boardroom dream further instructed us to reveal the sad condition of God's last day remnant church. Like Israel of old, the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church has become corrupt. Many of its leaders are no longer faithful to God and have slowly led God's people into a condition of apostasy (unfaithfulness, backsliding, and heresy). The Bible calls that condition "Laodicean" (see Revelation 3:14-22). Like the Jews of Christ's day, they pride themselves in the fact that they are God's chosen last day people. They believe they have the truth and are confident that because they

have accepted Jesus, they are assured of a place in heaven. But what does the Bible say?

Revelation 3:16-17

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

This is truly a sad picture of God's last day Church. No wonder God has sent messages through Ernie. God is trying to awaken His people. In 1893, Ellen White wrote:

Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library, Vol. 1, p. 99

Those who claim to believe the truth do not possess that power that God would bestow upon them if they really believed, and were striving for conformity to His image. The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst. If Christ were formed within, the hope of glory, conformity to His image would be seen, and the church trials which separate the members from Christ would disappear.

The Laodicean message pictures Jesus knocking on the door. He is on the outside wanting to come in. This applies individually as well as to God's organized Church. In 1893, Jesus was not in the midst of His Church. As we will see in this chapter, time has not improved the condition. Like the Jews who refused Jesus at His first advent, SDAs are refusing Him entrance today.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 76

I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience. I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds.

Many who complacently listen to the truths from God's word are dead spiritually, while they profess to live. For years they have come and gone in our congregations, but they seem only less and less sensible of the value of revealed truth. They do not hunger and thirst after righteousness. They have no relish for spiritual or divine things. They assent to the truth, but are not sanctified through it. Neither the word of God nor the testimonies of His Spirit make any lasting impression upon them. Just according to the light, the privileges, and opportunities which they have slighted will be their condemnation. Many who preach the truth to others are themselves cherishing iniquity. The entreaties of the Spirit of God, like divine melody, the promises of His word so rich and abundant, its threatenings against idolatry and disobedience—all are powerless to melt the world-hardened heart.

Many of our people are lukewarm. They occupy the position of Meroz, neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. They hear the words of Christ, but do them not. If they remain in this state, He will reject them with abhorrence. Many of those who have had great light, great opportunities, and every spiritual advantage praise Christ and the world with the same breath. They bow themselves before God and mammon. They make merry with the children of the world, and yet claim to be blessed with the children of God. They wish to have Christ as their Saviour, but will not bear the cross and wear His yoke.

We realize there is good in the SDA Church. However, this chapter focuses on those problems that need fixing. It is not written to be judgmental but to expose error and exalt truth as the Lord has commanded. We are not trying to attack certain individuals but are pointing out the danger they are in and hope that they will repent, be truly converted, and receive eternal life. This is necessary as well, to try to save those who follow these individuals. In the Bible, Paul warned people and judged their teachings. Judging a person's teaching is not the same as judging that person. We love God's Church and do not criticize it. However, we must call sin by its right name.

Education, p. 90

Of the rebuke that is love, of the blow that wounds to heal, of the warning that speaks hope....

The Signs of the Times, April 21, 1881

The servant of God should never allow his own spirit to be mingled with the reproof which he is required to give; but he is under the most solemn obligation to present the word of God, without fear or favor. He must call sin by its right name. Those who by their carelessness or indifference permit God's name to be dishonored by his professed people, are numbered with the transgressor,--registered in the record of Heaven as partakers in their evil deeds.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, p. 114

When God speaks to men, commanding them to bear His message to the people, it means something. Those who are commanded to bear a message must move out although obstacles of a forbidding character are in the way. Those who claim to know the truth, and yet lay every obstacle in the way so that light shall not come to the people, will have an account to settle with God that they will not be pleased to meet. God manages His own work, and woe to the man who puts his hand to the ark of God.

It is false loyalty to the SDA Church that leads members to keep silent in a spiritual crisis.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 280

If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.

In this chapter, we again intend to follow the instruction given to Ernie in the Boardroom dream. This includes showing the following:

- Many leaders are not teaching the truth.
- There are conference leaders and pastors who are not what people think they are.
- God's faithful are not to support the spiritualism that is in the SDA Church.
- The Church is in apostasy but God will cleanse it.
- Evidence of the apostasy and the truth as written in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

We were told in the Boardroom dream, "As you all prepare this document, do not hold back." In the past, people have pointed out the apostasy within the SDA Church. Some become critical of the Church and declare it to be "Babylon." We do not believe that is the case. However, the majority are in apostasy. We believe the Church will not fall, but will be purified, and the unfaithful will leave the Church. The end of this chapter will include more on this topic.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, p. 348

Those who have published the "Loud Cry" tract have not consulted me upon the subject. They have quoted largely from my writings and put their own construction upon them. They claim to have a special message from God to pronounce the Seventh-day Adventist Church Babylon, proclaim her fall, and call the people of God to come out of her, and try to make the testimonies substantiate their theory. These publications are misleading minds, and increasing the prejudice already existing, and tend to make it more difficult to get access to them to present the message God has given in warnings to the world of altogether a different character from the ideas presented in these pamphlets.

At the first advent of Christ, He had to openly rebuke the leadership, because they had lulled the people into a false sense of security. He called them hypocrites, serpents, fools, and blind guides (see Matthew 23). The leaders were offended, and many may have wondered if Jesus was being critical of the leadership and the church. However, truth is truth, and those corrupt leaders knew that what Jesus said was true, but they hardened their hearts. Is it any different today? Will this book be rejected and its writers accused of being critical and showing no respect for the leadership? In the same chapter that Jesus laid open the sins of the proud leadership, He predicted the following, which still applies today:

Matthew 23:34

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.

If God had not instructed us to write this chapter, we would not have done so. Like Elijah who was called at a time of great apostasy, we believe God has called Ernie to wake up His people, because Jesus is about to return. That is the purpose of this chapter. We fully believe that God will awaken His people through what Ellen White predicted as the shaking.

Early Writings, p. 270

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

This phase of the shaking that is caused by the proclamation of the Laodicean message will stir up opposition. Truth has always caused opposition. From the time of faithful Abel to the last great conflict when the whole world will oppose God's faithful people, the truth has been hated. All must decide whether they will stand on the side of truth that is unpopular or follow error that is popular.

The Desire of Ages, p. 242

Truth was unpopular in Christ's day. It is unpopular in our day. It has been unpopular ever since Satan first gave man a disrelish for it by presenting fables that lead to self-exaltation. Do we not today meet theories and doctrines that have no foundation in the word of God? Men cling as tenaciously to them as did the Jews to their traditions.

It is with tears that we write this chapter, yet it is a necessary one. What we have included is only a small part of what is transpiring in the SDA Church. Our warning to you is that the Church is involved in a spiritual flood of apostasy and spiritualism and most are not even aware of this tragedy or refuse to sound a warning. It is to the eternal loss of the majority. Only a remnant from the SDA Church today would be saved. We believe God is now taking the reins into His own hands, that He is drawing a line in the sand and like the days of Elijah and Joshua, He is asking us to make a decision. We pray that God's people will no longer "bind about His work" of the "angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world."

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 300

Unless those who can help in _____ are aroused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard. When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which

it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.

Christian Service, pp. 41-42

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.

The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife.

A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 609

Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.

Please notice that SDA worship services, books, periodicals, the media, and so on include truth and error mixed, which is very deceiving. In this chapter you will find many examples of apostasy and spiritualism in the SDA Church throughout the world. Many believe this is just a problem in only a few places. Perhaps this was true many decades ago, but not today. Because it was not stopped at the onset, it has escalated to what is now worldwide open and rampant rebellion against God and His truth. The SDA Church leadership is trying to protect the Church name, so it has been trademarked. However, that very name is gradually being destroyed by apostasy. God is looking for a people who will put the name back.

As you read through this chapter, please take note of how the Church leaders seem to be more concerned with why there are not more "worldly" people (the unchurched) coming into the organization rather than why the faithful members are concerned or why those faithful are leaving the churches because present truth is hardly being taught. Instead of the mindset that the SDA churches need to become more like the world to reach the world, they should realize that many leave the Church because they are not truly converted to begin with. The churches should have continued on the upward path to "primitive godliness" not the downward path of "postmodern worldliness." The pastors are not to be

pleasing people but giving them what they need rather than what they want. Beware of what you are taught by others. Always test it with God's Word.

Matthew 10:16-22

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

We want to make it very clear that we fully believe God will cleanse His organized Church. God does not lead offshoots. Just as He brought Israel out of Egypt and led them to the Promised Land, so He has taken for Himself a church out of Babylon and will lead it into the heavenly Canaan. That SDA Church began just prior to 1844 when people were called out of the fallen churches. It was later organized under God's direction in 1863 as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is this Church that Satan is now waging war against, as predicted in Revelation 12:17. It is this Church that God will cleanse, so that it can proclaim the TRUTH, the whole TRUTH, and nothing but the TRUTH.

Terms and definitions

Please be aware: The following terms are used today by SDAs. While these are not all bad in themselves, many are included in Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and the ecumenical, charismatic, New Theology, New Age, and emerging church movements. (Most of these terms are underlined throughout the chapter.)

- Agape feast:
 - A religious meal also known as a "love feast" and a historical form of the Eucharist.
 - Although it died out, it was again introduced by eighteenth-century groups and churches such as in Methodism and revived recently in groups like the Anglicans and the "house church" movement.
 - Contemporary Christians celebrate the Eucharist and afterward participate in an informal agape feast that is called "fellowship hour" or "coffee hour," sometimes along with education.
 - Some Eastern Orthodox Christians have an agape meal after the "divine liturgy" and at the conclusion of Easter.
 - A tradition in freemasonry since at least the eighteenth century.
- Authentic; authenticity: Means to downplay trying to prove doctrines and instead to discover truth through conversation and relationships with other Christians.

- Bridge: “This mystical stream [contemplative prayer] is the Western bridge to Far Eastern spirituality.” —Tilden Edwards, *Spiritual Friend*, p. 18.
- Catalyst: To bring about change or speed up a process.
- Celebration: The observance of a feast, a special day or season, and the honoring of an event by religious ceremonies, festivities, etc., such as the celebration of Easter and the Eucharist. Celebration is a word used hundreds of times in the Vatican II liturgical document and has been used for decades in the SDA organization, being used profusely today.
- Community; community of faith; faith community; global community; sense of community: Encompasses ecumenism in a call to unity in a supposed all-inclusive community of faith with a universal god, with diversity significant to a multi-cultural and multi-generational community acceptable to both Protestants and Catholics. It is interesting to note that those in the Dark Ages were taught to support the decisions of their community.
- Connect; connecting; connection; connectivity: In relation to popular spiritualism today, a term from pantheistic monism which believes that “all is one” (syncretism or monastic), “one is all,” and “all is God,” that everything and everyone are all connected in oneness; and that God is in all religions and individuals, so all things and people are connected.
- Contemplative prayer:
 - Also known as centering prayer, listening prayer, mantra prayer, silence prayer, soaking prayer, and breath prayers (using a single word or short phrase to repeat along with breathing). There is also the “Jesus prayer” or “Prayer of the heart” that is constantly repeated and said silently or aloud, while walking, sitting, or working and used by Protestants and Catholics. It can be traced back to the sixth century.
 - A “Christian” form of Eastern meditation and prayer promoted as a way to experience an “intimate relationship” with God.
 - Through interaction between monks and practitioners of Eastern meditation, this practice was formed to be easily practiced by anyone and leads into “the silence” but actually leads away from God.
 - A type of meditation that goes beyond thought by using repeated words or phrases while sitting or lying comfortably with eyes closed. If thoughts enter into the mind, the person is to return to the mantra. At the end of the prayer, the individual is to remain in silence for several minutes.
 - An effort to go “deep” within oneself. Once the person moves away from thoughts “into the presence of God” in silence, it is then time to listen, not talk, to God. If one is struggling with a problem, he is to gently ask for guidance and then listen for the response. This is a form of self-hypnosis that can lead to contact with fallen angels. True listening to God comes from reading the Bible and discerning the Holy Spirit.
 - Modern promoters include Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Richard Foster, Brennan Manning, Ken Blanchard, Chuck Swindoll, Larry Crabb, Henry Blackaby, etc.
- Contemplative spirituality:

- Belief system that uses mystical practices to induce altered states of consciousness (the silence) and is rooted in occultism but often hidden in Christian terminology.
- Terminology includes “spiritual formation,” “spiritual disciplines,” “the silence” or “the stillness,” “ancient-wisdom,” and many others.
- Includes pantheism (the belief that the universe is God) and panentheism (the belief of all in God, a god that is part of nature but still an independent identity).
- Creative; creativity: Involves everything from expressive, charismatic worship including contemporary music and drama to ancient liturgical customs.
- Deep; deeper; deepen: Going “deep” or “deeper” to know God more fully in contemplative prayer. God asks us to go deep by searching the Scriptures.
- Discipleship: A way of mentoring or training “disciples,” which includes the indoctrination into contemplative spirituality and “establishing, empowering, and equipping” for “spiritual growth.”
- Disciplines: See “Spiritual disciplines/exercises.”
- Emergent: Involved in the emerging church movement and in a more limited way refers to Emergent Village, which is advertised as a “growing, generative friendship among missional Christians seeking to love our world in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.” It is associated with Brian McLaren and veers from doctrinal truths of the Bible, teaching that we should not limit ourselves to Scripture but to see God “out of the box” (see definition below). This would agree with the Roman Catholic Church which denies that the Bible is the only authority.
- Emerging church (Ancient-Future church):
 - A worldwide ecumenical movement initiated in the 1990s by Leadership Network but inspired by successful businessman Peter Drucker in the 1950s and grew with the help of other successful businessmen. Bob Buford started Leadership Network in 1984.
 - Supported by multi-million dollar corporations and influenced by mystics.
 - Concentrated in North America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and Western Europe.
 - Consists of a religion which is believed will bring spiritual transformation by reverting back to the beliefs and ideas from A.D. 100 to 600.
 - Called a “Christian” movement because of the altered terminology, yet where doctrines and the Bible are minimized.
 - Redefines Christianity with a mixture of various theologies and practices such as contemplative spirituality, Catholic liturgy, charismatic worship, and Eastern spirituality (New Age or old occultism) in which those involved wish to live their faith in what they see as a postmodern world. Does the term “postmodern” simply define a more evil society, and is it used as an excuse to turn religion into something that pleases the majority?

- Includes mysticism: an experience with the supernatural; a system of contemplative prayer and spirituality aimed at achieving direct intuitive experience of the divine; unites religions in a new way of experiencing God; tied to Catholicism, Buddhism, and Hinduism. It is being taught to lay people through retreats, books, seminars, small groups, etc. God's Word tells us in Hosea 4:6 that we are destroyed because of forgetting His law, not from a lack of mysticism.
- Includes those not satisfied with the traditional church structure, evangelism, worship (prefer stories rather than sermons), and mission/community outreach, where worship occurs in denominational, independent or house churches.
- Emphasizes social networking, activism, and politics (mixing church and state).
- Involves diversity in beliefs and practices, including plurality of biblical interpretations.
- Includes a preoccupation with sacred rituals and "good works."
- Involves the Protestant Reformation in reverse.
- Experiential: The spiritual disciplines as practiced through such methods as contemplative prayer, which can lead to experiencing demons.
- Festival/Fest: A word overused in churches today and borrowed from the world, such as a family fun festival; music festival; Christmas festival; film festival; Jewish festival; harvest festival; children's worship festival; festival of praise; festival of the laity; ring fest (handbells); choir fest; song fest; and power fest.
- Incarnational: Assumes that anyone who claims to be a Christian can serve "incarnationally" because Jesus lives in and through them; therefore, an incarnational ministry may completely ignore the true gospel, hiding the "divisive" messages of salvation.
- Innovative; innovation: Initiatives; introducing something new, such as new worship services.
- Interspiritual; interspirituality: Interfaith dialogue that aims at common ground in beliefs by concentrating on similarities between faiths, understanding values, commitment to the world, education and community-building efforts; based on religious universalism that teaches all people will be saved because everyone has God within them and that no religion is fully right or wrong; desired outcome of contemplative prayer.
- Intuitive; intuition: Does not refer to divine discernment but rather a mental way of learning knowledge through a "deeper level" other than through reason, memory, or the five senses for creativity, inspiration, insight, self-understanding, and personal growth. Includes intuitive individual counseling and business consulting to "make advances" in science, medicine, history, language, health, etc. Often taught by New Age consultants through conferences, lectures, classes, publications, websites, etc.
- Kingdom Now theology (dominionism):

- A liberal theology that believes the kingdom of God will be established here on earth by human effort either by political or even military means, making it a “Christian” world.
- The Roman Catholic plan to make the emerging church a bridge to Rome and win the world to the Eucharistic Christ, which to them is the Second Coming.
- Stresses environmental issues such as the “green” movement—the plan to “save-the-planet”—which worships the earth and believes that a perfect world will come into existence through the help of man becoming better.
- Tendency to use the word “kingdom” rather than “heaven.”
- An effort by Satan to merge all religions, which denies the gospel message. Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).
- Lectio Divina:
 - A form of mental prayer developed in the early centuries that means “divine reading” and is similar to the method of Ignatius of Loyola that leads to contemplative prayer. A text, such as a passage from the Bible, is slowly read in a repetitive fashion as the person thinks about it and the practical applications as a way to “encounter the presence of God.”
 - The modern form taught by spiritual directors involves reading, reflection, prayer, and contemplation. These correspond with the four functions of sensing, thinking, feeling, and intuiting suggested by psychologist Carl Jung. It is popular among Catholics and gnostics, and now with emerging churches.
 - Wikipedia online explains that Lectio Divina includes four stages, the fourth being when “the prayer, in turn, points to the gift of quiet stillness in the presence of God, called contemplation.” In September 2005, Pope Benedict XVI stated: “I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart (cf. *Dei Verbum*, n. 25). If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church - I am convinced of it - a new spiritual springtime.”
- Liturgical dance:
 - Originated in non-Christian pagan religions.
 - Entered Christianity in the late twentieth century.
 - Used as an expression of worship or prayer by using body movement.
 - Accompanied by different kinds of music.
 - Usually performed by women.
- Liturgy: Forms of public church services; the Eucharistic celebration.
- Mantras: See “Positive self-talk.”
- Maturity: A word used by contemplatives, who teach that true maturity comes only through time spent in contemplative silence; also a reference to those who have been trained in emerging church practices.
- Meditation (New Age, Eastern):

- Also referred to as “the silence” or “brainwave training.”
- Satan’s counterfeit for God’s meditation and practiced in Buddhism and Hinduism.
- Used to experience altered states of consciousness to achieve “spiritual enlightenment,” yet controlled by a spirit that is not the Holy Spirit.
- An attempt to train, calm, or empty the mind by focusing on a single object. When the mind is “emptied,” that is when the enemy comes in.
- Growing in popularity as evidenced by the increase of New Age spiritual retreats and yoga studios.
- Transcendental meditation is where the mind, released by the repetition of a mantra, becomes “calm” and “creative.”
- **Mentor; mentoring:** Also known as a counselor, teacher, adviser, or guide. In this case, we are referring to those who teach emerging church ideas.
- **Missiology; missiological:** The study of a church’s mission as it relates to missionary activity. This word was popularized by Fuller Seminary’s School of World Mission (Pasadena, California).
- **Missional:**
 - A term used in the ecumenical, emerging church movement in which the mission comes from people’s desires and thoughts rather than from the Bible.
 - Focuses on small group mission activities, church planting, and “kingdom growth” versus church growth.
 - Connected with Emergent Village, social activism, hospitality, acts of kindness, global justice, community involvement, and café ministries.
- **Out of the box:** Think or do things in a new way; may include the belief that we must not limit ourselves to the Bible but to see God “out of the box.”
- **Paradigm shift; new paradigm:**
 - Belief that all is God and all is one.
 - New pattern or model as an integral part of the emerging church movement in order to restructure “Christianity,” involving all denominations in a clever strategy by basically changing theology and worship services to resemble more closely the Roman Catholic traditions.
- **Positive self-talk:**
 - A New Age auditory mental technique also known as mantras or “affirmations” believed to create new mental processes and positive new life results, whether in the area of health, business, self-help, or sports improvement, etc.
 - Use of a word or short statement that is mentally or verbally repeated at regular intervals “until the subconscious mind accepts it and brings the command to a reality.”
 - Affirmations used by practitioners with their mental training and self-help programs during the relaxed state, in the form of hypnotic

suggestions, to supposedly bring about positive changes in a person's life.

- A mantra in Hinduism is used as an invocation of a god or as a magic spell.
- Continual repetition of a mantra or even of music (such as a syncopated drum beat) is a call for demonic possession. (Syncopation is an interruption of the regular flow of rhythm.) Taize prayer/singing is also similar in that just a few words are used repetitively to give it a "meditative character" and a way to "listen to God" and enter into the "contemplation of His presence." Different languages are used to represent its international and ecumenical nature. It is usually held in a darkened church with participants lighting candles, and all face an icon such as a cross. The monastery at Taize, France, has become a popular place to participate in this practice, especially for young adults from around the world, where as many as 10,000 of all faiths gather at one time. One participant stated that humanity forms a single family and that God lives in every human without exception. The Pope gave his blessing to this practice, which includes silence and chanting, more directed and focused than centering prayer.
- Postmodern Christianity: A term closely associated with philosophy, Catholicism, and mysticism; stresses nature, science, being social, and exploration of the inner self; and now infiltrating Protestant churches.
- Power: A word used in abundance in churches today, such as power-packed, powerfest, power-filled, Holy Ghost power, power night, power hour, and empower, yet the majority are using the wrong power and the wrong spirit.
- Prayer circle: Recent resurgence in popularity attributed to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement.
- Prayer or meditation labyrinth:
 - The labyrinth has been reintroduced to the U.S. in the past decade and is a mystical Catholic ritual that dates back to the Middle Ages (around the 12th century) and possibly predates Christianity through pagan practices. It was a substitute for making a pilgrimage to the dangerous Muslim-controlled Holy Land to trace the "passion route" of Jesus. While walking the labyrinth, Catholics meditated on Christ's sufferings in their imagination, supposedly obtaining the same pardons to shorten their suffering time in "purgatory."
 - The labyrinth comes in many sizes and shapes made from either stones in a garden landscape, mounds of dirt, etched in hard floors worldwide such as in cathedrals, and now comes in portable canvass or on computers. It is commonly called an "eleven-circuit labyrinth," because of its singular path that lies in eleven concentric circles with thirty-four turns that go into the twelfth circle at the center called the rosette. It has only one winding path to the center and back out again. The center symbolizes enlightenment and that all paths lead to God, which is universalism.
 - This "sacred path" includes three stages or journeys. The inward theme is about letting go of things that hinder our approach to God. The center is for meditation and peace. The outward theme is about

relationships between us and the planet, all as seen in relationship with God.

- Used for contemplative prayer, meditation, personal reflection and renewal, a form of pilgrimage and a way to “connect with God in a higher spirituality” and contemplate the “deeper things of life.”
- Associated today with New Age mystical practices and the occult.
- A “tool for personal, psychological and spiritual transformation,” according to the Labyrinth Society.
- Called the Medicine Wheel in Native American culture, the Never Ending Circle for Celts, and the Kabala in Judaism.
- Becoming popular today with contemporary Christianity, especially the emerging church movement. Uses a mixture of rituals, visuals, contemporary ambient music, art, media, symbolic activities, as well as Catholic and Orthodox icons. Participants can use a “guided tour” CD for instructions, meditations, and music relating to part of the labyrinth.
- A “finger labyrinth” provides the same experience in a small space. Before entering the participant is to spend a few moments becoming stilled and inviting the “Holy Spirit” in. Upon entering the path, the person is to move at his own pace, pausing, and feeling the curves. Reaching the center, he is to spend time seeking awareness of God’s presence as a time for clarity, self-offering, or healing. Returning to the path outward, he is to carry any blessings or insights received.
- The religious and medical communities promote this practice not only as a way to pray but for reducing stress, calming the mind, and relaxing the body. Said to encourage healing, clarity, peacefulness and “connecting with the deepest part of self” (inner knowledge).
- A labyrinth prayer walk is what occurs in a prayer labyrinth as a person walks through the maze-like pattern.
- Prayer stations: A place set aside for prayer with a combination of such items as candles, crosses, miscellaneous icons, Bible verses, devotional questions, a prayer notebook, etc. and similar to the Catholic “stations of the cross.”
- Prayer walking: It is believed that prayer walking in neighborhoods will help to dispel the demons.
- Prayer warriors:
 - Those committed to praying for others and used by many evangelical and Protestant Christians.
 - In Dominion theology, prayer warriors believe they are engaged in spiritual warfare against demonic forces. This is common in Christian Reconstructionism and Kingdom Now theology in which they mix politics and theology (church and state) and claim they have strongly influenced the Christian Right in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. They might pray for individuals or entire states or regions (“prayer expeditions”). Some groups have flown over the areas to be prayed for. Prayer for nations is known as “prayer journeys.”
- Revolution; revolutionary: The “overthrow” of traditional worship and changing theology, replacing these with the emerging church ideas.

- Sacred space: A place where someone goes to perform a mystical practice such as “the silence” or the state of “being” during that experience.
- Seeker-sensitive/seeker-friendly churches:
 - These attract the unchurched and are usually associated with megachurches, which are large (at least 2,000 members), independent, usually nondenominational and formed as an offshoot from a Protestant church.
 - Use non-threatening “Christian” messages which are usually short and focused on self-improvement and relationships rather than doctrines (theological compromise that destroys true worship) and include contemporary music and drama.
 - Include activities for families at different stages.
 - May include state of the art technology, nurseries and day care.
 - Community surveys and studies are done to discover what the unsaved want (felt needs) not what they really need, which is man-centered rather than God-centered. Therefore, when their circumstances do not immediately improve, they leave the church. Surveys show that these church growth ideas do not produce spiritual growth and the fad is wearing off, while many turn to the emerging church movement. Ideas and programs come and go, but biblical truth lasts forever.
- Silence; solitude (used with meditation):
 - The closing off of all noise.
 - Absence of normal thought by “quieting” the mind.
 - Undirected prayer; being willing to “not know.”
 - A belief that you are concentrating on God and giving Him a chance to talk.
 - Option to practice a “palms-down, palms up” exercise, etc.
- Small group/cell church fellowship: Being pushed as a way to spread contemplative spirituality. It is interesting to note that Leonard Sweet states in his book *Quantum Spirituality* that the “power of small groups is in their ability to develop the discipline to get people ‘in-phase’ with the Christ consciousness” (divinity of man) and “connected” with one another (interspirituality).
- Social justice: The belief that all mankind deserves equal political, economic, and social rights and opportunities. According to the philosophy of social workers, peace is not possible if there are gross inequalities of power and money.
- Spiritual direction/director: A method to promote or teach the spiritual disciplines and the silence. It was traditionally practiced by ordained clergy only. Recently the practice has been embraced by non-ordained persons. There are two primary forms for teaching: retreat direction and regular direction, which differ in the intensity of “reflection” and frequency of meeting. A retreat can last a weekend, a week, or even 40 days. The person usually meets with their director for one hour each day, in which exercises or new spiritual disciplines like *Lectio Divina* are given to the directee. Regular direction is a one or two hour meeting every four to eight

weeks. While with the director, the directee shares personal experiences of “encountering the divine,” and the director listens and asks questions. The directee is to attempt the disciplines and exercises between meetings. (See next term for further information.)

- Spiritual disciplines/exercises:
 - Formulated by Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), founder of the Society of Jesus (a religious organization of the Catholic Church also known as the Jesuits). Loyola was a spiritual director and vigorously opposed the Protestant Reformation. He encouraged individual and group retreats to practice the disciplines. Specialist retreat centers are found wherever there are large groups of Catholics.
 - A set of meditations, prayers, and other mental exercises originally designed to be done over a period of about 30 days and approved of by Paul III in 1548. The more prominent prayers include contemplative, centering, labyrinth, and Jesus prayers as well as the *Lectio Divina* and breath prayer. The retreatants spend their days in silence, usually pray up to five hours each day, and see the spiritual director daily for one hour. Eucharistic liturgy is celebrated on a daily basis. Today the disciplines have been compressed or stretched to fit different timeframes.
 - Included are solitude, celebration, fasting, simple living, Bible study, worship, “simple contemplation,” etc., as “works righteousness.”
 - Used today by most major denominations.
- Spiritual formation:
 - Also known as formative or contemplative spirituality, sacred listening, and the Ignatian Way.
 - Teaches and applies the spiritual disciplines, such as contemplative prayer and “inner healing.”
 - A movement through which contemplative prayer enters churches and brings individuals into contact with evil spirits.
 - Includes the wrong theology originated from Catholicism and methods from pagan/occult Eastern mysticism.
- Spiritual retreat: A place to train in emerging church practices, especially contemplative prayer/meditation.
- Taize prayer/singing: See “Positive self-talk.”
- Transformation; transformational: Most commonly used when referring to “spiritual transformation” or “transformational faith.” The act of transforming the deeper aspects of the human spirit through a self-induced or “divine” act. Used in metaphysics (a branch of philosophy), which is often unbiblical. Focuses on relationships, community, and contemplative spirituality.
- Unity in diversity: See this chapter’s section entitled “Unity in diversity.”

You may also notice the trend of using slang words, which belittles the reverence of spirituality. Beware of words that begin with “re” such as: re-forming, re-formation, re-imagined, re:church, re:frame, reimagining, reinventing, rethinking, redefine, reJesus, reDisciple, reMission, and reOrganize

as well as any terms, phrases, or practices you encounter that are unfamiliar to you.

Apostasy

We have seen the natural progression in the SDA Church from the alpha to the omega of heresies, deception, apostasy, and spiritualism. Following are just some of the events that led to where the Church is today.

Alpha of apostasy

1903: John Harvey Kellogg's pantheism in *The Living Temple* book.

Omega of apostasy

- 1932: The General Conference of SDAs voted accreditation for the SDA colleges, which paved the way for adopting the world's curriculum, calling for higher education, with pastors attending interfaith universities and learning false ideas. Pacific Union College in California became the first to be accredited in 1932. As of 2006, over 100 SDA schools worldwide were listed as being accredited. <http://education.gc.adventist.org/documents/accreditation/status.pdf>
- 1950s: *Questions on Doctrine* book (changes on the nature of sin and the nature of Christ).
- 1960s: Rock music and television.
- 1970s/80s: Celebration services; lowered standards; New Theology.
- 1990s: Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP); church planting/growth; charismatic movement; Vatican representative and Vatican flag at SDA General Conference Sessions.
- 2000 to present: Spiritualism through the Purpose-driven, New Age, and Emerging Church movements.

All these changes and many more brought in new SDA church members quickly. The Church received much quantity but not much quality. What is underlying in all this? Love of money, popularity, power, pride—being unconverted in a Laodicean state. The growing apostasy in the SDA Church is the result of the majority ignoring their own sins and those of others, and souls are lost for eternity. As Jesus looks down on the remnant church today, He does not see a pretty picture.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 72

As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, He sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity, pharisaical pride and apostasy.

Apostasy means a walking away from Bible truth and the testimonies. If individuals or churches do not speak out against apostasy, they become a part of it.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 130

There is no time now to fill the mind with theories of what is popularly called "higher education." The time devoted to that which does not tend to assimilate the soul to the likeness of Christ is so much time lost for eternity. This we cannot afford, for every moment is freighted with eternal interests.

Christ Triumphant, p. 349

Look, you who are hesitating between obedience and disobedience. Look in imagination at the vast multitudes worshipping at Satan's altar. Listen to the music, to the language—called higher education. But what has God written upon it? Mystery of iniquity.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 171

To prepare to receive the higher education in the school above is now to be our purpose.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 200

In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.... Dangers that we do not now discern will soon break upon us, and I greatly desire that they shall not be deceived.

Ibid., p. 202

One and another come to me, asking me to explain the positions taken in Living Temple. I reply, "They are unexplainable." The sentiments expressed do not give a true knowledge of God. All through the book are passages of Scripture. These scriptures are brought in in such a way that error is made to appear as truth. Erroneous theories are presented in so pleasing a way that unless care is taken, many will be misled.

We need not the mysticism that is in this book. Those who entertain these sophistries will soon find themselves in a position where the enemy can talk with them, and lead them away from God. It is represented to me that the writer of this book is on a false track. He has lost sight of the distinguishing truths for this time. He knows not whither his steps are tending. The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 11, p. 247

The difficulties that have arisen have been very hard to meet, and they are far from being settled yet. One, and another, and still another are presented to me as having been led to accept the pleasing fables that

mean the sanctification of sin. Living Temple contains the alpha of a train of heresies.

Ibid., p. 251

The Word of God is to be a lamp to your feet. That precious, sacred Word, is not to be appealed to to uphold any spiritualistic, philosophical views regarding God, for He is dishonored by such views.

No greater deception could be presented to the minds of men than the representation you have made of God in the pleasing fables you have advocated. Souls will be lost through the sowing of the sentiments found in Living Temple. In presenting error you have united with the prince of darkness in his work of seducing souls to eternal ruin.

The influence you have obtained with worldlings is not the credit to you that you have supposed it to be. Unless you change, decidedly change, your life will be a savor of death unto death instead of a savor of life unto life.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 123

Accumulated light has shone upon God's people, but many have neglected to follow the light, and for this reason they are in a state of great spiritual weakness. It is not for lack of knowledge that God's people are now perishing. They will not be condemned because they do not know the way, the truth, and the life. The truth that has reached their understanding, the light which has shone on the soul, but which has been neglected or refused, will condemn them. Those who never had the light to reject, will not be in condemnation. What more could have been done for God's vineyard than has been done? Light, precious light, shines upon God's people; but it will not save them, unless they consent to be saved by it, fully live up to it, and transmit it to others in darkness.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 197

Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.

The awful results can now be seen because the beginning of apostasy was allowed to continue until it is now the omega. It is certainly of a "most startling nature" and can be seen today with the New Age and emerging church movements in the SDA institutions. The "dam has broken," and a flood of errors has entered God's beloved church. Only He can help now.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 217

I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.

Let each put the question to his own heart: "How have we fallen into this state of spiritual feebleness and dissension? Have we not brought upon ourselves the frown of God because our actions do not correspond with our faith? Have we not been seeking the friendship and applause of the world rather than the presence of Christ and a deeper knowledge of His will?" Examine your own hearts, judge your own course. Consider what associates you are choosing. Do you seek the company of the wise, or are you willing to choose worldly associates, companions who fear not God and obey not the gospel?

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, p. 197

Confederacies will increase in number and power as we draw nearer to the end of time. These confederacies will create opposing influences to the truth, forming new parties of professed believers who will act out their own delusive theories. The apostasy will increase. "Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." Those who have started this warfare at their own charges will come more and more to practice the works of Satan.

Ibid., Vol. 9, p. 212

If the power of Satan can come into the very temple of God, and manipulate things as he pleases, the time of preparation will be prolonged.

Ibid., Vol. 7, p. 174

And to be an apostate, a traitor to the cause of God, is much more serious than death; it means the loss of eternal life.

Ibid., p. 185

The apostasy will exist in this night of spiritual darkness. It will then be destroyed by the brightness and exceeding glory of Christ's coming. Oh, what a day of gladness for the righteous that will be! What a breaking up of the spell of fanaticism and delusive sentiments when Christ shall shine forth before his ancients gloriously. Then the system of Satanic delusion which souls have preferred to the truth that involves a cross will be broken up.

Ernie's dreams: examples of apostasy

A View of Heaven

- Irreverent worship services, which include Christian rock and modern praise music.

Build an Ark

- Many listen to man's opinion instead of God's and fail to hear His voice in the messages of the dreams.

The Mailroom

- The work is great, but the workers are few.
- Many no longer share or believe in the messages from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and that Jesus is coming soon; books are sent out that are not from God but from another author.
- Because many ignore and provoke the true God and worship other gods, He will pour out His wrath on them.

Creeping Compromise

- Church members do not want to hear how Satan gradually brought in compromise.

Keep Going

- The majority believe the faithful minority are wrong in their beliefs.

Watch, as I AM Coming!

- The keeping of Jewish traditions, holidays, feast days, and lunar Sabbaths.
- Adding man's opinions to God's Word.
- Setting dates for Christ's Second Coming.
- Using unreliable Bible versions.
- Rejecting Ellen White as God's messenger.
- Compromising standards.

If You Love Me

- Arguing over finite details.
- Belief in the Bible Code.
- The study of unbiblical ancient rituals.
- Wasting valuable time examining old studies of the seven thunders (Jeff Pippenger), which are not important to salvation.

The SDA Church

- While in church, not having your thoughts on the service or dressing in a worldly or casual style.
- The various styles of SDA churches can be termed as follows:
 - The Buffet Church: Allows food in the foyer and sanctuary.
 - The Total Grace Church: "We have been saved in our sins." "Amen! Sin and be forgiven; Jesus has saved us."

- The Scorekeeper Church: Places emphasis on church growth and the number of baptisms, whether the candidate is ready or not. "IN, UNDER and OUT!"
- The Sports Church: "Jesus will beat the opposing team. We have a victory at His touchdown. The game is won!" The people cheer, holding their drinks and snacks up, saying, "Go team Jesus."
- The Hypnotic Church: The pastor talks very smoothly about love and grace, speaks only about certain parts of the Bible, shares how we are to learn new ideas, and mentions such terms as "community of faith" and "innovation." He uses certain hand and arm movements, slowly walking from one side of the platform to the other. The members become relaxed and lulled into a sleepy stupor.
- The Charismatic Church: Uses a screen up front with words on it. As the members sing, they raise their hands and wave them back and forth. The song constantly repeats itself, with no verse of inspiration. Many then step out into the aisle and begin slowly walking up and down, singing and waving their arms. Gradually they begin skipping, and after a little more time they begin running up and down the aisle proclaiming they "have the spirit." Next they begin speaking unintelligible languages.

The ABC

- Includes storybooks that are not according to what is shown in *Child Guidance* by Ellen White.
- The CD, DVD, and music section includes material that is not inspiring, just entertaining. "Happening Tunes for Happening Times. Get Your 'Vid' On."
- The *Creeping Compromise* book by Joe Crews is not sold at the Adventist Book Centers (ABCs). However, they do have some "really great novels. It is all 'the rage.'"

A Great Work

- Eating a bad diet, overeating, etc.

Stand Fast

- It is important that we understand what the tithe and offerings are being used for; much of it is used to promote spiritualism within the SDA Church.

Get Ready

- Many have become greedy and selfish, do what they can to get ahead, have lost sight of heaven, and because they are distracted with things of the world, they no longer watch for signs of Christ's return to this earth.
- There are SDAs who believe they are saved because their names are on the church records.

Love and Rebuke

- Many are misconstruing and denying the messages; many go by what others say rather than praying and studying for themselves.

Testing the Spirits

- Many are looking just to the SDA leaders for guidance. However, even the "brightest lights" will go out.
- Many pastors and teachers are being dismissed from their jobs, because the funds placed in the offering baskets were squandered away and invested not in souls but in Satan's gambling halls.

The Cross

- The Love and Grace Church: Includes sermons and songs on the love and grace of Jesus, while members wave their arms and repeat the words: "Jesus is love and Jesus is grace. Jesus is grace and Jesus is love. Raise your hands to Jesus. Ask for His grace. Thank you for Your grace. We love You Jesus."
- The Casual Communion/Offering Plate Church: The deaconesses go to the coffee cart in the foyer to collect Danish pastries and imitation grape juice. While in casual conversation, they cut the pastries into small pieces and pour the drink into small paper cups. The deacons walk up and down the aisles to pass out Wet Ones so all can clean their own shoes. The pastor tells everyone to make sure they show how much they love Jesus by putting a large amount of money into the offering plates.

In His Time

- Many pastors are leading their members astray. These are not God's pastors.
- Many SDAs are deceived and need a thorough conversion.

Repent, as I AM Coming!

- Many SDAs are allowing Satan to use them and to cause unbelief in the messages.
- Those who are critical of the messages and cause discontent and spread lies must stand before God to answer for their deeds, if they do not repent. This especially applies to those pastors who do not verify what they have been told.

In the Heart of Jesus

- Many need a repentant spirit.
- It is a false theory that God does not kill or destroy.

Two Cars

- Some try to force their opinions on others to have them believe as they do.
- The majority in the SDA Church are in apostasy.
- It is false to state that the Holy Spirit is not a real Person and not a part of the Godhead.

- It is false to state that we can be saved in sin.
- Many depend on others rather than God for salvation.
- Many do not help those they can to give up their sins.
- Many love the treasures of this world.

The Amusement Park

- The majority of SDA Church members are promoting or being fooled by amusements, celebration worship services, NLP, and emerging church practices, etc.
- The majority do not have the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Two Men

- Many look good on the outside, but not on the inside.
- Many are hypocrites full of pride.

The Senior Bishop

- There are SDAs following Roman Catholic beliefs.
- The unfaithful SDAs are blaming the faithful for the problems in the Church.
- At present a majority of the SDA churches are about entertainment and glorifying man rather than God.
- There are irreverent SDA church services.

The Yellow Corvette

- Faithful SDAs are being censured or disfellowshipped, while those in open sin continue as leaders.
- Many pastors do not have a concern for those who have been disfellowshipped.
- Where are the pastors who visit and pray with members in their home?

The Vessel

- Spiritualism and paganism have entered the SDA Church.

Titus

- God is warning against Jewish legalism and trivia, against falsehood and laziness.
- Many highly educated individuals do not rely on God for help.

The End

- There are SDAs who do not hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- There are SDA counselors who do not warn individuals about their sin of living a homosexual lifestyle. Those counselors will be held accountable to God, because homosexuality is not due to a genetic makeup but rather a chosen path of trampling on the holy institution of marriage.

- Among those who stand to receive eternal death are those who served as leaders and infiltrators in the SDA Church and who spoke truth and error. Also included are those who ignored, chastised and condemned God's prophets and messengers.

The apostasy and spiritualism have come into the SDA churches gradually. It is the devil's trick of creeping compromise, and the opposition has come from only a minority in the Church. Over time, it has spread worldwide and is accepted by the majority.

Counsels on Health, pp. 240-241

When there has been a departure from the right path, it is difficult to return. Barriers have been removed, safeguards broken down. One step in the wrong direction prepares the way for another. A single glass of wine may open the door of temptation which will lead to habits of drunkenness. A single vindictive feeling indulged may open the way to a train of feelings which will end in murder. The least deviation from right and principle will lead to separation from God and may end in apostasy.... It takes less time and labor to corrupt our ways before God than to ingraft upon the character habits of righteousness and truth. Whatever a man becomes accustomed to, be its influence good or evil, he finds it difficult to abandon.

Prophets and Kings, p. 479

Among the children of Israel who were carried captive to Babylon at the beginning of the seventy years' captivity were Christian patriots, men who were as true as steel to principle, who would not be corrupted by selfishness, but who would honor God at the loss of all things. In the land of their captivity these men were to carry out God's purpose by giving to heathen nations the blessings that come through a knowledge of Jehovah. They were to be His representatives. Never were they to compromise with idolaters; their faith and their name as worshipers of the living God they were to bear as a high honor. And this they did. In prosperity and adversity they honored God, and God honored them.

Other examples of apostasy include:

- The Moral Influence theory that God does not kill or destroy.
- Divorcing for unbiblical reasons.
- Calling the SDA Church "Babylon."
- The belief that God cannot be called by that name.
- Reapplying past events in the Bible to the future, such as a prophetic day equaling one literal day after 1844.

New Theology vs. true theology

The New Theology that came into the SDA Church first took hold in the 1940s and 50s by some of the leaders at the Andrews University seminary. Edward Heppenstall (from England) came to La Sierra College in 1940, became a

religion teacher and the La Sierra SDA Church pastor. He also chaired the systematic theology department at the Andrews seminary, and then taught at Loma Linda University until he retired. He was the main scholar to speak out against M. L. Andreasen's "Last Generation Theology." Heppenstall opposed the truth on the human nature of Christ, the atonement, and the character perfection of God's people who will stand without Christ as their Mediator in the Most Holy Place just before He returns the second time.

In 1957 the book *Questions on Doctrine* (QOD) was published, which changed the theology on the human nature of Christ and righteousness by faith. Andreasen disagreed strongly with QOD and suffered because of it. He retired as a Field Secretary for the General Conference of SDAs and lost his ministerial credentials.

By the 1960s, the New Theology was being taught to SDA ministers in the U.S. and at Avondale College in Australia by Desmond Ford. Because it was causing so much upheaval, he was sent to the U.S. where he continued to teach his heresy. Eventually he was defrocked, but by the 1980s, the New Theology was spreading worldwide. Ford's teachings included the following: 1) A person cannot keep the law of God perfectly; 2) 1844 is not relevant, which denies the Sanctuary teaching; 3) Ellen White did not have the authority of biblical prophets.

Because the New Theology has been taught in the SDA Church for over 50 years and teaches the wrong theology, this section focuses on obedience and overcoming, the correct nature of Christ, sin, and perfection. Satan has succeeded in getting SDAs to go from one extreme to the other. Stressing obedience can lead to legalism, or perfectionism, which works without power from Christ, trying to do good works on our own, rather than because we love God and want to follow His Word. Good works can only be attained through Christ. The balance includes faith and works together. We are saved by faith and judged by God's law. Faith cannot exist without obedience. Obedience exists because of faith. On the other hand, the doctrine of imperfection, allows for sinfulness. Continual disobedience takes God's grace for granted and doubts the power which God has promised to give when we ask for it. It doubts the complete substitute and example of Christ, that God's law can be kept and we can overcome all sin before Christ returns. The new "faith" today is based on feelings, imagination, group consensus, and mysticism.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Faith and Works, p. 49

Faith and works go hand in hand; they act harmoniously in the work of overcoming. Works without faith are dead, and faith without works is dead.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 398

Grace is unmerited favor, and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of

heaven as the sinner's substitute and surety. But while he is justified because of the merit of Christ, he is not free to work unrighteousness. Faith works by love and purifies the soul. Faith buds and blossoms and bears a harvest of precious fruit. Where faith is, good works appear.

Our Father Cares, p. 79

God's law is the only correct standard of holiness. It is by this law that character is to be judged.

Cheap grace teaches that obedience follows faith, that obedience is the result of salvation, rather than the condition of salvation. However, faith and works cannot be separated. The modern-day world says that God loves us and accepts us where we are. Much is said about love; however, love expresses itself in obedience. Many deny God's demand to "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). God has not instructed us to remain in sin. His unconditional love is used by many to mean "once saved, always saved," that Christ did everything for us on the cross, which is a false assurance of salvation. If that were the case, why are we still here on this earth? Christ may as well return now, but He does not, because His remnant have not yet won the victory. When they do, then Christ will return. God cannot take sinners to heaven because then heaven would be filled with sin. Since God will not allow that, sin must be done away with completely.

Christ Triumphant, p. 81

This goody-goody religion that makes light of sin, and that is forever dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner, encourages sinners to believe that God will save them while they continue in sin and know it to be sin.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 180

...men are not, because of the grace of Christ, free to continue in sin.

The Signs of the Times, July 18, 1892

They talk of grace, they preach of grace, apparently they pray for grace; but they have not the grace of Christ in their hearts.

This Day With God, p. 299

There is a spurious experience that is prevailing now everywhere in regard to the love of Jesus--that we must dwell on the love of Jesus, that faith in Jesus is all we need--but these souls must be instructed that the love of Jesus in the heart will lead to humility of life and obedience to all His commandments. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). The love of Jesus that goes no farther than the lips will not save any soul, but be a great delusion.

My Life Today, p. 250

No one who truly loves and fears God will continue to transgress the law in any particular.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 425

Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above, are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative Judgment is going forward in Heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.

When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for his appearing.

Ibid., p. 678

The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.

Maranatha, p. 326

Were justice extinct, and were it possible for divine mercy to open the gates to the whole race, irrespective of character, there would be a worse condition of disaffection and rebellion in heaven than before Satan was expelled. The peace, happiness, and harmony of heaven would be broken. The change from earth to heaven will not change men's character; the happiness of the redeemed in heaven results from the character formed in this life after the image of Christ. The saints in heaven will first have been saints on earth.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 69

Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

Mark 4:29

But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Righteousness by faith includes justification and sanctification. Justification provides deliverance from the death penalty through our repentance of past sins and Christ's forgiveness of those sins. Christ imputes to us the merits of His death. He gives us the credit for what He did for us. However, His death only saves us when we copy Him through obedience to God's Word. Through sanctification, which is equally important and must be a continuous process, Christ imparts His righteousness to the obedient believer, making complete victory over sin possible and fitting the person to be sealed under the latter rain.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 65

At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.

The Review and Herald, November 19, 1908

The third angel's message is to lighten the earth with its glory; but only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it when it shall have swelled into the loud cry.

Both justification and sanctification are obtained by faith alone. One cannot be justified by faith and not obtain sanctification by the same faith. The two are inseparable. Both will take effort and self-discipline on our part. However, righteousness does not come by trying with all our might to do right on our own, but by choosing to surrender our will to Christ's will and letting Him work in us, by asking for His help and power when temptation comes.

Sons and Daughters of God, p. 115

As the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Ephesians 6:6.

Let no one say, "I cannot overcome my defects of character"; for if this is your decision, then you cannot have eternal life. The impossibility is all in your will. If you will not, that constitutes the cannot.

The real difficulty is the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the will of God. When there is a determined purpose born in your heart to overcome, you will have a disposition to overcome, and will cultivate those traits of character that are desirable, and will engage in the conflict with steady, persevering effort. You will exercise a ceaseless watchfulness over your defects of character, and will cultivate right practices in little things. The difficulty of overcoming will be lessened in proportion as the heart is sanctified by the grace of Christ.

Our will must choose to give up our sinful desires and surrender all to God's will. This must happen every time we are tempted. Ask for God's power and the victory will come. Temptation never ceased for Jesus and it will never cease for us. It is an ongoing battle. Yet God has promised us the victory if we trust in His words. When we control our will and choose to obey God every moment, we are overcoming in His strength, not our own.

The Great Controversy (1888), pp. 528-529

The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of his deep designs. The Lord permits his people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because he takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with his own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.

Neither wicked men nor devils can hinder the work of God or shut out his presence from his people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim his promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, “not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” [Zechariah 4:6.]

Our Father Cares, p. 60

There is nothing that can keep you away from God but a rebellious will. The will is the governing power in the nature of man. If the will is set right, all the rest of the being will come under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the choice, the deciding power, the kingly power, which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or to disobedience.

We are responsible for our choices. When we sin it is because we choose to sin. The exception is a sin of ignorance. However, we will be held accountable for not learning what sin is.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

John 15:22

If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists, p. 234

All will be judged according to the light that has shone upon them. If they have light upon the Sabbath, they cannot be saved in rejecting that light. But none will be held accountable for light which they have never received.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 345

In this day we have been privileged to have increased light and large opportunities, and we are held responsible for the improvement of light. This will be manifested by increased piety and devotion. Our loyalty to God should be proportionate to the light which shines upon us in this age.

Gospel Workers (1915), p. 162

Light makes manifest and reproves the errors that were concealed in darkness; and as light comes, the life and character of men must change correspondingly, to be in harmony with it. Sins that were once sins of ignorance, because of the blindness of the mind, can no more be indulged in without incurring guilt.

We cannot trust self, because it is naturally inclined to sin. However, as long as Christ is in our hearts, we will not sin.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

If we distrust ourselves and trust Jesus "to will and to do of His good pleasure" in us, that is the victory.

Philippians 2:12-16

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Surrendering self does involve agonizing because it does not die easily, but Christ has promised His power to overcome every cherished sin as we surrender to Him.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 311

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 141-142

The Christian life is a battle and a march. But the victory to be gained is not won by human power. The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The battle which we have to fight--the greatest battle that was ever fought by man--is the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love. The old nature, born of blood and of the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up....

God alone can give us the victory. He desires us to have the mastery over ourselves, our own will and ways. But He cannot work in us without our consent and co-operation....

The victory is not won without much earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step. Our will is not to be forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted.... The will must be placed on the side of God's will.

Sinful habits must be replaced with right habits. We need a will that chooses to die to sin and self continually, to choose even physical death rather than dishonor God, and a will that chooses Him throughout eternity.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 314

Satan had claimed that it was impossible for man to obey God's commandments; and in our own strength it is true that we cannot obey them. But Christ came in the form of humanity, and by His perfect obedience He proved that humanity and divinity combined can obey every one of God's precepts.

1 John 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Beware of any information on righteousness by faith from the following, where false ideas are or were taught on this subject: Roy Adams, LeRoy Froom, Clifford Goldstein, Norman Gulley, William Johnsson, George Knight, Roy Naden, Jack Sequeira, Morris Venden, Martin Weber, Woodrow Whidden III, and others like them. A few examples follow.

Faith That Works, Morris L. Venden, Review & Herald Publishing, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1999, pp. 161-165

We are all sinners, whether we have ever done anything 'wrong' or not. It is not sinning that makes us sinners. It is getting born that makes us sinners.... We are born sinners, and we sin because we are sinners. We are not sinners because we sin! ...Since we are sinners by nature, we of ourselves are never going to be able to produce any obedience.

To Know God: A Five Day Plan, Morris L. Venden, Review & Herald Publishing, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1983, pp. 22-23

Man sins because he is sinful. He is not sinful because he sins.... You don't have to sin to be sinful; all you have to do is get yourself born!

Adult Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly, First Quarter, Lesson No. 5, January 23, 1983, p. 35

We are born sinners.... (Morris L. Venden)

Here is what the Adventist Book Center (ABC) states about *Faith That Works*:

<http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/Detail.tpl?sku=0828014353>

Morris Venden explores the strange and wonderful kingdom of grace, and explains how to fight the fight of faith. "You don't get righteousness by seeking righteousness," writes Venden. "Righteousness comes by seeking Jesus." Both seekers and do-it-yourselfers will find here a feast of good things. Open this daily devotional book and join the party.

No thanks. It is better to forego the party and celebrating of this world and save it for the heavenly courts.

Unfortunately, at the time Roy Adams was Associate Editor for the *Adventist Review*, he wrote the book entitled *The Nature of Christ*, which teaches that Christ possessed an unfallen nature. The belief of original sin (born sinners) teaches that all will continue to sin, at least in nature, until Christ's return and urges that focusing on perfection distracts from Christ. However, those who believe in overcoming before Christ's return are very focused on following

Christ as they seek to be like Him in character. We cannot change our nature, but we can change our character. Christ will change our sinful nature at His Second Coming.

Sinful or fallen human nature is the spiritual, mental, and physical condition we are born with. Therefore, without divine aid, we find it very easy to sin. However, just because we are born with a fallen nature does not mean we must always sin. Nature does not choose to sin; people do. Therefore, even though Jesus took on Himself a fallen nature, this did not mean He had to sin. He chose not to sin, just as we can choose not to sin.

Unlike what the New Theology teaches today, the Bible gives us only one true definition of sin. “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” (1 John 3:4). God has also provided the following Spirit of Prophecy statements to ensure we are not deceived on this fundamental truth:

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 492

Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is ‘the transgression of the law;’ it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.

General Conference Daily Bulletin, March 2, 1897

The only definition of sin given in God's Word, is transgression of the law.

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 1, p. 228

It is the privilege of every sinner to ask his teacher what sin really is. Give me a definition of sin. We have one in 1 John 3. “Sin is the transgression of the law.” Now this is the only definition of sin in the whole Bible.

We are guilty only when we choose to sin in thought, word, or deed, not because we are “born sinners.” Sin is giving in to our fallen nature. The false belief of predestination does not allow our right to choose for or against God. The gospel includes free choice. Sin involves our will, not our nature. Therefore, Christ could inherit our fallen, sinful nature without giving in to sin. He was sinless because He chose to always obey God. He did not allow his nature to control His choices. He used His will to control Himself.

This biblical understanding of Christ's nature was taught in the messages of 1888 by A. T. Jones, E. J. Waggoner, Ellen White, and others. The good news of the gospel is that God's grace forgives us when we repent and restores us to His image when we by faith obey Him through the power of the Holy Spirit to become more and more like Christ.

When we make Jesus just our sinless Substitute, we deny His victory over sinful human nature. Let us make Him our perfect Example as well. Our Saviour, who provided atonement for us, will lead His remnant to final victory. However, our fallen human nature will not be changed until we are glorified at Christ's return.

Hebrews 2:16

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

The Desire of Ages, p. 48

It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin.

Medical Ministry, p. 181

The example He has left must be followed. He took upon His sinless nature our sinful nature, that He might know how to succor those that are tempted.

Early Writings, p. 152

Satan again rejoiced with his angels that he could, by causing man's fall, pull down the Son of God from His exalted position. He told his angels that when Jesus should take fallen man's nature, he could overpower Him and hinder the accomplishment of the plan of salvation.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 253

What a sight was this for Heaven to look upon! Christ, who knew not the least taint of sin or defilement, took our nature in its deteriorated condition. This was humiliation greater than finite man can comprehend. God was manifest in the flesh.

Early Writings, p. 150

Jesus also told them that they would have a part to act, to be with Him and at different times strengthen Him; that He would take man's fallen nature, and His strength would not be even equal with theirs [angels]....

The Review and Herald, December 15, 1896

Clad in the vestments of humanity, the Son of God came down to the level of those he wished to save. In him was no guile or sinfulness; he was ever pure and undefiled; yet he took upon him our sinful nature. Clothing his divinity with humanity, that he might associate with fallen humanity, he sought to regain for man that which, by disobedience, Adam had lost for himself and for the world.

The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 2, p. 39

It was in the order of God that Christ should take upon himself the form and nature of fallen man, that he might be made perfect through suffering, and himself endure the strength of Satan's fierce temptations, that he might understand how to succor those who should be tempted.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 134

Though He had no taint of sin upon His character, yet He condescended to connect our fallen human nature with His divinity. By

thus taking humanity, He honored humanity. Having taken our fallen nature, he showed what it might become, by accepting the ample provision He has made for it, and by becoming partaker of the divine nature.

Ibid., Book 1, p. 408

Letters have been coming in to me, affirming that Christ could not have had the same nature as man, for if He had, He would have fallen under similar temptations. If He did not have man's nature, He could not be our example. If He was not a partaker of our nature, He could not have been tempted as man has been. If it were not possible for Him to yield to temptation, He could not be our helper. It was a solemn reality that Christ came to fight the battles as man, in man's behalf. His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; man must become a partaker of the divine nature.

1 Peter 2:21-22

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

Christ took upon Himself our fallen human nature, but He never sinned. He laid aside His divinity and took hold of God's divinity as a perfect example. Why did Jesus pray to His heavenly Father for help if He was able to use His divinity? That would not make sense. He never used His divinity. He took hold of God's divinity. In this way He had no advantage over us. He is our perfect example of keeping the Ten Commandments. We, too, can take hold of God's divinity and receive omnipotence just as Jesus did while on this earth. Christ took our fallen human nature that we might partake of His divine nature. What incredible love that is and what hope it gives us. How foolish we would be to not take advantage of that power.

Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 332-333

A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.

The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.

The Desire of Ages, p. 664

The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world

to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 13, p. 18

He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 256

In taking upon Himself man's nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin.

The Desire of Ages, p. 112

Notwithstanding that the sins of a guilty world were laid upon Christ, notwithstanding the humiliation of taking upon Himself our fallen nature, the voice from heaven declared Him to be the Son of the Eternal.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 136

The world's Redeemer passed over the ground where Adam fell because of his disobeying the expressed law of Jehovah; and the only begotten Son of God came to our world as a man, to reveal to the world that men could keep the law of God. Satan, the fallen angel, had declared that no man could keep the law of God after the disobedience of Adam.

The Signs of the Times, January 16, 1896

Satan declared that it was impossible for the sons and daughters of Adam to keep the law of God, and thus charged upon God a lack of wisdom and love. If they could not keep the law, then there was fault with the Lawgiver. Men who are under the control of Satan repeat these accusations against God, in asserting that men can not keep the law of God. Jesus humbled himself, clothing his divinity with humanity, in order that he might stand as the head and representative of the human family, and by both precept and example condemn sin in the flesh, and give the lie to Satan's charges. He was subjected to the fiercest temptations that human nature can know, yet he sinned not; for sin is the transgression of the law. By faith he laid hold upon divinity, even as humanity may lay hold upon infinite power through him. Altho tempted upon all points even as men are tempted, he sinned not. He did not surrender his allegiance to God, as did Adam.

If Christ had come with an unfallen nature, he could not have died because no one with such a nature can die. Why would Jesus have been tempted if He could not have sinned? Additionally, if Christ had come with an unfallen nature, we would have no hope of overcoming. There would be no hope of the 144,000 living without their Intercessor in the Most Holy Place just before He returns to this earth to take them home. Satan wants us to die in our sins, not be saved from our sins. We should be very grateful that his lie has been exposed and a remnant people at the very end of earth's history will vindicate God's law by

winning the victory over sin. Understanding the right concept of Christ's nature involves understanding correctly salvation, the sanctuary message, standards and conduct, as well as the Second Coming.

Titus 2:12-14

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The Review and Herald, October 26, 1897

Obedience to the commandments of God is the only true sign of sanctification. Disobedience is the sign of disloyalty and apostasy.

Ephesians 4:11-15

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Christian perfection is letting God do His work in us as we depend on Him by faith. It means total victory over sin because we no longer desire to rebel against God's will. This also involves learning what God's will is for us. We long to bring glory to God, not ourselves. Temptations will still come, but we would no longer give in to them. Being perfect does not mean we will be equal with Christ, and we will never feel like we are perfect. Perfection is a continual relationship with God just as Jesus had. It is a reflection of His Character.

The Review and Herald, February 5, 1880

God is pleased with men who do not think that they have attained perfection, but who are constantly trying to improve. He would have us come into connection with him, and increase in understanding, and reform our habits, ever rising higher, and approaching nearer the standard of perfection.

2 Peter 1:3-7

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The Review and Herald, April 26, 1881

Unity is the sure result of Christian perfection.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 12, p. 155

Human effort must combine with divine power, that we may be able to accomplish the closing work for this time.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 378

Let the churches who claim to believe the truth, who are advocating the law of God, keep that law and depart from all iniquity. Let the individual members of the church resist the temptations to practice evils and indulge in sin. Let the church commence the work of purification before God by repentance, humiliation, deep heart searching, for we are in the antitypical day of atonement --solemn hour fraught with eternal results.

We are not saved while in sin, but God will protect His sincere people as long as He knows they will repent. Many in the Bible were protected while sinning, and He will do the same today. Those who achieve victory over sin feel unworthy and are unaware of their victory.

The Great Controversy (1911), p. 620

In the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment, and have been blotted out; and they cannot bring them to remembrance.

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. [2:11] He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. [2:17] To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. [3:5] He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. [3:12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. [3:21] To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. [21:7] He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Matthew 5:48

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Ecumenical/Interfaith movement

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/ecumenism>

Ecumenism: "A movement promoting unity among Christian churches or denominations . . . and religions through greater cooperation and improved understanding."

If the SDA leadership is using the excuse of ecumenism so that the Church is not considered a cult, it is not as effective as they hoped. The Church is still considered a cult by many. Why should the standards and beliefs be lowered to try to look better to the world? God's faithful will never look good to those of the world. In the process of trying not to look like a cult, the Church now also looks like a hypocrite. It is the same principle as the Roman Catholic Church laughing at Protestantism for accepting Sunday worship. Catholicism admits that there is no biblical authority for the observance of Sunday, since they acknowledge the Roman Church changed the Sabbath to the first day of the week.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 505

Many among both ministers and people are trampling under their feet the commandments of God. Thus the Creator of the world is insulted, and Satan laughs in triumph at the success of his devices.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_interfaith_relations

Wikipedia(online encyclopedia) shows the many denominations involved in interfaith relations with the SDA Church, as can be seen in a few examples

below. The reason given by the Church is that it enables more religious freedom for its church members. Unfortunately, the disadvantages outweigh the benefits. While the Church is not a member of the World Council of Churches, it has participated as an observer. It is not a member because it would “result in a renouncing of its foundational beliefs and endanger its distinctive message.” Regrettably, that is already in process as seen in the following ecumenical events:

- The “active dialogue and friendly relation” between the Salvation Army and the SDA Church. “Theologians from both denominations met several times.” Bert Beach (see below) told Adventist News Network that it was “most important to see the very similar approaches to the Gospel message that we have” and that the lifestyles are very compatible and Christ-centered. He also stated that SDAs have “always had considerable respect for the work of Salvationists,” and hopes that in the future we would “increase our knowledge of each other and our cooperation in meeting many of humanity’s crying spiritual and material needs.”
- Between 1994 and 1998, there was theological dialogue between the SDA Church and The Lutheran World Federation on the subjects of justification by faith, Scripture and authority in the Church, and eschatology. It was concluded that “Lutherans in their national and regional church contexts” should recognize the SDA Church as no longer “a sect but as a free church and a Christian world communion.” What is it that has changed in the SDA Church that would make the Lutherans change their mind about the Church not being a sect?
- In August 2007, there was a meeting between delegates of the SDA Church at the Presbyterian Church’s national headquarters “to affirm common beliefs and dispel stereotypes.” Ángel Rodríguez, a former director of the SDA Biblical Research Institute, stated that “The Adventist church has a responsibility to clear up misconceptions other Christian denominations might have of us, and meetings such as this one give us an opportunity to do so.”
- The first meeting with the World Evangelical Alliance was in 2006. Ángel Rodríguez explained that even though the meeting participants came from “different religious traditions,” there was much they “shared in common and was useful to both parties.” He also said that the meetings were “designed to gain a clearer understanding of the theological positions of each body; clarify matters of misunderstanding; discuss frankly areas of agreement and disagreement on a Biblical basis; and explore possible areas of cooperation.” What are SDAs to cooperate with? Saving the planet? Setting up the kingdom on this world now? Passing a Sunday law together?

Bert Beach

Beach retired in July 1995. Part of his career included Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director of the General Conference of SDAs and serving in various ecumenical interchurch/interfaith councils. The following excerpts on Beach come from the *Adventist Review* of November 8, 2001 in an article written by Roy Adams of an interview between himself and Beach.

- Beach attended the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s along with Arthur Maxwell. He said it was the big event of his life and that F. D.

Nichol and other editors of the *Adventist Review* asked him to go observe and write a few articles (at the time being the education director of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division in England and “knew next to nothing about Catholics.”).

- Authored *Vatican II: Bridging the Abyss*.
- Established contact with prominent leaders in the Catholic Church and leaders of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Roy Adams mentioned that as he travels with Beach how it is a joy and an inspiration to see how “at home” he is with these religious leaders and how he negotiates with and humors them.
- Beach stated that we should be careful how we speak about the Catholic Church, that we shouldn’t use quotes about them from the 19th century because they have changed. This really is saying that he no longer believes what the Spirit of Prophecy reveals on this subject.

The Review and Herald, June 1, 1886

How the Roman church can clear herself from the charge of idolatry we cannot see.... And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism, for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 563

The defenders of popery declare that the church has been maligned; and the Protestant world are inclined to accept the statement. Many urge that it is unjust to judge the church of today by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. They excuse her horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times, and plead that the influence of modern civilization has changed her sentiments.

Have these persons forgotten the claim of infallibility put forth for eight hundred years by this haughty power? So far from being relinquished, this claim has been affirmed in the nineteenth century with greater positiveness than ever before. As Rome asserts that she “never erred, and never can err,” how can she renounce the principles which governed her course in past ages?

Ibid., p. 566

Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see, and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism, and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.

Ibid., pp. 444-445

And what do we see just ahead? Another general council! A world's convention! Evangelical alliance, and universal creed! When this shall be gained, then, in the effort to secure complete uniformity, it will be only a step to the resort to force.

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.

When the Catholic Church recently apologized for her persecutions of the past, it was not in sincerity, because it plans to do the same again in the very near future. It is plain to see that Protestantism is changing and joining hands with Catholicism in the charismatic, New Age, and emerging church movements.

- Beach revealed that when church leaders visit Rome that they “like to be able to say they met the pope.” That happened when the Christian World Communions (CWC) met there in 1997 for meetings. While a member of the CWC, Beach had the chance to meet the pope at that time. He saw the occasion as “a little bit of a witness” because he only shook the pontiff’s hand rather than kissing his ring as others did. It is ridiculous that an SDA leader would call it a witness when he should not be there in the first place.
- In response to Roy Adams about presenting a medallion to the pope, Beach stated that it “happened something like 24 years ago” [around 1977] and “I think, during the term of Pope Paul VI.” How strange that he would not remember those two details with something that “momentous.” However, he did remember that it was during a CWC meeting. He stated that because the pope presented medals to visitors, that he wanted to give the pope something. So he gave him a book about the SDA Church that listed the beliefs, as well as a medallion of the General Conference of SDAs, the same one given to political leaders and others. Here is how Beach described the medal. On one side it says “Behold, he cometh . . . and every eye shall see him.” On the other side are the Ten Commandments, an open Bible, and the cross. Nine of the commandments are represented by only Roman numerals, but with the fourth commandment were the words “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Beach thought this would “give a little message from us as to where we stand.”
- Adams then stated, “So here you were, actually giving a witness to the highest official in the Roman Catholic Church, and you caught flack from some Adventists for it.” Being both scholars, certainly Beach and Adams already knew that the pope realizes exactly where SDAs stand. Additionally, the “flack” should have come from all SDAs not just some. Beach responded that some people felt it was like paying homage to the pope. Adams replied that at least the “witness” brought satisfaction to Beach.
- Adams finishes the article by saying that Beach “almost single-handedly succeeded in presenting a better face of the Adventist Church to those outside our own communion” and that we “truly have a treasure in our

midst." We can only conclude that if the SDA Church looks better to the world, it is because it is becoming more like the world.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/2001-1545/story1.html>

The Signs of the Times, February 19, 1894

Through the Dark Ages,--that long night of ignorance and superstition,--the claim of the Papacy to superiority and supremacy was conceded by emperors and kings, although God had sanctioned no such concession, and raised up men to dispute the claim, and to break the Romish yoke from the church of God. Through his appointed agencies God summoned the church to reassert her independence, and in the strength of God she stood forth in the liberty wherewith Christ had made her free. She broke away from the papal yoke, and with the word of God in her hand, met the giant evil of Romanism, even as David met Goliath in the name of heaven, using his sling and a few pebblestones. The defier of Israel was slain before the man of faith; and while men cling to the word of the Lord, they cannot affiliate with the great system of error.

Ibid., June 30, 1898

Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. There is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which has been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery, and held that to remain at peace with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!

It is very ironic to realize that the prophet of God stated there was a time when "Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience" regarding the protest of Romanism, yet Beach as a religious liberty director went completely against liberty by making friends with Romanism.

The Great Controversy (1911), p. 564

The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility. All that she has done in her persecution of those who reject her dogmas she holds to be right; and would she not repeat the same acts, should the opportunity be presented? Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20090624113301/http://parl.gc.adventist.org/aboutus/staff/beach.html> (2009)

Beach has received much recognition and honors, such as a special resolution in 1984 from the Maryland Senate for his contribution to religious liberty and elected as a member into the Cosmos Club for his professional distinction or "meritorious contribution to human knowledge." In the same year, Beach was made a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. In 1986 he was awarded

through the Order of Bishop Horuda with the Polish Catholic Church. In 1998 he received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Polish Republic, as well as several others.

<https://www.cosmosclub.org/Default.aspx?pageid=31>

The Cosmos Club is a private social club in Washington, D.C. for those distinguished in literature, science, and the arts. Individuals are elected as members in every profession related to creative genius, intellectual distinction, or scholarship, including U.S. presidents, vice presidents, Supreme Court justices, Nobel Prize winners, etc. Programs include lectures, forums, concerts, and author dinners. Social activities include movie nights, dinner dances, sightseeing, chess and bridge tournaments and "clubs within clubs" for those with special interests, such as computer enthusiasts or wine lovers. Members may entertain their guests for meals, most programs, or arrange for them to use bedrooms.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Merit_of_the_Republic_of_Poland

Created in 1974 the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland is awarded to those who have performed great service to Poland and is granted to Poles or foreigners. Since 1991 the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit is in the 5th class.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_\(decoration\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_(decoration))

An order of merit is a visible honor awarded by an international organization or government in recognition of distinguished service to humanity or a nation and comes in multiple classes.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/i-unity-the-church-and-its-mission/towards-a-common-date-for-easter/towards-a-common-date-for-easter.html#c25298>

In March 1997, the World Council of Churches held a Middle East Council of Churches Consultation in Syria. At this assembly, an agreement was worked out for all churches around the world to celebrate Easter on specific Sundays. Under the WCC's Faith and Order commission, "Towards a Common Date of Easter," item I.3 states: "Besides the work already done on baptism, eucharist and ministry, the churches need to address the renewal of preaching, the recovery of the meaning of Sunday and the search for a common celebration of Pascha [Easter] as ecumenical theological concerns." Bert Beach is the first person in the list of participants as a representative from the General Conference of SDAs. The WCC states they are a "worldwide fellowship" of churches "seeking unity" and a "common witness." This is the perfect description of ecumenism. Why would an SDA leader be interested in a "common celebration" of Easter and the "recovery of the meaning of Sunday"?

<http://www.adventistliberty.org/index.php?id=16>

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL) represents the SDA world church to other denominations, including the Christian world communions and other interfaith and interchurch meetings. The PARL Director is the secretary of the General Conference of SDAs council for interfaith and interchurch relations, including dialogues with other religions. It was explained that "while these conversations and relationships are important, they should not

be misconstrued as compromising Adventist doctrines or practice." Regrettably, they have.

Reinder Bruinsma

<http://www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2009-1525&page=27>

Bruinsma is a retired church administrator for the Netherlands Union. He made this statement in the September 10, 2009 issue of the *Adventist Review*: "The greatest sign of the end is not the spread of New Age thinking or the alleged development of some form of world government but is instead the powerful preaching of the message of Christ's soon coming to every nation and people group, and in every language spoken on earth." This statement completely ignores the spread of the New Age movement in the SDA Church. We find it hard to believe that he would be ignorant of what is happening, since he was a church administrator. Is he part of the movement himself?

<http://spectrummagazine.org/files/archive/archive26-30/27-3bruinsma.pdf>

In Volume 27, Issue 3, Summer 1999 of *Spectrum* magazine, Bruinsma wrote an article in which he denied the biblical and Spirit of Prophecy fact of the papacy being antichrist. It is also a slap in the face to those who were martyred for upholding that truth. Regrettably, this belief is becoming commonplace among SDA leaders. Bruinsma stated that Roman Catholicism has changed in ways that SDAs must regard as positive, that there is "much spirituality in the Roman Catholic Church of which Protestants can be envious." He explains that we should not watch them with suspicion, and that we "should try to be more balanced than we have often been and should do better than simply offering an extension of the often rather biased and inaccurate picture that many Protestants in past centuries have held of the medieval church." He believes that modern Catholicism has changed in many ways and it bothers him to see SDA publications still referring to 19th century sources in describing Catholic intentions and views. It is interesting to note that "19th century sources" includes the Spirit of Prophecy. He went on to write that because anti-Catholicism is so ingrained in Adventism that change will not come easy, even if Church leaders agreed that a "re-orientation would be desirable." He stated that in the meantime, we could at least decide to be less biased in describing Catholics.

<http://atlantic-union.org/images/Gleaner Online/Sept10Gleaner.pdf>

The September 2010 Atlantic Union *Gleaner* included the following statement, which was recorded on April 15, 1997 by the General Conference of SDAs Administrative Committee: "Adventists seek to be fair in dealing with others. Thus, while we remain aware of the historical record and continue to hold our views regarding end-time events, we recognize some positive changes in recent Catholicism, and stress the conviction that many Roman Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ."

Daniel 7:25

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Revelation 13:3-8

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, pp. 117-118

All need wisdom carefully to search out the mystery of iniquity that figures so largely in the winding up of this earth's history.... In the very time in which we live, the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord.

The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 571

Instead of standing in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry.

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

However, we do need to remember the following words:

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 243

This message must be given, but while it must be given, we should be careful not to thrust and crowd and condemn those who have not the light that we have. We should not go out of our way to make hard thrusts at the Catholics. Among the Catholics there are many who are most conscientious Christians, and who walk in all the light that shines upon them, and God will work in their behalf.

History proves that it is the Roman Catholic Church that has worn out the saints and changed times and laws. "Rome never changes," no matter how good it may look on the outside. In a short time, that history will be repeated and this time it will be worse. Are we preparing for that time? Or are most being lulled to sleep because "his watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber (Isaiah 56:10)."

National Council of Churches

<http://www.nccusa.org/nmu/mce/dis>

This web page shows that the Committee on Disabilities for the ecumenical National Council of Churches (NCC) is composed of national leaders who are appointed by their denominations with the SDA Church included.

Vatican II Documents

The agenda of Roman Catholicism has been to unite Christians through the ecumenical movement. On page 515 of *Vatican II Documents*, it states that ecumenism should be introduced into all higher learning institutions. Tragically, they have succeeded even in the SDA institutions. The documents discuss introducing celebration terminology and the celebration concept into all churches through the following methods:

- Get the churches used to a new style of worship, such as using physical gestures and body movement.
- Use variety in the worship services to encourage participation.
- Use popular music for the various cultures and temperaments.
- Educate that the Eucharist and the Lord's Supper are the basis for Christian unity, eventually calling the service a "communion celebration" and tying it to Sunday celebration.
- Promote Sunday observance, stressing rest from work.

One can clearly see how close it is to the end of this world, because all the above points are occurring. The Vatican's goal is to promote a universal worship style to strengthen ecumenism in all churches, which gives Rome a stronger influence with the intent of bringing about one leader—the pope. The Vatican also intends to introduce its concepts into all institutions of higher education. Much of this has already taken place in the SDA colleges and universities. Revelation 13 is about to be concluded.

General Conference of SDAs

<http://adventist.org/beliefs/statements/main-stat42.html>

The following information comes from a statement that was recorded on April 15, 1997 by the General Conference Administrative Committee. The subject is on how SDAs view Roman Catholicism. It was stated that SDAs "take a positive approach to other faiths" and that "our primary task is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of Christ's soon return, not to point out flaws in other

denominations.” However, if we do not point out the flaws, how can we present the straight truth?

Evangelism, p. 562

Our ministers are to make it their special work to labor for ministers. They are not to get into controversy with them, but, with their Bible in their hand, urge them to study the Word. If this is done, there are many ministers now preaching error, who will preach the truth for this time.

Additionally, to say there are “other faiths” denies the biblical teaching that there is only one faith, one true God, and one true church.

Deuteronomy 11:16

Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them.

The Bible gives many examples of pagans leaving their religion. Acts 19 describes those in occultism who burned their books when they accepted Christianity. They did not keep those books and blend the pagan ideas with Christianity anymore than true Christians do not do that today.

The committee further stated that Adventists “recognize some positive changes in recent Catholicism” and stress that “many Roman Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ.” Will they still be saying the same thing when the Inquisition is repeated and be a part of promoting it?

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 181

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people.

Those liberal ideas in the SDA Church today come from the “progressive” mindset.

Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 2, p. 559

Truth and error cannot stand in copartnership. Let us now place ourselves where God has said that we should stand.... We are to strive for unity but not on the low level of conformity to worldly policy and union with the popular churches.

Adventist Review

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=3585>

The July 1, 2010 *Adventist Review* includes an article on how the Pan American Health Organization (a regional agency of the World Health Organization) “recently established collaboration with the Adventist Church.” The Church “was invited to explore a working relationship with the World Health Organization in December 2007.” The article goes on to mention that some are uneasy about working with organizations that might have political agendas or

connections. Yet others see the potential for “better access to networks and resources as they seek to improve health in local communities.” “The church is also seeking to help WHO meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. . . .” In April 2010, the Church voted to accept the WHO’s invitation to collaborate. In this case, the end does not justify the means.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2010-1530&page=26>

“The Shema” is an article from the September 9, 2010, issue of the *Adventist Review*. The Shema is a prayer formula taken from various Bible verses (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41). This is an example of unnecessarily borrowing a term from Judaism. It can lead unsuspecting readers to delve into the Kabbalah, which is a discipline and school of thought on the mystical aspects of Judaism. In the Bible, Shema is mentioned only as a person’s name; the term never appears in the Spirit of Prophecy.

The Great Controversy (1888), pp. 598-599

It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light, and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought, and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help, we are to form our opinions for ourselves, as we are to answer for ourselves before God.

The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared, “Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God.” [Mark 12:24.] The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.” [John 7:17.] If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.

Edinburgh World Missionary Conference

<http://news.adventist.org/2010/05/adventists-to-partic.html>

<http://www.edinburgh2010.org>

Adventist News Network featured an article in May 2010 regarding the SDA participation in the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference in June 2010. The event was last held 100 years ago, when 1,200 Christians from various religions and countries gathered to “discuss the future of mission.” The following SDAs were among the 250 delegates at the 2010 conference: Cheryl Doss, director of the Church’s Institute of World Mission in Michigan; John McVay, New Testament scholar and president of Walla Walla University in Washington; and Ganoune Diop, director of the Adventist Church’s Global Mission Study Centers, who was invited “to co-chair the Foundations for Mission session during the conference.” The chair of the conference said “Adventists have been invited to participate because ‘it has been recognized that Adventist missionaries have been making a very significant contribution to missionary work worldwide’ and that ‘the Adventist vision for the future shape of

mission will be particularly valued at Edinburgh 2010.’ ” Gary Krause, director of the Office of Adventist Mission, stated that the SDA Church “holds in high esteem other Christians who are also engaged in sharing God’s love with the world.”

While we are to love sinners, we are not to love and engage in their false religions. There is more to truth than sharing about God’s love. SDAs have a distinct message to give, and it is being watered down. The goal of the conference was to “explore the best ways to share the gospel in the twenty-first century.” The study themes chosen were post-modernity, relating to other religions, unity, spirituality, discipleship, mission, and power. Diop said he was “grateful to be part of a venue that explores ways to present Christ to our contemporaries.” Jon Dybdahl preceded Diop as the SDA representative on the Edinburgh 2010 planning committee and explained that “we have been asked to be a part of the planning and actual conference because we are perceived as a key part of international Christian mission.” Why is the SDA Church perceived as such a key part to mission? Is it because it has blended its mission ideas with the rest of the world?

<http://www.edinburgh2010.org/en/resources/videos.html#c33174>

The closing celebration began with the Scotland African choir. After 10 minutes of a total 20 minutes of hypnotic music with drums, the audience stood up and began to clap and sway with the choir. Did the SDA representatives remain for this ceremony? If they did, they probably felt right at home.

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/drumming.htm>

During the past few years, drumming is increasingly practiced on a global scale to promote unity, peace and prosperity on earth. The South African organization, *One World Beat*, organized an event on Saturday 6th May 2006, which was advertised as follows: “Drumming in One World Beat is an event where we are uniting people around the world in one hour of drumming in unison—getting together in a true global village of drumming! It is the first time the drumming event is this big in our country. To imagine the whole world beating the drums at the same hour, for one hour! Bring your own drum. We trust the Lord for a breakthrough—not in our own lives alone, but also in our prayers for a prosperous Africa.” The drumming itself is meant to be the prayer for unity and prosperity in the global village....

Since Richard Foster and others have led the way for the popularization of the “contemplative tradition” in the name of spiritual formation in countless churches professing to be Christian, practices like shamanistic drumming are promoted as an excellent way to get into an altered state of consciousness in the name of Christ. However, while tuning one’s brain into a hypnotic beat of a drum may “speak directly to the intelligence of the body,” getting into a mindless trance can be lethal for one’s soul.

[http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/site/1/TheSharing/2010/Sharin gJuly-Dec2010.pdf](http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/site/1/TheSharing/2010/Sharin%20July-Dec2010.pdf)

There is a description of a new SDA Church outreach resource in the July-December 2010 “the Sharing” newsletter for the General Conference Sabbath

School/Personal Ministries Department. The document includes such terms as justice, relationships, and building bridges—all emerging church terms. It then describes a four-DVD set (the first in a series) produced by Ganoune Diop. The set covers Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and Postmodernism and is based on understanding other religious traditions.

The SDA Church does not need another resource or program. It has had plenty of those for decades, and instead of the Church improving, it worsens. The problems arise when the resources God already provided through the Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy are either not used or not followed correctly. As long as that is the case, His people will never be ready for Christ's return. All the resources and programs in the world will not help while there is error mixed in with truth.

Non-SDA leaders speak

Following are examples of non-SDAs speaking at SDA events. This is also part of ecumenism. It is mentioned further in this chapter about the non-SDA speakers at the Andrews, Oakwood, and Walla Walla universities.

- 2000 SDA General Conference Session: Joseph Reed, Undersecretary of the United Nations (UN) spoke in behalf of Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, in Toronto, Canada in July 2000. In a strong example of the ecumenical movement, Reed appealed to the representatives of the worldwide SDA Church "to continue to give the United Nations the support we need for our world organization. I make this appeal because the United Nations is also your organization. Our world organization. Your United Nations. Without the global efforts of the United Nations, all of our efforts for peace, development, equality, and justice would be to no avail." He stated that the UN "is of vital importance for the betterment of life on our planet." Reed then concluded by explaining that Annan wished to have been at the session, but that he was "on a mission of peace in the middle East." Because of Reed's "admiration and respect" for the work of the SDA Church, he said it was "an honor" to bring a message from Annan.

Annan's message included the following:

- Spirituality coexists with diplomacy and national security at the UN, through a tapestry of "cleric's collars, nun's habits, and llamas robes."
- "At the heart" of the UN, they are "dealing in universal values."
- "As men and women of faith [representatives at the session], you are natural partners of the United Nations."
- "Our shared vision of humanity . . . is essential if we are to cope with the complexities of the age of globalization. Such a vision can foster dialogue where divisions persist . . . and must be prominent in all our thinking as we pursue our goals of enduring peace and development for all the world's people in the years ahead."

1 Thessalonians 5:3

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Various individuals outside of the SDA Church have been invited to speak at other SDA General Conference sessions.

- The Pacific Union *Recorder* and the *Adventist Review* both featured an article regarding the April 2010 Ministry Professional Growth Seminar organized by the Ministerial Association of the General Conference of SDAs and held at California's First Congregational Church close to the Fuller Theological Seminary. SDA and non-SDA professors and pastors attended. The SDAs included Roy Adams and Bill Knott (*Adventist Review*); Lawrence Geraty (La Sierra University); Ricardo Graham (Pacific Union Conference); and Nikolaus Satelmajer (*Ministry* magazine). Non-SDAs included individuals from Fuller Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School.

It is unfortunate that this annual event is broadcast worldwide by satellite television and the Internet, since it sends a message to the world that it is alright for SDAs to be ecumenical. While it is important to reach non-SDA leaders, it does not mean the SDA Church is to invite them to speak at our meetings. In the process of sending them invitations and using their ideas, they are succeeding in changing us, when we are to be changing them. Our leaders and members must find other ways to witness, without borrowing from those we are trying to reach. Due to the fact that the world sees us gleaned from them, they lose respect for our beliefs, thinking that the information we have been given by God, especially in the writings of Ellen White, is not enough for us. When we read the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and pray for the Holy Spirit, the Lord will give us all the ideas we need to reach the world with the gospel. We cannot use the excuse that we are in a postmodern era, and therefore we must use the world's methods to reach them. God's messages to the SDA Church are to suffice until the end of this world. Surely we are slighting God Himself when we do not trust in His Word alone.

Adventist-Jewish ministries

<http://www.atomorrow.com/discus/messages/160/12501.html?1187218872>
(August 2007)

This website included information on Adventist-Jewish ministries through the Pacific Union Conference of SDAs and Southern California Conferences of SDAs in cooperation with the Canoga Park Community SDA Church in California. It stated that they were "pleased to announce the inauguration of a new congregational ministry, Congregation Beth Ohavey Torah, 'The house of those who love Torah.'" The purpose of the new ministry was to 1) "provide an authentic worship experience for those Jewish people who have come to embrace Yeshua ha Mashiach (Jesus); 2) "provide an opportunity for interfaith couples to worship together without compromise" using "authentic Jewish liturgical elements" and "instruction derived from both the Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist theological traditions." There was also mention of the following:

- Both Jews and Christians could learn from each other and be blessed spiritually. For example, Christians have much to learn about "Jewish culture, traditions and religion." Why would SDAs need to learn more about Jews than what is already in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy?
- They would like to develop a sense of community.

- The congregation met monthly at the Canoga Park SDA Church on Sabbath afternoons “to celebrate the close of Sabbath, the Havdalah service, and to enjoy a social time together, with food, of course.” Some meetings included the morning worship time.
- Yom Kippur was celebrated with “repentance” and fasting, then a meal following the afternoon service to break the fast. Simchah Torah commemorated the end of the yearly cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of a new year. Hanukah was a “fun time” to light the Menorah, commemorate the victory of the Macabees, and celebrate Yeshua. Passover included a Seder service. Also celebrated was Pentecost, Rosh ha Shonah and Yom Kippur. The congregational leaders were Alan Reinach and Arnold Trujillo.

<http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/9/9/118>

As vice president of the Pacific Union, Arnold Trujillo stated in the *Pacific Union Recorder* for September 2009 that he was greatly convicted that the year of evangelism in 2009 in the Pacific Union was a foretaste or the beginning of the Holy Spirit in latter rain power. How can it be latter rain power when the Pacific Union has most likely the worst apostasy and spiritualism in the U.S.?

<http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/24/15/409>

The July 2010 *Pacific Union Recorder* featured an article entitled “Passover Celebrated in Five [SDA] Conferences of the Pacific Union.” The article stated that Adventist Jews around the world “gather at Passover time to enjoy a traditional meal and retelling of the Exodus.” This is known as a Seder—a Jewish ritual feast to begin the Jewish holiday of Passover. It is held in late March or April and is performed by a community or multiple generations of a family. The activities involve the singing of Passover songs; drinking four cups of wine; eating symbolic foods; and telling the story of the Israelites escaping from Egyptian slavery, which is a reading of the Haggadah—the order of the Seder and derived from the Mishnah (the “oral Torah”)—and from the Talmud (Jewish philosophy, customs, history, ethics, and law). Although SDAs may not celebrate the Seder exactly as Jewish tradition does, such as the drinking of wine, it is still very similar.

The article explained that this popular Jewish holiday is a “wonderful opportunity to build spiritual bridges with Jewish friends.” The Seder was celebrated at the Glendale SDA Church in Arizona where it followed a “liturgy that Jews have been using since before the time of Christ.” It was led by Alan Reinach, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department for the Pacific Union. It included a photo of him wearing a prayer shawl and standing in front of candles being lit. The prayer shawl is known as a tallit and has twined and knotted fringes on each of its four corners. It is to be worn by Jews during their weekday morning services, on Sabbath, and during Jewish holidays. During the Sabbath and holiday evening prayers, it is worn only by the prayer leader (cantor) and Torah reader.

The *Recorder* went on to explain that Reinach then flew home to conduct a second Seder at the Thousand Oaks SDA Church in California, where the Congregation Beth Ohavey Torah was now being conducted. Their church website advertised that on August 25, 2007, an evening vespers would feature “a Jewish liturgy” as a part of Jewish outreach, yet everyone was invited. On

Sabbath, September 22, 2007, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) was celebrated as the “holiest day of the Jewish calendar.” It was stated that “early Adventists also knew that this festival was a key to the book of Revelation” and that “this should be a great learning experience for us all.”

The article stated that more Seders were conducted in Sacramento, California; Reno, Nevada; and Kauai, Hawaii, and that Pastor Jeff Zaremsky leads two Jewish Adventist congregations in New Port Richey and St. Petersburg in Florida. He also worked with White Horse Media to make “The Ultimate Passover” DVD, a presentation on the “spiritual significance of the Passover” and is a “resource for any church or member who wants to understand the Passover or conduct a Seder.” It is available at White Horse Media and ABCs. We do not recommend it.

The February 2010 Pacific Union *Recorder* featured an article entitled “Congregation Celebrates Jewish Holidays.” It gave details on the 2009 Hanukkah celebration at the Beth Ohavey Torah (Thousand Oaks SDA Church). The party included traditional foods, stories, games, and music. The speaker explained that “Adventists are called to restore God’s name and His true Temple today.”

A photo was included of participants playing a dreidel game. A dreidel is a wooden spinning apparatus with four sides that each include a Hebrew letter to form the acronym for “a great miracle happened there.” The letters also show a formula for the rules of a gambling game played with the dreidel. This game is growing in popularity and is now played competitively in North America with tournaments during Hanukkah. New dreidel game versions have emerged in the last few years, including Spinagogue, Stacabees, Maccabees, and No Limit Texas Dreidel (a cross between the traditional game and a Texas poker game.) We can see how religious emblems are losing their reverence.

The *Recorder* article explained that services were also conducted for Passover and Rosh Hashana, which “brought Adventist members and their Jewish friends to enjoy deeply spiritual worship services.” The Rosh Hashana service included the blowing of a shofar (ram’s horn) four times, with worship leader Reinach noting that “each blast corresponds to the four final messages of the angels of Revelation 14 and 18.” It also stated that “as Rosh Hashana calls Jews to repent before an annual Day of Atonement, so too, the antitype calls on the whole world to repent in anticipation of Judgment Day.” In conclusion, Reinach said, “This holiday is a wonderful opportunity for Adventists to review our prophetic calling and ministry, and to teach our children what we believe.”

Why would anyone need to celebrate the Jewish feasts to “enjoy deeply spiritual worship services”? Why would blowing a shofar remind a person of the four final messages of Revelation 14 and 18? The article mentions repentance, yet they ignore the need to repent of following customs, traditions, and rituals which were done away with at the cross. Practicing the feast days is definitely not reviewing the SDA prophetic calling and ministry. While they do not teach that the feast days are legally binding, they are teaching members to review the Jewish calling and ministry. They state that the feasts become “opportunities for fellowship, spiritual insight and blessing.” Can that not be obtained by practicing SDA beliefs? This blending half-way is a dangerous position. “And Elijah came

unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" (1 Kings 18:21). If you are an SDA, then follow true SDA beliefs. There is plenty in the Bible and the writings of Ellen White on the history of the Israelites that is a blessing.

The congregation began 2010 "eager for the arrival of Paul Lippi from New York to lead out in weekly services." Recording artist Rachel Hyman assisted as cantor by combining her music and Bible work. Her Hebrew-style music does not sound like that which heaven would approve of.

<http://www.wordwindmusic.com/studio.htm>

<http://www.carvdo.com/video/tuim60KXXDw/Jewish-Adventist-Communities-Worldwide.html>

This link showed a video of photos taken at a Hanukkah celebration by Adventist Jews. A photo was included of José Rojas, director of Volunteer Ministries for the General Conference of SDAs. He was wearing a Jewish prayer shawl. It was also stated that there are now about 30 Adventist/Jewish synagogues worldwide. (We find it interesting that the same day we viewed this video, it was pulled from the website by the user.)

<http://jewishadventist.org/synagogues-usa>

This World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Center website includes information on Jewish-Adventist synagogues worldwide. As of the end of 2010, in the U.S. there were five in Florida and one each in Washington state (Russian), Michigan (Andrews University with Jacques Doukhan), New York, and California; Argentina (3), Brazil (3), Chile (1), Israel (10), Netherlands (1), and Uruguay (1). It was stated that "Adventist Synagogues are a recent development, which some Jewish Adventist leaders wished to begin." A meeting was held in Brazil in January 1999 at which time Jewish Adventist leaders learned how to build "Houses of Zion's Children" around the world. They acknowledged that "few of these synagogues have been established as yet," but they "hope to build many more in the near future."

<http://shalomlc.com>

The Shalom Learning Center in Hollywood, Florida is an educational institution of the North American Division (NAD) of SDAs. This center exists "to teach Christians Hebraic roots of their faith and also build bridges of understanding and friendship between the SDA and Jewish Communities." It is interesting to note that Ganoune Diop, who attended the ecumenical Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, has been listed as a Shalom board member.

Joining in Jewish traditions is Satan's tactic to restore what God has done away with. It may seem innocent at first, but it is on the ecumenical path that leads to destruction. God's Word specifically instructs that His people were to give up those traditions after Christ's crucifixion, so why are these being brought back? The sanctuary message should be taught instead. Besides the Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy, an excellent book on the type and antitype of the sanctuary service is entitled *The Cross and Its Shadow* by Stephen N. Haskell. Ellen White kept a copy of this book, which she treasured and referenced frequently.

Some thought that if they should come down and unite with those idolaters who had embraced a portion of the Christian faith, it would be the means of their full conversion. Satan was seeking to corrupt the doctrines of the Bible.

I saw that at last the standard was lowered, and that the heathen were uniting with the Christians. Although these worshippers of idols professed to be converted, they brought their idolatry with them into the church.... As the followers of Christ gradually united with them, the Christian religion became corrupted and the church lost its purity and power. Some refused to unite with them; such preserved their purity and worshiped God alone.

The Signs of the Times, January 3, 1900

Many of the Jewish traditions were of so trifling and worthless a character as to cheapen their whole religion, and these traditions were handed down from generation to generation, and were regarded by many as the word of God. Human inventions, which were constantly becoming more foolish and inconsistent, were placed on an equality with the moral law, until at the time of Christ's first advent, pure doctrine had given place to false ideas. Selfishness, cupidity, self-exaltation had brought in every false practise, until the Jewish nation had lost their high-souled integrity, and their daily practises were acts of robbery toward God and their fellow-men.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 421

The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation,—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem his people; for when he comes, his reward is with him to give to every man according to his works. [Revelation 22:12.]

The Sanctuary Service by M. L. Andreasen, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, MD 21740, 1947, pp. 290-291

The Roman Catholic Church is an attempt to re-establish the old theocracy of Israel with the accompanying sanctuary service. The Catholic Church has taken over the essential ritual from Judaism, with certain ceremonials from paganism. It has an established sanctuary service with its priests, high priest, Levites, singers, and teachers. It has a sacrificial service culminating in the mass, with the accompanying ritual and offering of incense. It has its high days patterned after the Israelitish custom. It has its candles, its altar of incense, its table with the bread, and its high altar. The laver with the holy water is in evidence; the daily mass is observed. The parallel between the old Israelitish religion and the Roman Catholic religion is almost complete.

All this would not be very important were it not for the fact that it constitutes an attempt to obscure the real work of Christ in the sanctuary above. When the Old Testament period closed, when Christ began His work in the heavenly sanctuary, it was God's intent that the sanctuary services on earth should cease. The veil of the temple was rent in twain —

and later the temple was entirely destroyed – signifying the cessation of the service on earth and the inauguration of the service in heaven. Christ entered into a temple not built with hands. He entered into heaven itself, there to minister on our behalf. Men are invited to come to Him with their sins and receive forgiveness. The service in the earthly tabernacle had prepared men to look to the real sanctuary in heaven. The time had come for the transfer to be made.

Germany

The following information is a brief outline from chapter 14 of *Tithes and Offerings: Trampling the Conscience* by Colin and Russell Standish: In 1997 the North German Union Conference voted to join the German Council of Churches (ACK) as a guest member. That same year, the South German Union Conference voted to join the Council of Christian Churches in Germany as guest members. The ACK promotes the worldwide ecumenical movement (unity among Christians). According to ACK's Article 14, the SDA Church, even as a guest member, is obliged to donate part of the Church's funds to this ecumenical council.

Evangelism, p. 617

The Lord's injunction, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," refers not only to the marriage of Christians with the ungodly, but to all alliances in which the parties are brought into intimate association, and in which there is need of harmony in spirit and action.... [2 Corinthians 6:14]

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, p. 181

In trying to break down the barriers between him that serves God and him that serves him not, they have placed themselves where their feet will never again find solid ground.

The Signs of the Times, January 17, 1884

It is mingling our interest with the interest of unbelievers that leads to apostasy and the ruin of the soul.

Unity in diversity

There has been a lot of talk lately about "unity in diversity" and "multiculturalism." It began by leaders in government and in the churches defining diversity of races and cultures, but that was just the beginning of their secret objective. What was that objective? It was an ecumenical move to convince mankind—Christianity in particular—to accept different views on doctrines. Spiritually, there can never be this type of unity. What is the result? Confusion. It is those who bring in a plurality of beliefs—a diversity of opinions—who cause the confusion. Who is at the head of this confusion? It is Satan working through Roman Catholicism. Protestantism is dying, because the majority of Christians are no longer protesting. Rome has always taught that the church gave the Bible to the world and that the church alone can give the right interpretation. Sadly, the same viewpoint is coming from the SDA leadership. The belief is prevalent that if you are not degreed, you cannot fully understand the Bible. If this is the case, then what do we need the Holy Spirit for? They are placing man's knowledge above God's.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 24

Let God's people act so that the world will see that Seventh-Day Adventists are an intelligent, thinking people, whose faith is based on a surer foundation than the bedlam of confusion. The people are hungry for the bread of life. Do not offer them a stone.

Ibid., Book 1, p. 175

Our church members see that there are differences of opinion among the leading men, and they themselves enter into controversy regarding the subjects under dispute. Christ calls for unity. But He does not call for us to unify on wrong practices. The God of heaven draws a sharp contrast between pure, elevating, ennobling truth and false, misleading doctrines. He calls sin and impenitence by the right name. He does not gloss over wrongdoing with a coat of untempered mortar. I urge our brethren to unify upon a true, scriptural basis.

Ibid., Book 3, p. 412

We have a testing message to give, and I am instructed to say to our people, "Unify, unify." But we are not to unify with those who are departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. With our hearts sweet and kind and true, we are to go forth to proclaim the message, giving no heed to those who lead away from the truth.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 15, p. 259

We are to unify, but not on a platform of error.

Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 79

...harmony and co-operation must be maintained without compromising one principle of truth.

The Road to Rome, Russell & Colin Standish, Hartland Publications, Rapidan, Virginia, 1992, p. 160

Rome has always introduced its errors by the technique of plurality. But it has never been long before all tolerance disappears for those who continue to promote truth. In the "pluralistic" environment, those who choose the truth soon become the targets of persecution. Pluralism has always been a road to the introduction of error, it has never promoted truth. Its final course has inevitably been the persecution of the righteous. It is a course which has a foul track record in history.

Those pushing for diversity do not really believe in diversity, because they have one belief system and it involves deception and bringing about a one-world religion. It will do away with doctrines such as sin and repentance, the time of trouble and Christ's Second Coming, heaven and hell, the atonement and judgment. When the time is right, it will be said that diversity will no longer work and that we must all unite on their truth. A diverse leadership does not call for change. Only a united force can effect change. A diversity of ideas would cancel each other out. There are only two forces in this world, truth or error.

Even truth with error is still error. The unfaithful unite on error. God's faithful unite only on pure truth.

Those who confront the apostasy are simply told that it is their opinion and the majority do not agree. Does this mean we should not even bother speaking up? No. God's Word tells us to. It is imperative, because we have a world to warn and a gospel to finish preaching so that Christ can return. Yet it is very important to know which gospel we are teaching. Even though it will be a minority teaching the true gospel, it will be completed. Even though there were only eight that went into the ark, the Flood still came.

When diversity is accepted by SDAs, you will notice they make the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy subject to different interpretations, which leads to disregarding parts of God's Word. This makes it more difficult for them to distinguish between right and wrong actions. It is the downward trend to giving up God's Word completely. Regarding the diversity in Bible translations, if everyone kept to the King James Version today, there would not be confusion from the multitude of versions.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

The Desire of Ages, p. 253

The rabbis spoke with doubt and hesitancy, as if the Scriptures might be interpreted to mean one thing or exactly the opposite. The hearers were daily involved in greater uncertainty. But Jesus taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority. Whatever His subject, it was presented with power, as if His words could not be controverted.

The curriculum that has been surfacing in SDA teaching material is a large concern, because there are elements which undermine some of the fundamental beliefs. There is a tendency in the institutions for leaders and teachers to give more than one viewpoint without coming to a conclusion, leaving members and students confused as to what is really truth. One example is the articles in SDA periodicals, such as the *Adventist Review*. Creation versus evolution is another example that has become a questionable issue at La Sierra University, Southern Adventist University, Pacific Union College, and even Griggs International Academy (formerly Home Study International). It is most likely in other SDA schools and spreading throughout the world. Avondale College in Australia hosted a convention of the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology (ICAST). ICAST is a theistic evolutionary organization in Australia that attacks the biblical Creation.

While we must always study individually to know truth for ourselves, pluralism is not helping God's remnant to follow truth, especially the students who are not expecting to be taught error. Pluralism and multiculturalism teach that all religions lead to salvation and those who do not agree are called fanatics or extremists.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 41

"The sower soweth the word." Here is presented the great principle which should underlie all educational work. "The seed is the word of God." But in too many schools of our day God's word is set aside. Other subjects occupy the mind. The study of infidel authors holds a large place in the educational system. Skeptical sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in school books. Scientific research becomes misleading, because its discoveries are misinterpreted and perverted. The word of God is compared with the supposed teachings of science, and is made to appear uncertain and untrustworthy. Thus the seeds of doubt are planted in the minds of the youth, and in time of temptation they spring up. When faith in God's word is lost, the soul has no guide, no safeguard. The youth are drawn into paths which lead away from God and from everlasting life.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 474

The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into forbidden paths.

Theosophy is a Satanic/occult religious philosophy combined with metaphysics and denies the fact that God exists as a personal God, but rather sees man as God. It also teaches reincarnation and spiritual evolution. The goals are to form a universal brotherhood; to study world religions, science, and philosophy; and investigate the psychic and spiritual powers in man. Theosophy helped to bring about much of the New Age ideas today and was founded by Helena Blavatsky, a high level witch.

If you are of the opinion that "unity in diversity" is just a "Christian" aim, notice the following two examples:

- <http://www.futureworldcurrency.com/Documents.asp?DocumentID=3027>
The United Future World Currency website mentions "unity in diversity" in its first article of its manifesto. It states that it is the "foundation that drives this initiative, which started up in 1996." Its aim is to "bring people together" and that it is "a goal built on faith, common hope, and the unification of cultural and spiritual roots." Its last article states that the "project is driven by a firm belief in the unification and co-existence of different peoples" and that it "aims to promote an increasingly equal distribution of the planet's resources and human intellect." The term "co-exist" is used in the ecumenical and New Age movements to unite all religions.
- http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20080621164115/http://www.indianchil.d.in/articles/Hindu_chaplain_Zed_urges_unity_in_diversity_at_Ramadan_dinner_dialogue_1.asp
This web page included an article by a Hindu chaplain who urged unity in diversity at a Ramadan dinner dialogue with Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. They came together at the Fourth Annual Dialog and Friendship Dinner of Sierra Foundation, "an organization committed to

inter-cultural dialogue.” –Submitted on September 27, 2007, Reno, Nevada

The Review and Herald, April 12, 1892

Jesus prayed that his followers might be one; but we are not to sacrifice the truth in order to secure this union, for we are to be sanctified through the truth. Here is the foundation of all true peace. Human wisdom would change all this, pronouncing this basis too narrow. Men would try to effect unity through concession to popular opinion, through compromise with the world, a sacrifice of vital godliness. But truth is God's basis for the unity of his people.

Ibid., July 24, 1894

It is a grave mistake on the part of those who are children of God to seek to bridge the gulf that separates the children of light from the children of darkness by yielding principle, by compromising the truth. It would be surrendering the peace of Christ in order to make peace or fraternize with the world. The sacrifice is too costly to be made by the children of God to make peace with the world by giving up the principles of truth. Those who have the mind of Christ will let that light shine forth to the world in good works, but that light will bring about a division. Shall the light, therefore, be hid under a bed or under a bushel, because it will mark a distinction between the followers of Christ and the world? It was the purity of the character of Christ that stirred up the enmity of a profligate world. His spotless righteousness was a continual rebuke to their sin and uncleanness; but no principle of truth was compromised by Christ to win the favor of the world. Then let the followers of Christ settle it in their minds that they will never compromise truth, never yield one iota of principle for the favor of the world. Let them hold to the peace of Christ.

Luke 12:51

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.

We are to love the sinner, but not their sins. In loving those outside of Bible truth, we cannot allow ourselves to begin loving their false beliefs. The devil has tricked the masses into unity with the world instead of unity on truth. True Christians cannot allow themselves to become involved in the ecumenical, “one world religion” movement. It is a move away from historical Protestantism and toward uniting all to accept a national and international Sunday law and persecution of those who do not go along with it. Are you preparing for this imminent event or are you celebrating with the majority? The broad view of ecumenism and interfaith is the broad road that leads to destruction. Other unchristian religious practices attached to the Bible, corrupts its teachings.

The Signs of the Times, October 29, 1885

Many tell us, “You are too particular. God does not expect us to be constantly on guard lest we make mistakes. He is too good to hold us accountable for our course of action day by day.” But we are to remember

that the way to destruction is broad, while the way to eternal life is strait and narrow.... This shows us that we are to be guarded on every side, lest we mistake the way. We must be careful not to listen to agents of the great adversary, who would guide our feet into forbidden paths, as our first parents were led into transgression.

Celebration movement

Leviticus 10:1

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

Ministry magazine

During the time the SDA Church was promoting the Celebration movement, the October 1991 issue of *Ministry* magazine, by the SDA Ministerial Association, included the following.

1. Recommended reading
 - a. *Participating in Worship* by Craig Douglas Erickson (a pastor for a non-SDA theological seminary): He promotes the charismatic movement and meditations, including the silence of centering.
 - b. *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi: This book includes a variety of liturgical perspectives and provides readings and prayers for different services, including the "liturgical year" and "sacraments and rites." *Ministry* suggested that with "occasional modifications," any church could use the material, that it could add "freshness and a touch of elegance" to worship services.
 - c. *Acting Out the Gospels With Mimes, Puppets, and Clowns* by William DeAngelis: Instructions for 19 plays are included. *Ministry* stated that it was written for Catholics but could be "easily adapted to any church."
2. Articles on how to infiltrate the Celebration worship style into the churches
 - a. "Selling Change" by Darryl Comstock: This author promotes the Celebration services as a way to reclaim former members; states that those type of services are "warm, lively, and markedly less traditional" with an "exciting growth in membership"; and mentions changes such as moving the pulpit closer to the congregation, singing livelier songs from a screen and sometimes accompanied with guitars and drums (stating that it was too bad they bought all those new hymnals), using more drama, clapping and raising of hands, changing the order of service and the forms of public prayer, possibly doing away with parts of the Sabbath school program, and shorter sermons

with less emphasis on doctrine and more emphasis on the gospel, relationships, praise, and social issues.

Comstock goes on to explain how pastors are trying to rejuvenate their sometimes “lackluster services” but that “the changes have upset some people” and that it would be tragic to “adopt a liturgy” that “weakens the unity” which is a “prerequisite for the latter rain” and the “gift of the Spirit.” He recommends that those promoting Celebration should not move so fast as to “cause undue distress,” otherwise it would create disunity which is not compatible with Pentecost. He states that to “make sudden changes” in the area of music would cause too much opposition, that a slow process [creeping compromise] gives members “more time to adjust to the new ideas” and allows change without division. He expresses his belief that the church in 1991 was “experiencing the stirrings of the Holy Spirit” that would grow into that “long-awaited explosion of love known as the latter rain.” That was 20 years ago. The latter rain never came. It cannot come in the midst of infiltrating the celebration ideas into the SDA organization.
<http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1991/October/selling-change>

- b. “101 ideas for better worship services” (Reprint from *WORSHIP*, a publication of the Department of Church Ministries, South Pacific Division of the SDA Church in Australia): *Ministry* stated that the following suggestions were “designed to add life and vigor” to worship services. While many ideas were good, those that are questionable or do not agree with God’s instructions are included below.

- Try a role play (acting out) a sermon, involving some of the younger members or dramatize a Scripture passage.
- A staged interruption as an attention-getter.
- Have a “rousing praise service.”
- Use of an overhead projector to see the words of the songs. Unfortunately, this has allowed for the raising of hands.
- Use of a written prayer such as from a prayer book. However, not only are many authored prayers not doctrinally correct, but prayer should come from the heart and through the Holy Spirit.
- Use drama or a mime to highlight the Scripture reading.
- A suggestion is made for the congregation to read the Scripture responsively and that if Bible translations is a problem, to put the verse on an overhead screen. Yet if everyone had kept to the King James Version, there would not be a translation problem.
- During the welcome, allow time for members to greet visitors next to them. Is this the right time and place for visiting? It

certainly disrupts the reverence and sends a message to children and visitors that it is all right to visit with each other in the sanctuary. The social time should be reserved for outside the sanctuary.

- During children's story, use a little sleight of hand to get the children's attention and show that "things aren't always what they appear to be." Is this why magic tricks are performed in the schools and churches? Certainly a point can be made and interest held without using tricks.
- Have the children act out charades.
- Invite the adults to go to a child and tell him or her that they are happy the child is "part of the church family and how much they love having children in the church." Again, this is not the right time and place.
- Invite the children to spontaneously dramatize a well-known Bible story. Besides the fact that drama should not be done, it leaves plenty of room for hilarity, since the children are not prepared.
- Take advantage of the public's interest in Easter (such as Latin American SDA churches do). Hold a Sunday celebration of the Resurrection (drama could be used).
<http://ministrymagazine.org/archive/1991/October/101-ideas-for-better-worship-services>

Many of these suggestions have been accepted in SDA churches. The leaders told the members that they did not know the outcome of the celebration worship style but that they should try it and then wait to see what would happen. A true Christian will never experiment with something that cannot be supported by Scripture.

<http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2000/February/worship-and-praise.html>

A February 2000 *Ministry* magazine featured an article entitled "Worship and Praise: One Model for Change in the Worship Hour" by John Solomon, who at the time was the associate pastor at the Yakima SDA Church in the state of Washington. He explained a plan that is "flexible, simple, and yet effective," that "starts from the small group and works out informally into the congregation as a whole." The following steps were suggested to help transition a church into more contemporary music in order to help it grow:

- "Start by educating a small group of leaders." If they are convinced, they can help "initiate changes gradually," such as bringing a guitar and introducing praise music with "words coming straight from the Bible."
- The leaders can then begin "introducing these songs to small groups in the congregation," such as Sabbath School classes. Once they become "accustomed to the music," the pastor can meet with the leaders to "plan for a Sabbath when some of the music may be introduced to the larger setting of worship."
- After that first Sabbath, the pastor can make these changes:

- “Add a praise song at the end of the sermon” or “just before or after the greeting time.”
- In the call to worship, use a “more traditional hymn and a praise song based on a biblical text.”
- Include a sermon or a series of sermons on music and have the musicians “pull out the stops on some of the great hymns and biblical songs,” and “authentically focus on Christ and on worship, rather than on the music itself. The Bible is full of instances in which a worship gathering is marked with singing and praising, along with the sharing of the Word.” However, the praising by Christians in the Bible was far from the “praise” of today.
- “Add more musicians to the music time” for variety.
- Continue offering “lively renditions of hymn music along with praise music.”
- Have each small group take charge of the music on a Sabbath, using the same songs the small groups use and rotating the leadership of the music groups.

The article concluded that “modern music in worship is crucial if we are going to keep in touch with many important sectors of contemporary culture. We need to pray, fully seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit as we contemplate reaching people. We must be sure we are following the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Through a willingness to work within culture, we can, like Paul, be all things to all people so as to win the unchurched to Christ and to the power of the gospel.” The author also quoted George Barna, Bill Hybels, and other emergents and promoted the *Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus Book*. Maranatha! Music was started in 1971 by Chuck Smith, Sr. of Calvary Chapel to promote the “Jesus Music” his young hippie followers were writing and singing.

Again we can see in the steps above a way to gradually infiltrate the SDA Church with modern ways of worshiping, especially through a change in music. That is not how the Holy Spirit works.

Following are some observations again from the book *The Road to Rome* by Colin and Russell Standish:

- Celebration-style worship services are introducing irreverent worship forms; encouraging popular religious songs, bodily attitudes and gestures; teaching to accept all just as they are; preaching “loving” sermons; and stating to not be “negative.” These services lack vital present truth, yet it is claimed that these will be “a savior of our church” to “reunite the backslidden with God’s church and make it more acceptable and attractive to nonbelievers.” It is an insult to Bible truth and faithful SDAs to hear that the problems in the SDA Church can be corrected by changing the worship services. The only way to escape the spiritual decline is through confession and repentance.
- Introducing Catholic terminology is desensitizing our people to Roman Catholicism. Examples include the words “celebration,” “liturgy,” and “canticles” (as seen in the latest SDA hymnal).

- One SDA church (Dundas, New South Wales, Australia) announced the Lord's Supper in its bulletin as the "Celebration of the Eucharist."
- This is no time to "sing with false joy" as many "journey down that road" to Rome.

The celebration-type churches are not feeding the congregations with the "meat of the Word" but with "party cake." It is all about having fun and getting along as one big, happy, loving family regardless of the beliefs. This is not the type of celebration God's faithful are to be involved with. True celebration is calm, not full of excitement. Yes, we are to have enjoyment in life, but when it is all about fun, we miss the seriousness of sin and being reverent to God. How does God ask us to celebrate?

Last Day Events, p. 93

We must go to the people with the solid Word of God, and when they receive that Word, the Holy Spirit may come, but it always comes, as I have stated before, in a way that commends itself to the judgment of the people. In our speaking, our singing, and in all our spiritual exercises, we are to reveal that calmness and dignity and godly fear that actuates every true child of God.

It is through the Word--not feeling, not excitement--that we want to influence the people to obey the truth. On the platform of God's Word we can stand with safety.

This Day With God, p. 368

Last night the Christmas [Eve] celebration was held in the [Battle Creek] Tabernacle, and it passed off well--modestly, solemnly, and with gratitude expressed in everything done and said, because Jesus the Prince of Life had come to our world a babe in Bethlehem to be an offering for sin.

Church growth

Membership and money

Beware of those who emphasize the following terms either in spiritual or business matters:

- Power and passion
- Power-packed
- Creating maximum leaders
- Creating maximum achievement
- Huge earnings potential
- How to retire a millionaire

These most likely are used to attract membership and money and in a way that is not approved of by the Creator. The power being stressed today is not the power which comes from God. The desire to become rich and remain that way does not describe those who are waiting for Christ's return.

Luke 12:34

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 370

God never meant that the widespread misery in the world should exist. He never meant that one man should have an abundance of the luxuries of life, while the children of others should cry for bread. The means over and above the actual necessities of life are entrusted to man to do good, to bless humanity.

The Signs of the Times, July 24, 1901

Those who have the Spirit of Christ will not selfishly spend on self that which would provide homes for the homeless, and give the destitute food and clothing. They will not lay up their money for the sake of increasing gain. Those who do this are controlled by covetousness. They love neither God nor man. Their fellow-beings are perishing all around them, and yet, tho it is in their power to be a blessing to them, they shut their eyes to their wants.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 595

The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many who make a high profession of piety. They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular having a faith that separates them from the world.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 266

There is no sin in being rich if riches are not acquired by injustice. A rich man is not condemned for having riches, but condemnation rests upon him if the means entrusted to him is spent in selfishness. Far better might he lay up his money beside the throne of God, by using it to do good. Death cannot make any man poor who thus devotes himself to seeking eternal riches. But the man who hoards his treasure for self can not take any of it to heaven. He has proved himself to be an unfaithful steward. During his lifetime he had his good things, but he was forgetful of his obligation to God. He failed of securing the heavenly treasure.

Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 231-234

The spirit of gain getting, of making haste to be rich, of this all-absorbing worldliness, is painfully contradictory to our faith and doctrines. Should the Lord most high be pleased to impart His Holy Spirit, and seek to revive His work, how many would be hungering for the heavenly manna, and thirsting for the waters of life?...

I see there is danger of some of our brethren saying, as did the foolish rich man, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." Many are forgetting that they are God's servants, and are saying, "Tomorrow shall be as this day and much more abundant." God is looking on your every business transaction. Be on your

guard. It is time that deep, earnest thought should be given to laying up treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal.

The desire that some of our brethren possess to earn means fast, leads them to engage in a new enterprise and invest means, but often their expectations of making money are not realized. They sink that which they could have spent in God's cause. There is an infatuation in these new enterprises. And notwithstanding these things have been acted over so many times, and they have before them the example of others who have made investments and have met with an utter failure, yet many are slow to learn. Satan allures them on, and makes them drunk with anticipated gains.

When their hopes are blasted, they suffer many discouragements in consequence of their unwise adventures. If means is lost, the person looks upon it as a misfortune to himself,—as his loss. But he must remember that it is the means of another which he is handling, that he is only a steward, and God is displeased with the unwise management of that means which could have been used to advance the cause of present truth. At the reckoning day the unfaithful steward must give an account of his stewardship.

Some will strike out into flattering speculative money-making schemes, and others will quickly catch the spirit of speculation. It is just what they want, and they will engage in lines of speculation that take the mind off from the sacred preparation that is essential for their souls in order for them to be prepared to meet the trials which will come in these last days...

Every movement of this order, which comes in to excite the desire to get riches quickly by speculation, takes the minds of the people away from the most solemn truths that ever were given to mortals. There may be encouraging prospects for a time, but the end of the matter is failure. The Lord endorses no such movements. If this work is sanctioned, many would be attracted by these speculative schemes that could not in any other way be led away from the work of presenting the solemn truths that must be given to the people at this time.

If the SDA Church is ever to finish the work, its members must not only focus on character perfection but give financially as they have received from God and in the right spirit.

Baptisms

Almost all those who promote the modern church growth movement are promoting spiritual formation through the spiritual disciplines. Theological seminaries prepare graduates to spread this so-called spirituality to the churches through different programs. Pentecostals, Charismatics, Protestants, and Roman Catholics are spreading contemplative prayer with lightning speed.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_growth

Church Growth emphasizes missionary work and social awareness. Would-be converts are seen as "seekers." Church Growth began with Donald McGavran's book *The Bridges of God*. In 1965, he organized the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary, making it the home base for church growth

studies by tens of thousands of pastors and missionaries by scores of denominations. Church growth includes the "great commission," research to attract members, rock music, new forms of worship, and activities for families at different stages in life. The New Age preacher, Norman Vincent Peale, was a large influence in the church-growth movement. He was inspired by Florence Scovel Shinn, a teacher of the occult. Peale also united psychology and religion and is the father of the self-help movement that formed the groundwork for the church growth movement.

Evangelism, pp. 308-309

The test of discipleship is not brought to bear as closely as it should be upon those who present themselves for baptism.... When they give evidence that they fully understand their position, they are to be accepted....

There is need of a more thorough preparation on the part of candidates for baptism. They are in need of more faithful instruction than has usually been given them. The principles of the Christian life should be made plain to those who have newly come to the truth. None can depend upon their profession of faith as proof that they have a saving connection with Christ. We are not only to say, "I believe," but to practice the truth. It is by conformity to the will of God in our words, our deportment, our character, that we prove our connection with Him. Whenever one renounces sin, which is the transgression of the law, his life will be brought into conformity to the law, into perfect obedience.

In the book *Half a Century of Apostasy*, Russell and Colin Standish revealed how in 2002 many in villages of India had been bribed into the SDA Church through baptism. There were also "converts" who were baptized still smoking and drinking alcohol.

In an email received by the For My People Ministry, a testimony was shared about an SDA man in India who learned of the SDA truths through an online course. He was dismayed to learn that the SDA church in his neighborhood was different from what the course taught, especially in dress, health reform, and obedience.

In another email, an SDA couple revealed the following from a mission trip they took outside the United States:

- As they mingled with union and conference presidents, treasurers, secretaries, pastors, elders and members of the SDA Church, the couple noticed that many of them seemed to be motivated by money.

Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 213-214

It is the purpose of Satan to make the world very attractive. He has a bewitching power which he exercises to allure the affections of even the professed followers of Christ. There are many professedly Christian men who will make any sacrifice in order to gain riches, and the more successful they are in obtaining the object of their desires, the less they care for the precious truth and its advancement in the world. They lose

their love for God, and act like men who are insane. The more they are prospered in material wealth, the less they invest in the cause of God.

The works of those who have an insane love for riches, make it evident that it is impossible to serve two masters, God and mammon. They show to the world that money is their god. They yield their homage to its power, and to all intents and purposes they serve the world. The love of money becomes a ruling power, and for its sake they violate the law of God. They may profess the religion of Christ, but they do not love its principles, or heed its admonitions. They give their best strength to serve the world, and they bow to mammon.

- The majority of them ate meat.

The General Conference Bulletin, April 3, 1901

The principles of health reform have been proclaimed by us as a people.... And yet there are among us ministers of the gospel and members of the church who have no respect for the light that God has given upon health reform. They eat as they please, and work as they please. God calls for a straight testimony to be given to those who claim to believe that we are living in the last days of this earth's history. A line of distinction must be drawn between those who serve God, and those who serve him not.

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 383

The common use of the flesh of dead animals has had a deteriorating influence upon the morals, as well as the physical institution. Ill health in a variety of forms, if effect could be traced to the cause, would reveal the sure result of flesh eating.

Counsels for the Church, p. 230

Greater reforms should be seen among the people who claim to be looking for the soon appearing of Christ. Health reform is to do among our people a work which it has not yet done. There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental, and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people, to walk no more with them.

It has been clearly presented to me that God's people are to take a firm stand against meat eating.... By the use of flesh meats the animal nature is strengthened and the spiritual nature weakened.

Ibid., p. 233

Those who have received instruction regarding the evils of the use of flesh foods...and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetite be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people.

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 383

Those who use flesh meat disregard all the warnings that God has given concerning this question. They have no evidence that they are walking in safe paths. They have not the slightest excuse for eating the flesh of dead animals. God's curse is resting upon the animal creation. Many times when meat is eaten, it decays in the stomach, and creates disease. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat eating.

- Two other incidents, which shocked the couple, was when a number of church leaders, including the union president and several others took them to a restaurant to eat dinner on a Friday night(late) and the next day during Sabbath. The couple was surprised that everyone in their team was happy to eat there and made excuses that they needed to eat and that in our colleges and other institutions that our students need to be fed on Sabbath.

Exodus 16:23-24

And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

The Review and Herald, June 8, 1897

Speak not lightly of the restrictions placed upon Israel in Sinai regarding the cooking of manna. The Lord has placed barriers around his Sabbath, that it may not be regarded with the least carelessness or irreverence. When the Lord said, "Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe," he meant that Friday should be our preparation day, in which we are to do all our cooking. The Sabbath is not to be a day when titbits shall be prepared or cooked. If it is really essential to have beans on the Sabbath, let them be cooked on Friday, and kept warm in the oven. They need not be eaten cold unless preferred. But let no remarks be made as though it were a very light thing whether or not we regard the special requirements of God in regard to the Sabbath. It is not left for any man or woman to venture to disregard one requirement of God.

I see no question in this matter as to what we shall have on the Sabbath day. The food which we have provided on the preparation day can be placed on the table warm, especially in cold weather. In traveling, persons eat cold lunches for days together, and realize no inconvenience or harm. We want palatable, healthful food every day of the week; but upon the Sabbath, let your cook have her day of rest, in the place of cooking for a family. Let every provision be made on Friday. But do not let the Sabbath be regarded as a day in which to get something especially gratifying to eat. Educate your children and every member of the family to enjoy plain,

simple food, and to be ready to receive the blessing which the Lord of the Sabbath is waiting to bestow upon all who are in an attitude to receive it.

Counsels on Health, pp. 489-490

A scene passed before me. I was in our restaurant in San Francisco. It was Friday. Several of the workers were busily engaged in putting up packages of such foods as could be easily carried by the people to their homes, and a number were waiting to receive these packages. I asked the meaning of this, and the workers told me that some among their patrons were troubled because, on account of the closing of the restaurant, they could not on the Sabbath obtain food of the same kind as that which they used during the week. Realizing the value of the wholesome foods obtained at the restaurant, they protested against being denied them on the seventh day and pleaded with those in charge of the restaurant to keep it open every day in the week, pointing out what they would suffer if this were not done. "What you see today," said the workers, "is our answer to this demand for the health foods upon the Sabbath. These people take on Friday food that lasts over the Sabbath, and in this way we avoid condemnation for refusing to open the restaurant on the Sabbath."

The closed doors on the Sabbath stamp the restaurant as a memorial for God, a memorial which declares that the seventh day is the Sabbath and that on it no unnecessary work is to be done.

- Depending on where the couple went, the music for the services sounded either like dance music at a night club or hypnotic tribal music—all with "Christian" words. The excuse was that it was their culture.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 384

What was the origin of the great apostasy? How did the church first depart from the simplicity of the gospel? By conforming to the practices of paganism, to facilitate the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen. The apostle Paul declared, even in his day, "The mystery of iniquity doth already work." 2 Thessalonians 2:7. During the lives of the apostles the church remained comparatively pure. But "toward the latter end of the second century most of the churches assumed a new form; the first simplicity disappeared, and insensibly, as the old disciples retired to their graves, their children, along with new converts,...came forward and new-modeled the cause."--Robert Robinson, Ecclesiastical Researches, ch. 6, par. 17, p. 51. To secure converts, the exalted standard of the Christian faith was lowered, and as the result "a pagan flood, flowing into the church, carried with it its customs, practices, and idols." --Gavazzi, Lectures, page 278.

S.D.A Bible Commentary, Vol. 3, p. 1138

We need increased discernment, that we may distinguish between truth and error. The history of the children of Israel shows the sure result of turning from Bible principles to the customs and practises of men. The Lord will not serve with any plans which gratify the selfishness of men, and blight His work. He will not give prosperity to devices that lead away

from fidelity to His commandments. He demands that the talents lent to man shall be used in keeping His way, in doing justice and judgment, whether it be to break down or to restore and build up. God would not have us follow the wisdom of men who have disregarded His Word, and made themselves a reproach by their practises and counsels.

- Most of the women wore jewelry, like earrings, nose jewelry, and necklaces. It was noticed that this was very prevalent in the culture of that country.

Evangelism, pp. 270-271

A sister who had spent some weeks at one of our institutions in _____, said that she felt much disappointed in what she saw and heard there.... Before accepting the truth, she had followed the fashions of the world in her dress, and had worn costly jewelry and other ornaments; but upon deciding to obey the Word of God, she felt that its teachings required her to lay aside all extravagant and superfluous adorning. She was taught that Seventh-day Adventists did not wear jewelry, gold, silver, or precious stones, and that they did not conform to worldly fashions in their dress. When she saw among those who profess the faith such a wide departure from Bible simplicity, she felt bewildered. Had they not the same Bible which she had been studying, and to which she had endeavored to conform her life? Had her past experience been mere fanaticism? Had she misinterpreted the words of the apostle, "The friendship of the world is enmity with God, for whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"?

Mrs. D, a lady occupying a position in the institution, was visiting at Sr. _____'s room one day, when the latter took out of her trunk a gold necklace and chain, and said she wished to dispose of this jewelry and put the proceeds into the Lord's treasury. Said the other, "Why do you sell it? I would wear it if it was mine." "Why," replied Sr. _____, "when I received the truth, I was taught that all these things must be laid aside. Surely they are contrary to the teachings of God's Word." And she cited her hearer to the words of the apostles, Paul and Peter, upon this point, "In like manner, also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broidered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but, as becometh women professing godliness, with good works." "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel. But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit."

In answer, the lady displayed a gold ring on her finger, given her by an unbeliever, and said she thought it no harm to wear such ornaments. "We are not so particular," said she, "as formerly. Our people have been overscrupulous in their opinions upon the subject of dress. The ladies of this institution wear gold watches and gold chains, and dress like other people. It is not good policy to be singular in our dress; for we cannot exert so much influence."

We inquire, Is this in accordance with the teachings of Christ? Are we to follow the Word of God, or the customs of the world? Our sister decided that it was the safest to adhere to the Bible standard. Will Mrs. D and others who pursue a similar course be pleased to meet the result of their influence, in that day when every man shall receive according to his works?

God's Word is plain. Its teachings cannot be mistaken. Shall we obey it, just as He has given it to us, or shall we seek to find how far we can digress and yet be saved? Would that all connected with our institutions would receive and follow the divine light, and thus be enabled to transmit light to those who walk in darkness.

The SDA Church is very focused on mission, evangelism, and growth, which is admirable. However, does it make sense to do this while the Church is in apostasy? What are new members being brought into? Would it not be better to "clean up the Church" first? The "cart is before the horse," and the cart is filled with "cherished idols." Until we recognize what we need to repent from, true repentance will never come.

The Faith I Live By, p. 221

A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish.... But this union costs us something.... There must be a painful work of detachment, as well as a work of attachment. Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness--sin in all its forms--must be overcome, if we would enter into a union with Christ. The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to attach themselves to Christ without detaching themselves from these cherished idols.

So many are excited because the new worship trends are bringing in members by the thousands. Yet if they are led into error and not well grounded in truth, they will not be truly converted and eventually will leave the Church, being in a worse condition than before their baptism. The Church leadership likes to say that it is all about quality not quantity. However, if our eyes are open to what is really going on, we will see the opposite.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 31-32

If you lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then make this increase a cause of rejoicing, you show great blindness. If numbers were evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for in this world his followers are largely in the majority. It is the degree of moral power pervading the college that is a test of its prosperity. It is the virtue, intelligence, and piety of the people composing our churches, not their numbers, that should be a source of joy and thankfulness.

Ibid., Vol. 6, p. 370

The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence

would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?

Ibid., Vol. 1, p. 624

Unless there is an evident victory in favor of truth, the matter is left worse than before the conflict. Those who might formerly have had convictions in regard to the truth set their minds at rest and decide in favor of error, because in their darkened state they cannot perceive that the truth had the advantage.

Romans 6:1-6

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The April 2010 issue of *Adventist World* featured an article entitled "Positioned for Success." The question was asked, "Did your conference set a record with the number of baptisms during the Year of Evangelism?" The question must also be asked: Why is the worldwide SDA Church competing to see who can baptize the most members? The article also promoted the following ideas:

- "Whenever you have a few quiet minutes, close your eyes and see yourself reaching an important goal." This is in order that success may come "more easily."
- Lay members and pastors should "squench your fears by picturing yourself in a positive position."
- "Envision your church as known and respected in the community."
- "Imagine how thrilling it will be to see people accept Jesus."
- "Visualize the vitality that new members will bring to your church life."
- "Picture yourself in the pulpit preaching the Word with power, knowing that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are with you." These are all part of visualization and the power of positive thinking. (See this chapter's section entitled "New Age movement"/Positive thinking as well as Visualization.)

The Review and Herald, January 18, 1906

The real power of God's people lies not in numbers, nor in the wealth and worldly prosperity that may be displayed, but in steadfast adherence to his Word. The truth, obeyed, is made the power of God unto salvation.

Spiritualism

In Ernie's dreams, the Herald says that spiritualism is being used within the SDA Church. This section will identify what spiritualism is, which will lay the foundation for further sections of this chapter.

Maranatha, p. 168

Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, points to the special working of Satan in spiritualism as an event to take place immediately before the second advent of Christ. Speaking of Christ's second coming, he declares that it is "after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

The Great Controversy (1911), p. 588

The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.

As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.

Apostate SDAs are reaching "across the gulf," and if they do not repent, they will join hands with the papacy when Sunday laws are passed.

What is spiritualism?

Many believe that spiritualism is simply communicating with spirits. However, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy teach that it is more than this. Rebellion against God is at the heart of spiritualism.

1 Samuel 15:23

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

The Great Controversy (1911), p. 556

But spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings-- this mammoth deception is but a revival, in a new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old.

Genesis 3:4-5

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

The Review and Herald, June 26, 1900

Christ warns his followers, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing; but inwardly they are ravening wolves." He exhorts us not to be deceived when false shepherds present their doctrines. These men tell us that the commandments of God were done away at the death of Christ. Shall we believe them, these men who claim to be sanctified, while they refuse to obey God? They say the Lord has told them that they need not keep the ten commandments; but has the Lord told them this?--No; God does not lie. Satan, who is the father of lies, deceived Adam in a similar way, telling him that he need not obey God, that he would not die if he transgressed the law.

Spiritualism more than just communication with the dead

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 21, p. 173

There is a strain of spiritualism coming in among our people, and it will undermine the faith of those who give place to it, leading them to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. I have seen the arch-deceiver tempting several of our ministers, teachers, and medical workers, presenting fanciful theories to them in a most subtle and charming manner, to wean their affection from those whom they should love and cherish. He shows them charming pictures of women whom they have found congenial, suggesting that in the future life they will be united to the one who is so congenial and whom they will ever love throughout the ages of eternity.

Evangelism, p. 606

There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of spiritism, such as the Emmanuel movement. Still others are led astray by the teachings of Christian Science, and by the mysticism of theosophy and other Oriental religions.

What does spiritualism encompass?

Communication with the dead

Evangelism, p. 603

The belief in communion with the dead is still held, even in professedly Christian lands. Under the name of Spiritualism, the practice of communicating with beings claiming to be the spirits of the departed, has become widespread. It is calculated to take hold of the sympathies of those who have laid their loved ones in the grave.

False Doctrine

The Signs of the Times, December 5, 1895

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of

devils [Spiritualism]; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.

What does spiritualism teach?

Disregard the law

The Great Controversy (1911), pp. 557-558

It is true that spiritualism is now changing its form and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is assuming a Christian guise. But its utterances from the platform and the press have been before the public for many years, and in these its real character stands revealed. These teachings cannot be denied or hidden.

Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a more dangerous, because a more subtle, deception. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both [postmodernism]. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil. God's justice, His denunciations of sin, the requirements of His holy law, are all kept out of sight. The people are taught to regard the Decalogue as a dead letter. Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses and lead men to reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned.

We can see how the pure truth in the King James Version of the Bible is the first to be rejected.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 474

To many the Bible is as a lamp without oil, because they have turned their minds into channels of speculative belief that bring misunderstanding and confusion. The work of higher criticism, in dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation. It is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives. By spiritualism, multitudes are taught to believe that desire is the highest law, that license is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself.

Education, p. 227

Spiritualism asserts that men are unfallen demigods; that "each mind will judge itself;" that "true knowledge places men above all law;" that "all sins committed are innocent;" for "whatever is, is right," and "God doth not condemn." The basest of human beings it represents as in heaven, and highly exalted there. Thus it declares to all men, "It matters not what you do; live as you please, heaven is your home."

Evangelism, p. 608

Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that "men are unfallen demigods"; that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God

has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence, are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin. Does not such teaching suggest an origin similar to that of demon worship?

Teaches falsehood about God

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 4, p. 57

There is a strain of spiritualism coming in among our people, and it will undermine the faith of those who give place to it, leading them to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner. The enemy desires to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days.

I am instructed to warn our brethren and sisters not to discuss the nature of our God. Many of the curious who attempted to open the ark of the testament, to see what was inside, were punished for their presumption. We are not to say that the Lord God of heaven is in a leaf, or in a tree; for He is not there. He sitteth upon His throne in the heavens.

A warning to Seventh-day Adventists

The Signs of the Times, August 26, 1889

The condition of society today is the same as when God presented before Israel the abominations of the heathen; and the same warnings are necessary to the remnant people. Spiritualism is advancing through the land in triumph. "The spirits of devils working miracles" are going "forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Men are seeking unto them that have familiar spirits; but the people of God cannot in any sense follow the practices of the world. They must keep the commandments of the Lord. The line of separation must be distinctly marked between the obedient and the disobedient. There must be open and avowed enmity between the church and the serpent, between her seed and his seed.

Battle Creek Letters, p. 108

In his [Dr. Kellogg's] presentation he cloaked the matter somewhat, but in reality he was presenting scientific theories which are akin to pantheism.

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 1, p. 34

Living Temple contains the Alpha of these theories. The Omega would follow in a little while. I tremble for our people. These beautiful representations are similar to the temptation that the enemy brought to Adam and Eve in Eden. When but a girl I went to New Hampshire to bear warning against these same doctrines. There was a man by the name of Billings and another by the name of Bennet who were preaching a higher spirituality.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 292

Those who continue to hold these spiritualistic theories will surely spoil their Christian experience, sever their connection with God, and lose eternal life.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 561

Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden: "Ye shall not surely die." "In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5. Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time. Says the prophet: "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; ... they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:13, 14. Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God.

Spiritualism is not just crystal balls and the New Age movement. At its heart, it teaches rebellion against God and clothes its false doctrines in beautiful representations. In the Garden of Eden, all the forms of spiritualism were revealed. There we find that:

- Satan misrepresented the character of God.
- Error was made to appear as truth.
- Eve was convinced that by disobeying the Word of God she would not lose eternal life.
- Satan's lies are the foundation for the erroneous teaching of the immortality of the soul.

Ellen White trembled for the SDA Church because of the omega of apostasy. It is of a most startling nature, teaches a "higher spirituality," and is received by those who do not believe the warnings of God. Her prophecy is being fulfilled today.

Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1, p. 41

God calls upon His servants to study His mind and will. Then when men come with their curiously invented theories, enter not into controversy with them, but affirm what you know. "It is written" is to be your weapon. There are men who will try to spin out their fine threads of false theories. Thank God that there are those also who have been taught of Him and who know what is truth.

Psychology

The infiltration of modern psychology into SDA institutions has strengthened ecumenism and brought in unscriptural practices and ideas. Non-SDA psychologists are accepted as authorities on Christian living because they state they are Bible-believing Christians. However, they unify Christians on their psychological influence, not on the basis of Scripture.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology>

Psychology is the science of mind and behavior.... Some, especially depth psychologists, also consider the unconscious mind....clinical and counseling psychologists—at times rely upon symbolic interpretation and other inductive techniques.

<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/psych.htm>

It is paradoxical that at a time when secular psychological researchers are demonstrating less confidence in psychological counseling, more and more professing Christians are pursuing it. "Christian" counseling centers are springing up all over the nation offering what many believe is the perfect combination: Christianity plus psychology. Furthermore, Christians who are not even in the counseling ministry look to psychologists for advice on how to live, how to relate to others, and how to meet the challenges of life.

In their attempts to be relevant, many preachers, teachers, counselors, and writers promote a psychological perspective of life rather than a Biblical one. The symbol of psychology overshadows the cross of Christ, and psychological jargon contaminates the Word of God.

Psychology is a subtle and widespread leaven in the Church. It has permeated the entire loaf and is stealthily starving the sheep. It promises far more than it can deliver and what it does deliver is not the food that nourishes. Yet multitudes of professing Christians view psychology with respect and awe.

...psychoanalysis and psychotherapy have no compatibility with the Christian faith....

Psychologists who also claim to be Christians generally claim that they are more qualified to help people understand themselves and change their behavior than are other Christians (including pastors and elders) who are not trained in psychology....

Whenever psychology is intermingled with Scripture, it dilutes the Word and deludes the Church....

Throughout the centuries, there have been individuals who have suffered from extremely difficult problems of living who have sought God, and they have found Him to be true and faithful. They looked into the Word of God for wisdom and guidance for living with and overcoming the problems of life. The lives of those saints far outshine the lives of such pitiful souls as those who have followed the siren song of psychotherapy.

The terms *mental disease*, *mental illness*, and *mental disorder* are popular catch-alls for all kinds of problems of living, most of which have little or nothing to do with disease. As soon as a person's behavior is labeled "illness," treatment and therapy become the solutions....

The Church has been called to reflect Jesus, not the world. Even though we are in the world we are not of the world. Thus, every ministry of the Body of Christ must be Biblical and must not attempt to incorporate worldly philosophies, theories, or techniques.

Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life," not Freud, Jung, Adler, Rogers, Maslow, Ellis, or any other man. A church that does not seek the Lord as its source but relies on the philosophical and psychological ideas and techniques of men will become as secular as the world. Such a church may indeed have a form of godliness but it has denied the power of God. It has established man as its god.

One popular aspect in counseling is called regression therapy (healing of the memory), in which the patient is told that something bad happened during their childhood and the patient is convinced of it even if it did not happen. Many times it has destroyed that person's life or others involved. We do not need to go to man to be healed of our past. God, the Great Physician and Mighty Counselor, is well able to do that for us if we come to Him in faith and claim His promises. What did mankind do with depression, grief, and so on before psychologists and counselors were available? They went to their knees and to their Bibles, and we can do the same today.

Personality typing

The four temperaments (sanguine, choleric, phlegmatic, and melancholy) continue to be popular and are derived from Babylonian astrology. Those temperaments have even been promoted through the family ministries at the General Conference of SDAs using the Myers-Briggs psychological personality indicator. The Personal Profile System (PPS) is a personality inventory based on the psychological types theory of Carl Jung, which has its roots in the four temperaments. Jung was anti-Christian, an occultist, and a psychologist.

<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/burkett/general.htm>

A major deception in the church today is the so-called spiritual application of pseudo-psychological temperament theory for individual personality assessment, which, in actuality, is derived from pagan and occultic philosophies. (The "temperament" can be defined as the unique mental and emotional disposition identifiable as the personality.) The study of the temperaments, which are man-centered, self-oriented, and psycho-paganistic, are being offered to the unwitting as a sophisticated, almost magical way to understand our deepest natures and our personality types. In actuality, Christians could be unknowingly lured into the occult by practicing the temperaments and other New Age personality typologies.

Self-esteem education is a program that is meant to make you feel more in control. Yes, you are God's creation, but the biblical way to success is that we must decrease and Christ must increase (John 3:30).

Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1, p. 260

It is not pleasing to God that you should demerit yourself. You should cultivate self-respect by living so that you will be approved by your own conscience and before men and angels.... It is your privilege to go to

Jesus and be cleansed, and to stand before the law without shame or remorse. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1). While we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought, the Word of God does not condemn a proper self-respect. As sons and daughters of God, we should have a conscious dignity of character, in which pride and self-importance have no part.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, pp. 293-294

In the future, Satan's superstitions will assume new forms. Errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner. False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God's people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Most seducing influences will be exerted; minds will be hypnotized.

Corruptions of every type, similar to those existing among the antediluvians, will be brought in to take minds captive. The exaltation of nature as God, the unrestrained license of the human will, the counsel of the ungodly--these Satan uses as agencies to bring about certain ends. He will employ the power of mind over mind to carry out his designs. The most sorrowful thought of all is that under his deceptive influence men will have a form of godliness, without having a real connection with God. Like Adam and Eve, who ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, many are even now feeding upon the deceptive morsels of error.

Satanic agencies are clothing false theories in an attractive garb, even as Satan in the Garden of Eden concealed his identity from our first parents by speaking through the serpent. These agencies are instilling into human minds that which in reality is deadly error. The hypnotic influence of Satan will rest upon those who turn from the plain word of God to pleasing fables.

Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1, pp. 261-262

He [Satan] seeks to encourage dependence upon men. When minds are turned away from God, the tempter can bring them under his rule. He can control humanity.

Make God your entire dependence. When you do otherwise, then it is time for a halt to be called. Stop right where you are and change the order of things.... In sincerity, in soul-hunger, cry after God. Wrestle with the heavenly agencies until you have the victory. Put your whole being into the Lord's hands--soul, body, and spirit--and resolve to be His loving, consecrated agency, moved by His will, controlled by His mind, infused by His Spirit; ...then you will see heavenly things clearly.

In the place of bearing your perplexities to a brother or a minister, take them to the Lord in prayer....

Those who know how to pray, who know what are the invitations of the gospel of Christ, who know the immutability of His promises, show dishonor to God when they lay their burden upon finite men. It is right, always, to counsel together. It is right to converse together. It is right to make the difficulties that present themselves in any enterprise plain

before your brethren and your minister. But do not so greatly dishonor God as to depend on man for wisdom. Seek God for the wisdom that cometh from above. Ask your fellow laborers to pray with you, and the Lord will fulfill His word, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

Ibid., p. 10

The true principles of psychology are found in the Holy Scriptures.

Ibid., pp. 19-20

In these days when skepticism and infidelity so often appear in a scientific garb, we need to be guarded on every hand. Through this means our great adversary is deceiving thousands and leading them captive according to his will. The advantage he takes of the sciences, sciences which pertain to the human mind, is tremendous. Here, serpent-like, he imperceptibly creeps in to corrupt the work of God.

This entering in of Satan through the sciences is well devised. Through the channel of phrenology, psychology, and mesmerism, he comes more directly to the people of this generation and works with that power which is to characterize his efforts near the close of probation. The minds of thousands have thus been poisoned and led into infidelity.

While it is believed that one human mind so wonderfully affects another, Satan, who is ready to press every advantage, insinuates himself and works on the right hand and on the left. And while those who are devoted to these sciences laud them to the heavens because of the great and good works which they affirm are wrought by them, they little know what a power for evil they are cherishing; but it is a power which will yet work with all signs and lying wonders--with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. Mark the influence of these sciences, dear reader, for the conflict between Christ and Satan is not yet ended.

Neglect of prayer leads men to rely on their own strength and opens the door to temptation. In many cases the imagination is captivated by scientific research, and men are flattered through the consciousness of their own powers. The sciences which treat of the human mind are very much exalted. They are good in their place, but they are seized upon by Satan as his powerful agents to deceive and destroy souls. His arts are accepted as from heaven, and he thus receives the worship which suits him well. The world, which is supposed to be benefited so much by phrenology and animal magnetism, never was so corrupt as now. Through these sciences, virtue is destroyed and the foundations of spiritualism are laid.

Mesmerism included such methods as animal magnetism, electrical charges, trances, and hypnotism.

Phrenologists believed that human conduct was best understood in neurological terms. It is now considered a pseudoscience (lacks scientific status) and focuses on personality and character.

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Christ is to be our true Counselor. Let us go to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, particularly the *Mind, Character, and Personality* volumes and *The Ministry of Healing* to seek mental health.

Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP)

<http://ministrymagazine.org/archive/1992/June/are-adventist-pastors-teaching-hypnotism>

Following is information from a June 1992 article in *Ministry* magazine on neuro-linguistic programming.

- In the 1970s an interdenominational training organization, called LEAD Consultants, Inc., developed a seminar to train pastors in visitation skills. The founder, John Savage, was a Methodist minister who was interviewed in May 1983 in *Ministry* by Robert Spangler. Savage entitled his Lab I seminar "A Laboratory School on Skills for Calling and Caring Ministries." The instructor training program was Lab II.
- "A number of Adventist ministers began using the curriculum because we had no comparable materials. Their goal has been to encourage effective visitation of church members, especially in reclaiming nonattenders." Lab I provided information on why members drop out of church and included methods on encouraging them to return. It also focused primarily on helping them cope with suffering from illness, death of a loved one, divorce, unemployment, loss of faith, etc.
- "Lab I is not designed to be doctrinal in nature. What little theology it contained offers no threat to Adventist beliefs." Most of the time is spent learning "listening skills in order to improve interpersonal communication during visits. Good listening enables one to show compassion to a burdened individual."
- The *Ministry* article described how Lab I and NLP works. One page in the Lab I manual stated: "...during home visits, one should observe the NLP, or thinking style, of the church member to know what choice of words will communicate most effectively. This is much like hearing another person speak Spanish and (if one is bilingual) switching to Spanish in order to facilitate the conversation. It is also following the counsel of Paul who tells us we need to adapt our communication to be like the person we are attempting to reach (1 Cor. 9:19-23)."
- *Ministry* stated that "Many ideas espoused are speculative, and the Adventist Church cannot endorse them" and that "No NLP therapy or certification is taught in Lab I" but that "some books about NLP therapy are listed in the bibliography of the Lab I manual, but Adventist ministers who teach Lab I should warn the participants that these books contain ideas Adventists cannot accept. Some even tear the bibliography page out of the manuals before distributing them." The article explained that it would be best if SDAs had their own materials. Unfortunately, the damage had already been done from years of using the Savage material. So around 1988 the Church Ministries Department and Ministerial

Association of the NAD began writing their own curriculum “based on a firm foundation of Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy” and sponsored its distribution at their “Learning to Care” seminars. Today the leadership no longer tears the bibliography pages out of material that advertises the world’s ideas. Instead they blatantly advertise the books. This is the progression that occurs when men dabble with danger.

- The article states that SDA pastors have not learned hypnotism and that what is taught in Lab I and Lab II “is in no way connected to hypnotism.” The article then compares the “mirroring” technique used to “no more manipulative than Christ’s method of teaching sacred truths in parables suited to His culture.”
- The article goes on to criticize those who warn about the New Age movement.
- Spirit of Prophecy statements are interspersed in the article and are misapplied to approve of the Savage program.
- The article ends by stating the “critics” have offered no proof that these seminars “have hurt anyone.” It stated that many have been blessed by them. The author said he felt “rather foolish” writing the article, that there were more important topics to write about, such as reaching the “deep spiritual hunger” in large cities worldwide, “how small group Sabbath school classes can foster a closer walk with Christ,” and “New Testament church planting strategies.” The question is asked “When will private publications and the rumor mill discuss these questions?”

It is obvious that the author did not have a problem with the Savage seminars and was not happy with those who warned against them. While the Spirit of Prophecy teaches that we should try new methods to reach the world and to understand human nature and the mind, it does not suggest using Satanic methods. If there is any error mixed in, it should be completely avoided.

<http://www.leadplus.com/Products.htm> - Strategic Communication Skills Manual
Savage’s website advertises CDs and DVDs that parallel and support the Listening & Caring Skills (Lab I) conference and manual, which includes NLP. The manual can only be ordered by a Lab II graduate.

There is much use of the word “caring” in SDA institutions. Yet how can you truly care for others when you do not share present truth and warn against the apostasy? When parents truly care for their children, there is discipline. There is much talk of the “disciplines,” yet true discipline is becoming unknown.

The following is quoted from *The Road to Rome* by Colin and Russell Standish, pp. 116-119:

Does Satan have men within the assemblies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, using hypnotic methods to turn the minds of God’s children to error? Listen!

“We need to teach our people how to do what I am doing with you now in church. If I can do it in the University Church with 3,500 sitting there joined elbow to elbow, you can do it in your church—regularly.”
Tape recording of a Seminar presented to American Seventh-day

Adventist Pastors by the Senior Pastor of the Loma Linda University Church.*

*We have this tape recording on file.

Do what, you may ask?

"The only time we have them [God's people] at our—at our command in a sense—we're going to hypnotize them—they're suggestible people. The only time we can do that is on Sabbath." Ibid.

Some Seventh-day Adventist pastors have denied that Neuro-Linguistic Programming is used in Lab I and Lab II courses. We possess the official LEAD Consultants Lab I Work Book. We obtained it from the South Pacific Division. On pages 15-16 are listed skills for Effective Listening. One of those cited is Neuro-Linguistics. On page 44 there is an entire page devoted to Neuro-Linguistic Programming. Page 5 lists Neuro-Linguistics among the goals of Lab School and the final page lists the book, *Frogs into Princes: Neuro-Linguistic Programming* (Bandler and Grinder) as the first book on its reading list.

The authors went on to explain the following: 1) No SDA should attend a church where techniques such as these are used, since it is a "grievous danger" to submit to mind control by others; 2) The purpose of Lab II was so that SDA pastors could teach the same techniques to the laity; 3) In Perth, Australia, some pastors were placed in a state of increased suggestibility and told to remember events from their childhood; techniques like "reimprinting" (altering the perception of past experiences), "sleight of mouth" patterns, and "reframing" was used to produce belief changes. Only the Holy Spirit should be changing our hearts and minds; 4) The techniques are used on unwilling participants as well, which is a form of coercion; 5) Another technique used in NLP is "embedding," which introduces new "facts" drawn up by the practitioner into the person's consciousness, which is frequently used by professional counselors. The suggestions are so powerful that these become reality to the person, even if it is not true. Lives are ruined by these techniques, but this is just as Satan would have it. It is interesting to see how these techniques preceded contemplative prayer and other emerging church ideas.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuro-linguistic_programming

Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) is "a model of interpersonal communication chiefly concerned with the relationship between successful patterns of behavior and the subjective experiences (esp. patterns of thought) underlying them and a system of alternative therapy based on this which seeks to educate people in self-awareness and effective communication, and to change their patterns of mental and emotional behavior." NLP began to be promoted in the 1970s by the co-founders, Richard Bandler and John Grinder. They believed in the connection between neurological processes ('neuro'), language ('linguistic') and behavioral patterns that have been learned through experience ('programming') that can be organized to "achieve specific goals in life." They also believed that it is an "extraordinarily effective and rapid form of psychological therapy" to address phobias, depression, habit disorder, psychosomatic illnesses, learning disorders, etc. It was advertised as having the potential for "self-determination through overcoming learned limitations and emphasized well-being and healthy functioning," and that these skills "can be learned by anyone to improve their effectiveness both personally and

professionally.” This programming has the strongest influence among psychotherapists, hypnotherapists, and has had influence in management training, life coaching, the self-help industry, sales training, and even seduction.

The NLP co-founders credited the late Fritz Perls, Virginia Satir, and Milton Erickson as their inspiration. Erickson was an American psychiatrist specializing in medical hypnosis and family therapy. The “Milton model” is a form of hypnotherapy described as “a way of using language to induce and maintain trance in order to contact the hidden resources of our personality.” Satir was a noted American author and psychotherapist, known especially for her approach to family therapy and her work with Systemic Constellations (uses stillness and silence). Perls was a psychiatrist and psychotherapist who believed in the “Gestalt prayer,” which focuses on living in response to one's own needs and that by doing this people can help others do the same, creating space for genuine contact. In other words, “I do my thing and you do your thing.”

NLP and hypnosis are based on mysticism. NLP also teaches that positive change can result if one reproduces the behaviors and beliefs of successful people (modeling) or the more successful parts of oneself and that we have all the resources necessary for success within ourselves. The modeling methods are designed to unconsciously assimilate the unspoken knowledge to learn what the master is doing of which the master is not aware.

Learning to Care

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=2645>

In a June 18, 2009 *Adventist Review* article about reaching church “dropouts,” it stated that “there are ways and means to bring them back home.” Monte Sahlin suggested using the “Learning to Care” training curriculum produced by Ben Maxson.

http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/MIN/MIN19900201-V63-02_B.pdf

The February 1990 issue of *Ministry* magazine featured an article on “World Ministers Council: Personal Seminars/Exploring the pathways others have found that lead to a deepening spirituality” written by Maxson. It explained, “This practical seminar focuses on the dynamics of spirituality and the tools and skills that will help you grow spiritually. It is designed to give you a theological and experiential foundation for enriching your devotional life. It will explore the classic spiritual disciplines that will help you in your walk with God and open you more fully to His transforming power.” It listed the following that would be learned at the seminars: 1) Understanding the Christian disciplines that “great men and women of God have used throughout history”; 2) Ways of expanding and enriching prayer life; 3) Three forms of Christian meditation; 4) Principles for practicing the presence of God.

Those seminars were obviously the beginning of spiritual formation that is spreading in the SDA Church today. Following are more examples of Maxson's involvement with spiritual formation.

<http://adventist-stewardship.net/article.php?id=153>

While the G.C. Stewardship Director, Maxson wrote an article on their website entitled “Renewing Our Minds.” It mentioned two ideas as follows: 1) that “spiritual disciplines are tools of discipleship for nurturing intimacy with God.” Along with Bible reading, prayer, and memorization, he mentions meditation,

journaling, and “other such avenues” for practicing devotional skills; 2) to practice the presence of God by developing an awareness of His presence, and that as we do this, we will find our lives transformed.

Steps to Discipleship

http://www.paradiseadventist.org/site/1/docs/S2D_Week_8.pdf

On the Paradise SDA Church website is information on “Steps to Discipleship” with a DVD and study guide written by Maxson. The Week 8 lesson mentions to list the “holy habits” or spiritual disciplines that are easiest and most meaningful to the person. In the previous seven weeks the following “holy habits” were “explored”: “Relational Bible Reading, Prayer, Holy Release [not sure what this is], Practicing the Presence, Journaling, Meditation, Scripture Memorization.” One question asked was “Who has God placed around you that does not know God or is hungering for a deeper walk with God?”

<http://www.paradiseadventist.org/article.php?id=54>

Under the Resources/Materials section for the Elder’s Peer Discipling Strategy Teaching Material, Maxson states the following ideas:

- God accepts us “even in our sin.” This is a new theology idea.
- Self-talk is a “powerful factor in our lives,” so it is “crucial that we bring it to conscious awareness” and it is “usually programmed by our experiences, especially those during our formative years” (a psychology concept).
- Spiritual disciplines are practical tools and “provide the context for the daily Christian life and growth.”

http://gscadventist.adventistconnect.org/site_data/430/assets/0027/4589/June_Intrasyd.pdf

The Greater Sydney Pastoral Team in Australia met with Maxson for a “day of discipleship resourcing.” Maxson also attended their teachers’ meetings, giving instruction on how schools can use his spiritual formation models of discipleship. He also met with the Conference Stewardship leaders and the Greater Sydney pastoral team to work through a “model of Lordship.” Their team was also introduced to the Steps To Discipleship resource. Quite a few of the Sydney churches will be “incorporating this resource into their plans.” Since the presentations were “a great blessing” to the pastors, they plan to continue to resource their conference for “growing in discipleship.”

<http://record.net.au/encounter>

In November 2009, the South Pacific Division *Record* featured an article on the Educational Leaders Conference for SDA teachers in Australia and New Zealand where Maxson spoke. It was explained that “some of his work is at the heart of the Encounter program.” He was booked to come back three times to further discuss his “spiritual formation model” that is part of the Encounter foundational structure that focuses on developing a “relationship with God.” The curriculum is based on a “transformational planning framework.” Five of the SDA secondary schools in New Zealand and Australia experimented with the Encounter program: Northpine Christian College, Lilydale Academy, Christchurch Adventist School and Avondale High School. It was stated that the program is “gathering momentum” and is seen as being a “really powerful way to reach kids” and that it could revolutionize the way the Bible is taught. Teams of teachers were trained on the Encounter program so they could write units for

it in order to “engender a strong feeling of ownership.” The first teaching units were to be launched in 2010, with it taking about five years to complete the more than 250 units.

http://adventist.org.au/newsevents/southpacificnews/news_articles/educators_encounter_bible

In November 2008, the SDA South Pacific website quoted Daryl Murdoch, associate national director of Adventist Schools Australia. He stated that the Encounter program “incorporates a well-articulated spiritual formation model with content covering from Prep to Year 10, and has a fresh approach to the teaching of Bible in our schools.” At least ten writers’ workshops were planned for Bible teachers in Australia and New Zealand in 2009.

<http://record.net.au/hidden-springs>

In June 2009, the *Record* wrote that Maxson shared with delegates the “spiritual formation model that underpinned Encounter, providing compelling arguments regarding the authenticity of his spiritual formation model.” Murdoch described the curriculum with having “clear focus on spiritual formation.” He further stated that it is a “valuable tool to serve the mission of the church in Australia and New Zealand” and that they must “ensure that a high quality Bible curriculum is available in the near future.”

How tragic that the youth are being led astray with New Age teachings. What a shame that tithe funds are being used for curriculum that is far from high quality.

Pathways

<http://roseville22.adventistchurchconnect.org/article.php?id=35>

The Roseville SDA Church in California included the “Steps to Discipleship” by Maxson on the home page of their website.

This church also developed a program called “Pathways” to be presented to conference leaders, pastors, and church members in the Northern California Conference and is similar to spiritual direction. A Roseville Pathways Retreat was held in March 2008 at Leoni Meadows, the Northern California Conference camp, and was funded by the Conference and the Pacific Union. It was open to representatives throughout the Union who were interested in learning how to deal with recently baptized members.

The Pathways program was advertised as not only a way to understand the concepts but to “catch the spirit of the special relationships formed between Pathways team members and the newly baptized member” and that the relationship “becomes transformational in the lives of both.” Guests were welcome to join in all the meetings as well as “observe the modeling that happens, and even the intimate bonding between the new member and their Pathways mentor.” It was termed as “a sacred event.” The Roseville leadership team wished to “encourage this type of ministry in as many Adventist Churches as we can.”

The Bible Echo, October 15, 1892

We must study the truth for ourselves; no man should be relied upon to think for us, no matter who he may be or in what position he may be

placed. We are not to look upon any man as a perfect guide for us. We are to counsel together, and be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment, that we may individually develop a character that will stand the test of the great day.

The goal of Pathways is to “fill a need in the church – turning new converts into a new generation of Adventist leaders” and to equip church members with the “skills necessary to disciple others in the same way Jesus did.” This involves the following: 1) Guiding people to a “spiritual maturity”; 2) Spiritual disciplines that are a “never ceasing passion in Pathways”; 3) Interpersonal skills that are the “pathways that connect ourselves with others” and involves “knowing oneself” and others to bring “wisdom and energy to accomplish our purpose in life”; 4) Mentoring or discipling one person to another “in a bond of love, accountability, learning, and commitment” as the “fastest and most efficient method for growth” and establish “relationships built upon trust, integrity, honesty, commitment and truth.”

Why is the church teaching its members to place so much trust in each other rather than in Christ? This will simply bring them disappointment and troubles, since no one human being can be trusted in comparison to Christ.

Following were classes held by Gordon Arruda and the modeling team during the Sabbath of the weekend retreat: 1) The Gift of Presence: “making myself available to another person,” (“the first in a trilogy of what it means to become a sacred companion”) and “personalizing presence” with the Pathways partner and sharing with the group that person’s response about what it was like; 2) The Gift of Hospitality: “making space (or place) for another person in my life, receiving them into my heart, devoting myself to them, where they can be welcome, safe, and heard,” then personalizing and sharing again with the group; 3) The Gift of Dialog: “a mutual exchange of inquiry for the purpose of exploring spiritual truth about God” (“a mutual exploration and discovery benefiting both parties”).

The “presence” is the same as that of mystics that leads away from Christ as the only path to God.

The following information comes from a letter written by one of the Roseville pastors. It was stated that Pathways was designed to 1) teach new converts how to have a devotional life through spiritual disciplines; 2) connect them with a trained church mentor who becomes “their most intimate friend” over the next two years; 3) teach them “the reasons behind what we believe”; and 4) “get them involved in ministry.”

The letter also stated that besides using selected books by Ellen White, they also use books by David Benner, including *Sacred Companions*, which promotes the teachings of mystics such as Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating. They also mentioned some “mentoring handbooks from a company who specializes in working with church groups.” The handbooks come from Faith-Centered Mentoring and More in Grass Valley, California. It is a division of the Coalition of Counseling Centers Inc. and provides “Christian mentoring and life skills resources.” The staff deals with psychology, fundraising, lecturing,

consulting, training, administration, leadership, relationship issues, personal development, and developing “culturally appropriate mentoring programs for executives and emerging leaders.” In the *Christ-Centered Mentor’s Handbook*, p. 8 it reads: “Keith R. Anderson and Randy D. Reese propose a practical and structured approach to spiritual mentoring which is built on the centuries-old concept of spiritual direction. We see their approach as very compatible with our Christ-centered mentoring.” Under the company’s “Customers” tab, we find the Theological Seminary at Andrews University and Adventist Frontier Missions, along with The Salvation Army, miscellaneous non-SDA churches and organizations, including the Saddleback and Willow Creek megachurches.

iFollow: The Discipleship Resource

<http://www.ifollowdiscipleship.org>

The November 11, 2010 issue of the *Adventist Review* included information on the iFollow Discipleship Series for SDAs. It is designed to be used in congregations “to assist people in their pursuit of God” through pastor’s sermons, Bible classes, prayer meetings, seminars, small groups, retreats, training sessions, and discussion groups. The NAD was urged to provide a “discipleship resource that came specifically from the Adventist church” and “reflected more completely the distinctive character of Adventism.” Churches who used “off-the-shelf” discipleship training information from non-SDAs were getting “pushback” from members regarding the content. The iFollow lessons are advertised as a “quality product” to bring “unique *value* to churches.” Contributors included the Center for Creative Ministry, Mind Over Media, the *iFollow* Taskforce, and Vervent (NAD Church Resource Center)—leaders in the emerging church movement.

As can be seen in the examples below, the lessons reveal a far different character to what God intended. It is way past time to bring the SDA Church back to where it should be. The *iFollow* series of book development is an “open-ended process, with more books being added to the list of available titles all the time.” It is being done in order that there will be “no lack of available resources you can use to keep the fire burning.” The fire that needs to be burning is one that would devour the books that teach error. Making matters worse, church leaders are supporting the project, writing for it, and promoting it.

- An example of a physical prop for illustrating a point included how C. Mervyn Maxwell used a vacuum cleaner from the podium to illustrate that unless we are “connected to our source of power” we can do nothing. The excuse given is that Jesus used illustrations. Where in the Bible does it mention Him using such a distraction when He spoke in the temple?
- Additional resources:
 - *Presentation Zen: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery* by Garr Reynolds, who is known as a “Zen-master.” (Zen is a school of Buddhism and a word meaning “meditation” or “meditative state.”)
 - *Majesty: Experiencing Authentic Worship* by S. J. Kidder (teaches spiritual formation at Andrews University).
- For positioning of the speaker:
 - An “Edgar Bergen” principle is explained as well as who he was. Bergen is most famous for being a ventriloquist in the 1930s as well as a radio performer and an actor.

- Quoted C. S. Lewis, a man who was involved with the occult. It was explained to “make certain that the audio visual materials you use don’t beckon the audience into a side road.” Those involved in iFollow are in danger of taking a side road that is not the straight and narrow path.
- George Bernard Shaw is quoted. He was a socialist and an Irish playwright, mostly in drama and comedy.
- Under “Identify Your Dominant Learning Style,” there was mention of “role-playing, large body movements” and “taking time for personal contemplation.”
- For worship team groups, it mentions a praise team and instrumental teams that combine piano, organ, guitar, percussion, etc. and a drama team that provides “creative ways to touch hearts.”
- Celebrity stories were recommended as illustrations for effective preaching.
- Under resources for listening skills:
 - John Savage (1996). Listening and Caring Skills in Ministry (NLP).
 - Mention of the 12 step recovery and Alcoholics Anonymous.

The material repeatedly mentions about not “seeking praise from others, but giving praise to God.” First of all, when rock music and drama are performed, it is all about self, not God, and the popular style of “praise” is going to the god of this world.

If the SDA leaders persist in providing the chaff of this world, they should find employment outside of God’s Church.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 434

The Lord calls upon His shepherds to feed the flock with pure provender. He would have them present the truth in its simplicity. When this work is faithfully done, many will be convicted and converted by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In April 2002, the Caribbean Union Conference of SDAs had a Women’s Ministry Leadership Certification Program that included Level 1 of communication skills; listening techniques; checking feelings from the past and present, self-disclosure; and awareness of body language. Suggested resources were the Friendship Evangelism Seminar - A Concerned Communications Seminar, Monte Sahlin, Advent Source; Leadership and Development Seminar (LEAD) Consultants, John Savage, Pittsford, NY; and Learning to Care, Ben Maxson, Upper Columbia Conference.

No doubt there will continue to be more SDA versions of discipleship programs developed along with many other unbiblical ideas.

Celebrate Recovery

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_W

For William Wilson, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, spiritualism was a life-long interest. He was also involved with parapsychology, which deals with

psychic abilities, life after death, and extrasensory perception (ESP). He also participated in séances using a Ouija board.

Celebrate Recovery was founded in 1991 by Pastor John Baker of Saddleback Church for overcoming addictions with a 12 step program based on “Christian” principles. Not only is modern psychology used but also Eastern meditation is promoted. It is also suggested to openly confess your faults to someone you can trust. Psalm 62:8 tells us to “Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.”

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=1196>

Contemplatives recognize the meditative Silence—“thoughtless, empty, and void”—that has been simmering in Alcoholics Anonymous since its inception.

...Literally millions of people have already experienced meditation as part of their 12 Step program.

AA’s 11th Step states: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

“Meditation is something that can always be further developed. It has no boundaries, either of width or height,” writes AA co-founder Bill Wilson. This is equally true of 12 Step theology—there are absolutely no boundaries when it comes to defining the “higher power.”

In the Bible, we are clearly told, “I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.” (Isaiah 42:8)

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20081208054938/http://www.adventistregenerationministries.org>

<http://www.adventistrecovery.org/article.php?id=29>

Adventist Recovery Ministries/Regeneration Ministries (ARM) advertises their ministry as a Christ-centered 12 step recovery program for addictions. This ministry is located at the SDA General Conference headquarters. Unfortunately, it is based on principles from Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). It is stated that they encourage membership in AA as well as other 12 step fellowships, such as “The Bridge to Recovery,” which is “confident that, by the time they complete Step 12, they will have experienced a genuine spiritual awakening.” Yet ARM does not “endorse or have any affiliation with any of the organizations.” How can they encourage membership and yet not endorse it? ARM also promotes Ephesians Life Ministries, which is a Christ-centered counseling ministry that combines biblical teachings and modern psychology.

Marvin Moore, editor of *Signs of the Times* magazine, writes the following in one of his many books:

I’ll never forget the day I lost the last bit of my risk money. I was wired, a nervous wreck, absolutely incapable of concentrating on anything else. I immediately quit trading real money, but it took me several days to settle down emotionally to the point where I could sleep well at night.

In the weeks that followed I spent a good bit of time reflecting on what had happened, especially my emotional frame of mind. Fortunately, for the previous several years I had been fairly diligent in following what is popularly known as a “recovery program.” I had read a lot of recovery literature, attended many Twelve-Step meetings, and made a serious effort to implement the Twelve Steps to recover from my addictions. All of this had taught me a lot about the nature of addiction and its symptoms. And I realized that *my response to commodity trading was a classic case study in addictive behavior*. In fact, I came to the sobering conclusion that I was an excellent candidate for becoming a full-blown gambling addict! {*The Coming Global Crisis*, Marvin Moore, Pacific Press Publishing Association, p. 42.}

One of the suggestions in step 5 of the 12 step program is to admit to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. God’s Word reveals the following:

The Faith I Live By, p. 128

Many, many confessions should never be spoken in the hearing of mortals; for the result is that which the limited judgment of finite beings does not anticipate.... God will be better glorified if we confess the secret, inbred corruption of the heart to Jesus alone than if we open its recesses to finite, erring man, who cannot judge righteously unless his heart is constantly imbued with the Spirit of God.... Do not pour into human ears the story which God alone should hear.

Why would SDA Church leaders and members want to promote the 12 step program when it is associated with spiritualism and other non-biblical beliefs and practices? Why not just use the wonderful truths given in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy?

Promise Keepers

<http://www.promisekeepers.org/home/about/7-promises>

- A non-SDA ecumenical, psycho-spiritual (humanistic psychology), political men’s movement since 1990 that is a mix of truth and error in very deceptive ways.
- A charismatic movement to bring about union with the Roman Catholic Church.
- Downplays doctrine for the sake of unity.
- Emphasis on self-effort by trusting others to keep their shared failings a secret rather than dependence on Christ, since He is unfailing at keeping a promise.
- Unscriptural feminizing of men and holds a contradictory stand on homosexuality.
- Promotes secular psychology.
- Misapplies and misinterprets Scripture.
- *Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper* book published by Focus on the Family.

- Includes a link to "The Road to Jerusalem," whose vision it is to mobilize the "body of Christ to partner with the Jewish believer for the salvation of Israel, thus the world."
- Promise Keepers meetings are promoted in SDA churches and conferences such as Columbia Union, Northern California, Southern California, and the South Australian Conference.

http://absq.adventist.org/2011/1Q/SE/PDFs/EAQ111_04.pdf

With the promotion of the wrong type of confession through Celebrate Recovery, ARM, and Promise Keepers, it is no surprise that the first quarter 2011 Sabbath School lesson number four included a section entitled "Confess Your Sins to Each Other." In reference to James 5:16, the following was stated:

There is an additional interpretation of James's text, which offers great healing possibilities. Confessing sins, errors, and transgressions to someone you trust brings about emotional healing. Opening up one's own imperfection to a godly Christian friend will help alleviate the burden of sin. In addition, mutual confession deepens interpersonal relationships. Trusting and being trusted provide the bonding that will make a friendship genuine and lasting. In fact, the entire counseling profession is founded upon the principle that talking is good for the soul.... Following James's advice not only will alleviate psychological burden but also bring renewed strength to change destructive behaviors. A word of caution though. Although disclosure of committed sins to a close friend may bring much relief, it makes the person vulnerable. There is always the risk that our friend will reveal the confidence to others, and this is destructive to those involved. Most important, we always can confess our trespasses to the Lord in full confidence and with the assured certainty of forgiveness.

Since it is cautioned that there is vulnerability and risk involved, why mention the confession idea to begin with? Additionally, God's word tells us to be cautious of our words, that most people talk too much.

Proverbs 10:19-21

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

Pamphlet 162 7

Too many words that yield no good fruit are spoken.

New Age movement

New Age; New Light; New Spirituality (old-fashioned sorcery/occultism): According to New Agers, this is the Age of Aquarius (Golden Age) when man is supposed to become aware of his divinity and power. The New Age movement is growing in popularity worldwide, as can be seen by the increase of spiritual retreats, yoga studios, etc. One website that provides classes on self-hypnosis,

relaxation, guided imagery, and “heart breath” gave the reason that these techniques would reduce stress and help you to feel and live better. Please be aware of the following New Age spirituality and healing practices. These are dangerous and should not be practiced.

- Acupuncture/Acupressure:
 - Uses the two opposing forces “Yin” and “Yang” within the concept of energy called “Chi” or “life force,” using 24 channels that flow from head to toe and correspond to the anatomy.
 - Uses “triple warmer” and “circulation” that do not fit into anatomy.
 - Works in some cases.
 - Possibly related to hypnosis.
 - Developed from a spiritualistic culture (ancient Chinese medicine).
- Feng Shui: A Chinese Taoist philosophy and art that teaches about harmonizing the universal flow of the invisible energy force called “chi” into one’s physical surroundings to balance the yin and yang energies (positive and negative effects) and the five elements of earth, water, fire, metal, and wood. It includes positioning objects such as graves, buildings, rooms, and furniture to achieve the maximum harmony and bring good fortune.
- Heart breath: Heart rate variability (HRV) biofeedback training is promoted as a way to teach how to go into deep relaxation by using body-mind awareness techniques. One method is to slow down the breathing and synchronize it as closely as possible with the heart rate, which takes a few weeks to a few months of practice. The reasons given for this technique were that it can help you with stress, depression, insomnia, anxiety, natural birth, high blood pressure, phobias, smoking, jet lag, high altitude climbing, and asthma.
- Homeopathy vs. allopathy: Allopathy, which is a good practice if not overdone, uses herbal remedies that work differently from the symptom of the disease which is being treated. Homeopathy works the opposite from allopathy. Herbal “remedies” are given that have the same effect as the symptom being treated. The dosage is decreased by repeatedly diluting the “remedy” until the “energy” remains. This is a mystical concept. Herbs can be useful in therapy if caution is used, since there are herbs that are toxic. Pharmaceutical drugs should be avoided as much as possible.
- Kinesiology:
 - Reinvented in 1963 by George Goodheart, a chiropractor, by combining his study of massage, acupuncture, acupressure, polarity therapy and Kundalini yoga.
 - Involves the “Chi” life force and is closely related to acupuncture and the “aura.”
 - Used to locate “imbalances” in energy fields.
 - Also uses special equipment for diagnosis.
 - Behavioral kinesiology originated with Dr. John Diamond and is based on Eastern mysticism and the “thymus” (an organ in the chest cavity), which he conceived as the gland that controls the energy of the

meridians and is closely related to the “chakra” theory. He was also influenced by the word “thymos,” meaning consciousness or the spirit.

- Martial arts: Here are some reasons why a true Christian would not be involved in this practice:
 - Originated with Zen Buddhism.
 - A form of Eastern practices, especially the “internal styles” such as Tai Chi and Kung Fu. This is especially dangerous, since evil spirits are being invited in to help.
 - Includes meditation and yoga breathing exercises, which provide a false “inner peace” that may lead to demonic activity.
 - Caters to human pride.
 - Associated with violence.
 - Includes competition.
 - “Christian” karate is used by some to spread hate and intolerance toward those who practice other religions and is justified by using it for “evangelism.”
 - There are plenty of good ways to exercise and learn self-discipline rather than through martial arts.
 - Our self-defense is to come from the Bible and praying for protection from holy angels.
- Pilates: Beware of this method of exercise, since it can mix in New Age ideas practiced in yoga.
- Polarity therapy: Involves ancient Eastern and alternative medicine ideas, with the concept of a human energy field. It uses touch, verbal interaction, and other methods to supposedly restore and balance the natural flow of energy which is claimed to flow from the universe into the body through the chakras (“force centers”). It is practiced by Hindus and others to re-establish “balance.”
- Positive thinking:
 - Similar to visualization, guided imagery (see Visualization below), and other forms of self-hypnosis and self-image psychology.
 - The wrong type of positive thinking also includes “possibility thinking,” “positive confession” or “word-faith,” and “positive mental attitude” which teach that you can do anything through the power within you, that no other power is needed because of your “innate potential.”
 - A positive mental attitude obtained from demonic entities.
 - This fast-growing New Age, Charismatic movement involves the teachings of Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland and others, with the focus on humanistic psychology.
 - The roots of this movement come from the occult and more recently from the Mind Science cults.
 - Linked with the Human Potential Movement (HPM) that developed from the intellectual and social environment of the 1960s and promoted the cultivation of extraordinary potential believed to be in all people. It teaches the potential for experiencing an exceptional quality

of life full of creativity and happiness. (Notice later in the chapter the tendency in the emerging church movement for having fun and being creative.) The HPM promoters believe in helping others to release their potential to bring about positive social change. It is linked with the New Age movement and has its roots in humanistic psychology that belittles religion and stresses psychic and mystical development. The HPM also emphasizes philosophy and literature.

- The Bible tells us that “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). Christians have a positive attitude because they trust in God.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 241

Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul. "A merry [rejoicing] heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22).

Counsels for the Church, p. 329

They think there is such power in themselves to accomplish great works that they realize no necessity of a higher power. Their principles and faith are “after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

- Reflexology:
 - Closely related to acupuncture.
 - Based on energy centers of the palm and sole of the foot.
 - Sometimes the diagnosis is accurate.
 - Rooted in the spiritualistic technique of energy-balancing.
- Reiki: (pronounced ray-key)
 - Means “sacred universal life energy.”
 - Known as palm healing.
 - An ancient form of energy healing in which the practitioner supposedly transfers an increased amount of energy to flow through their palms into the patient by placing their hands on or just above the patient to bring healing of mind, body, and spirit.
 - Divine beings, called astral Reiki guides, sometimes assist in the healing. They lay their hands on the patient’s body alongside the Reiki master. Sometimes the patients can feel the other hands even though they only see one person working on them. The master says a silent prayer for help from the Reiki guides and ends the treatment by silently thanking the guides. This is a form of spiritualism with demon possession.
- Retreat Centers: Still Point Interfaith Retreat Center (in the mountains of upstate New York) is an example of a New Age retreat center. They advertise it as a place for “solitude, silence, spirituality, diversity, community, living in harmony with the Earth and open to all people.” The term “still point” is interrelated to solitude and silence. It is in a location known as the “Buddhist Belt” because of the many meditation centers

operating in that area. These centers are spiritually dangerous to Christians.

- Right Brain Learning: The right hemisphere of the brain is thought to be the center for creative and intuitive thought. Therefore, New Agers have brought such practices as yoga, meditation, and guided imagery training into churches, schools, hospitals, businesses, etc.
- Silva Method: A New Age psychological mind control technique with millions of followers worldwide. One of its goals is to teach the method to all students from grade school through college. It is claimed that after the four-day course the student will develop psychic powers through entering an altered state of consciousness ("out-of-body experience"), be able to invite spirit guides to help with problems, and even tap into the minds of other people whether they are alive or have died. The guides lead them to believe that Satan is Christ. The method uses visualization and guided imagery in order to obtain supernatural knowledge, power, and healing. This is known as "shamanism" or witchcraft.
- Therapeutic Touch/Healing Touch: Based on the occult "chakra" system that supposedly includes seven "energy centers" in the body "aligned with spiritual forces," with the seventh chakra involving the "God-in-all" view.
- Values clarification: The New Age movement teaches that values are subjective; you are your own conscience; there are no absolutes, so if it feels good, do it. The Bible teaches that there are absolute truths and laws.
- Visualization (creative):
 - Also known as "guided imagery," "positive thinking," or "imaging."
 - The releasing of your imagination to a teacher or spirit.
 - Mind control to think out your own reality.
 - Mental concentration and imagining to allow for success; holding mental image of goal.
 - Visualizing images in your mind during meditation of what you want to occur and then expecting it to happen.
 - Demons work through the requests, such as giving advice for becoming a millionaire.
 - Refers to "mind over matter," an attempt to bring about material change by the power of the mind.
 - Used to imagine energy moving freely through the body for good health.
 - Combining imagery with yoga, massage, or aromatherapy is thought to enhance the effects of those therapies.
 - Used in the arts, sports, business, alternative medicine, religious practices, psychotherapy, self-improvement, and the occult.
- Yoga:
 - Involves physical and mental disciplines originating from India that include meditation practices in Buddhism and Hinduism.
 - Includes the New Age occult system of breathing techniques that induces altered states of consciousness.

- A supposed way to become united with the "supreme being" or with the "universal soul."

The following also form a part of the New Age or occult movement: Alchemy, Aromatherapy, Auras, Auricular Therapy, Ayurveda, Bach Flower Remedies, Biofeedback, Black Box, Body/Mind/Spirit Therapy, Chakras, Chinese Traditional Medicine, Color Therapy, Cranial Sacral Therapy, Crystal Therapy, Divinations, Essential Oils, Magnetic Therapy, Ouija Board, Pendulum use, Purification Therapy, Radionics, Royal Rife Machine, Shiatzu, Soma Body Works, Talismans, Vibrational Medicine, Water Witching, Zapping machine, Zone Therapy, etc. Also beware of any technique that balances or increases vibrations or energies. When it comes to holistic or alternative medicine, always evaluate the method first before allowing it to be used on yourself.

Evangelism, pp. 608-609

The mystic voices that spoke at Ekron and Endor are still, by their lying words, misleading the children of men. The prince of darkness has but appeared under a new guise. The heathen oracles of ages long past have their counterpart in the spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants and fortune tellers of today. The mysteries of heathen worship are replaced by the secret associations and seances, the obscurities and wonders, of the sorcerers of our time. And their disclosures are eagerly received by thousands who refuse to accept light from the Word or the Spirit of God. They speak with scorn of the magicians of old, while the great deceiver laughs in triumph as they yield to his arts under a different form.

These Satanic agents claim to cure disease. They attribute their power to electricity, magnetism, or the so-called "sympathetic remedies," while in truth they are but channels for Satan's electric currents. By this means he casts his spell over the bodies and souls of men.

Counsels on Health, p. 454

Not a few in this Christian age and Christian nation resort to evil spirits, rather than trust to the power of the living God. The mother watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims, "I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?" She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hands of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break.

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 301

There are many ways of practicing the healing art; but there is only one way that Heaven approves. God's remedies are the simple agencies of nature, that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of life, and a firm trust in God, are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying; yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate. Fresh air, exercise, pure water, and clean, sweet premises, are within the reach of all, with but

little expense; but drugs are expensive, both in the outlay of means, and the effect produced upon the system.

Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power,--these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge.

Charismatic church services

There is an increase today of the charismatic movement borrowed from Pentecostals. The "holy spirit power" being talked about in most SDA circles comes from feelings, not facts. The following quote describes true Pentecostal energy, not the physical energy, emotions, and feelings displayed today in charismatic services that make one think it is a physical education or dance class instead of a church service.

Gospel Workers (1915), pp. 307-308

The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death. By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway. As we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the pentecostal energy. This will come; for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power.

Some examples of SDA churches practicing charismatic services are listed below.

Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church, Riverside, California

<http://www.mtrubidouxda.org/index.php>

In July of 2010, one church service transpired as follows:

- Organ jazz played in the background as a pastor shouts a very long prayer. Next was thirty minutes of Pentecostal-style contemporary gospel/praise songs accompanied by organ, keyboard, electric guitar, and drums, while bodies swayed and hands were raised.

Regarding the raising of hands during a worship service, notice the following:

1 Timothy 2:8

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

What would "wrath and doubting" have to do with literally raising the hands in a worship service? In commenting on 1 Timothy 2:8, the *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 295 states that the lifting up of holy hands is "figurative of a character void of moral defilement" and that "the hands symbolize deeds."

Psalm 119:48

My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

Why would we literally lift up our hands to the commandments? The verse is obviously written in figurative speech. Those who raise their hands should instead be folding them in prayer and on their knees in repentance for displeasing God.

The clapping of hands is sometimes referred to as “let’s give the Lord a hand” or “put your hands together for the Lord.” The clapping of today actually brings glory to man not to God. A simple “amen” is appropriate. Many use Psalm 47:1 to excuse clapping during a divine service. “O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.” Does that mean we can also shout during divine service? No. Clapping and shouting do not show reverence in God’s house of worship. Additionally, you will not find clapping as a part of worship in Bible times or even in the recent past of the SDA Church. The Spirit of Prophecy refers to clapping during religious services in the following ways: 1) a snare; 2) causes one to be proud and vain; 3) can stimulate like wine; 4) and can injure a person and influence them to leave the church for the world.

The Review and Herald, December 4, 1894

The applause of men is the food that is relished by the perverted appetite of the Christless soul.

In the Bible, drums (timbrels) were not used in the sanctuary services, only in social gatherings. Please note that there is no reference to drums in the New Testament, because of their association to the common and profane.

- During offertory and while children ran down the aisle for the children’s story, more jazz played. Special music offered another contemporary song with applause afterwards.
- The sermon (which lasted an hour and fifteen minutes) started with more organ playing. The pastor paced the floor, used dramatic hand gestures, and spoke in a loud voice. Some humor produced laughing and applause from the congregation. He used only one Bible verse and two Spirit of Prophecy quotes and also suggested that members consult each other about their specific sins in order to overcome the sins. This is not biblical.
- Another long prayer was offered, then more “praise” singing. They sang, prayed, and preached much about having the Holy Spirit, but when a church holds a Pentecostal-style service, it is not reverent or of the right spirit. With truth and error mixed, it leaves the congregation in confusion.

The modern-type gospel music played in some of the SDA charismatic services is excused away because it is a “cultural” custom. However, it is customary in the U.S. to play rock music, as can be heard in just about every store, business, home, computer, and on radio and television stations. Is that an excuse to use it in the churches? No. God’s true Church is to abide by His Word not the customs of the world. Customs might change, but Bible standards never do. God’s Church cannot let itself be controlled by the latest trends.

While thus depending upon God we shall not be found warring against the truth, but we shall always be enabled to take our stand for the right. We should cling to the teaching of the Bible and not follow the customs and traditions of the world, the sayings and doings of men.

The Signs of the Times, October 15, 1894

The fallacies of men have in them no power to sanctify the soul; and the word of God is not to be adulterated with the customs and traditions of the world. "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Leviticus 19:30

Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.

Isaiah 6:1-3

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 491-499

To the humble, believing soul, the house of God on earth is the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the prayer, the words spoken by Christ's representatives, are God's appointed agencies to prepare a people for the church above, for that loftier worship into which there can enter nothing that defileth.

The "song of praise" mentioned by Ellen White is not the same as the modern praise songs of today.

(continued from above quote)

From the sacredness which was attached to the earthly sanctuary, Christians may learn how they should regard the place where the Lord meets with His people. There has been a great change, not for the better, but for the worse, in the habits and customs of the people in reference to religious worship. The precious, the sacred, things which connect us with God are fast losing their hold upon our minds and hearts, and are being brought down to the level of common things. The reverence which the people had anciently for the sanctuary where they met with God in sacred service has largely passed away. Nevertheless, God Himself gave the order of His service, exalting it high above everything of a temporal nature.

If some have to wait a few minutes before the meeting begins, let them maintain a true spirit of devotion by silent meditation, keeping the heart uplifted to God in prayer that the service may be of special benefit to their own hearts and lead to the conviction and conversion of other souls. They should remember that heavenly messengers are in the house. We all lose much sweet communion with God by our restlessness, by not

encouraging moments of reflection and prayer. The spiritual condition needs to be often reviewed and the mind and heart drawn toward the Sun of Righteousness. If when the people come into the house of worship, they have genuine reverence for the Lord and bear in mind that they are in His presence, there will be a sweet eloquence in silence.

When the minister enters, it should be with dignified, solemn mien. He should bow down in silent prayer as soon as he steps into the pulpit, and earnestly ask help of God. What an impression this will make! There will be solemnity and awe upon the people. Their minister is communing with God; he is committing himself to God before he dares to stand before the people. Solemnity rests upon all, and angels of God are brought very near. Every one of the congregation, also, who fears God should with bowed head unite in silent prayer with him that God may grace the meeting with His presence and give power to His truth proclaimed from human lips. When the meeting is opened by prayer, every knee should bow in the presence of the Holy One, and every heart should ascend to God in silent devotion. The prayers of faithful worshipers will be heard, and the ministry of the word will prove effectual....

When the benediction is pronounced, all should still be quiet, as if fearful of losing the peace of Christ. Let all pass out without jostling or loud talking, feeling that they are in the presence of God, that His eye is resting upon them, and that they must act as in His visible presence. Let there be no stopping in the aisles to visit or gossip, thus blocking them up so that others cannot pass out. The precincts of the church should be invested with a sacred reverence. It should not be made a place to meet old friends and visit and introduce common thoughts and worldly business transactions. These should be left outside the church. God and angels have been dishonored by the careless, noisy laughing and shuffling of feet heard in some places.

No wonder our churches are feeble and do not have that deep, earnest piety in their borders that they should have. Our present habits and customs, which dishonor God and bring the sacred and heavenly down to the level of the common, are against us. We have a sacred, testing, sanctifying truth; and if our habits and practices are not in accordance with the truth, we are sinners against great light, and are proportionately guilty. It will be far more tolerable for the heathen in the day of God's retributive justice than for us....

It is too true that reverence for the house of God has become almost extinct. Sacred things and places are not discerned; the holy and exalted are not appreciated. Is there not a cause for the want of fervent piety in our families? Is it not because the high standard of religion is left to trail in the dust? God gave rules of order, perfect and exact, to His ancient people. Has His character changed? Is He not the great and mighty God who rules in the heaven of heavens? Would it not be well for us often to read the directions given by God Himself to the Hebrews, that we who have the light of the glorious truth shining upon us may imitate their reverence for the house of God? We have abundant reason to maintain a fervent, devoted spirit in the worship of God. We have reason even to be more thoughtful and reverential in our worship than had the Jews. But an

enemy has been at work to destroy our faith in the sacredness of Christian worship....

The moral taste of the worshipers in God's holy sanctuary must be elevated, refined, sanctified. This matter has been sadly neglected. Its importance has been overlooked, and as the result, disorder and irreverence have become prevalent, and God has been dishonored....

I am often pained as I enter the house where God is worshiped, to see the untidy dress of both men and women. If the heart and character were indicated by the outward apparel, then certainly nothing could be heavenly about them. They have no true idea of the order, the neatness, and the refined deportment that God requires of all who come into His presence to worship Him. What impressions do these things give to unbelievers and to the youth, who are keen to discern and to draw their conclusions? ...Because of the irreverence in attitude, dress, and deportment, and lack of a worshipful frame of mind, God has often turned His face away from those assembled for His worship.

All should be taught to be neat, clean, and orderly in their dress, but not to indulge in that external adorning which is wholly inappropriate for the sanctuary. There should be no display of the apparel; for this encourages irreverence. The attention of the people is often called to this or that fine article of dress, and thus thoughts are intruded that should have no place in the hearts of the worshipers. God is to be the subject of thought, the object of worship; and anything that attracts the mind from the solemn, sacred service is an offense to Him.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 351

Everything connected with the apparel and deportment of the priests was to be such as to impress the beholder with a sense of the holiness of God, the sacredness of His worship, and the purity required of those who came into His presence.

1 Peter 3:3-4

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 500

When a church has been raised up and left uninstructed on these points, the minister has neglected his duty and will have to give an account to God for the impressions he allowed to prevail. Unless correct ideas of true worship and true reverence are impressed upon the people, there will be a growing tendency to place the sacred and eternal on a level with common things, and those professing the truth will be an offense to God and a disgrace to religion. They can never, with their uncultivated ideas, appreciate a pure and holy heaven, and be prepared to join with the worshipers in the heavenly courts above, where all is purity and

perfection, where every being has perfect reverence for God and His holiness.

My Life Today, p. 286

When the worshippers enter the place of meeting, they should do so with decorum, passing quietly to their seats.... Common talking, whispering, and laughing should not be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. Ardent, active piety should characterize the worshippers.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 274

I saw that the house of God had been desecrated by the carelessness of parents with their children and by the untidiness and uncleanness there. I saw that these things should meet with an open rebuke, and if there was not an immediate change in some that profess the truth in these things they should be put out of the camp.

Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, p. 73

As I returned to Portland, there were evidences of the desolating effects of fanaticism. Some seemed to think that religion consisted in great excitement and noise.

...And Satan loved to have it so. It suited him well to see the truth handled by unsanctified men; to have it mixed with error, and then all together trampled in the dust. He looked with triumph upon the confused, scattered state of God's children.

We trembled for the churches that were to be subjected to this spirit of fanaticism. My heart ached for God's people. Must they be deceived and led away by this false enthusiasm? I faithfully pronounced the warnings given me of the Lord; but they seemed to have little effect....

Evangelism, p. 595

A strong phase of fanaticism appeared, calling itself the witness of the Holy Ghost. I was given a message to rebuke this evil work.--Letter 79, 1905.

Ibid., pp. 507-508

Music forms a part of God's worship in the courts above. We should endeavor in our songs of praise to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs. I have often been pained to hear untrained voices, pitched to the highest key, literally shrieking the sacred words of some hymn of praise. How inappropriate those sharp, rasping voices for the solemn, joyous worship of God. I long to stop my ears, or flee from the place, and I rejoice when the painful exercise is ended.

Those who make singing a part of divine worship should select hymns with music appropriate to the occasion, not funeral notes, but cheerful, yet solemn melodies. The voice can and should be modulated, softened, and subdued.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 492

The melody of song, poured forth from many hearts in clear, distinct utterance, is one of God's instrumentalities in the work of saving souls. All the service should be conducted with solemnity and awe, as if in the visible presence of the Master of assemblies.

Ibid., Vol. 9, p. 143

It is not loud singing that is needed, but clear intonation, correct pronunciation, and distinct utterance. Let all take time to cultivate the voice so that God's praise can be sung in clear, soft tones, not with harshness and shrillness that offend the ear. The ability to sing is the gift of God; let it be used to His glory.

Evangelism, p. 510

Some think that the louder they sing the more music they make; but noise is not music. Good singing is like the music of birds—subdued and melodious.

Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 36-38

The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings.

The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls. A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working....

Those participating in the supposed revival receive impressions which lead them adrift. They cannot tell what they formerly knew regarding Bible principles.

No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship....

I was instructed to say that at these demonstrations demons in the form of men are present, working with all the ingenuity that Satan can employ to make the truth disgusting to sensible people; that the enemy was trying to arrange matters so that the camp meetings, which have been the means of bringing the truth of the third angel's message before multitudes, should lose their force and influence.

The third angel's message is to be given in straight lines. It is to be kept free from every thread of the cheap, miserable inventions of men's theories, prepared by the father of lies, and disguised as was the brilliant

serpent used by Satan as a medium of deceiving our first parents. Thus Satan tries to put his stamp upon the work God would have stand forth in purity.

The Holy Spirit has nothing to do with such a confusion of noise and multitude of sounds as passed before me last January. Satan works amid the din and confusion of such music, which, properly conducted, would be a praise and glory to God. He makes its effect like the poison sting of the serpent.

Those things which have been in the past will be in the future. Satan will make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted.

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 146

I saw that all should sing with the spirit and with the understanding also. God is not pleased with jargon and discord.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 335

Your voice has been heard in church so loud, so harsh, accompanied or set off with your gesticulations [gestures] not the most graceful, that the softer and more silvery strains, more like angel music, could not be heard. You have sung more to men than to God. As your voice has been elevated in loud strains above all the congregation, you have been thoughtful of the admiration you were exciting. You have really had such high ideas of your singing, that you have had some thoughts that you should be remunerated for the exercise of this gift.

The love of praise has been the mainspring of your life. This is a poor motive for a Christian.

Adventist Home, pp. 407-408

They have a keen ear for music, and Satan knows what organs to excite to animate, engross, and charm the mind so that Christ is not desired. The spiritual longings of the soul for divine knowledge, for a growth in grace, are wanting....

The introduction of music into their homes, instead of inciting to holiness and spirituality, has been the means of diverting their minds from the truth. Frivolous songs and the popular sheet music of the day seem congenial to their taste. The instruments of music have taken time which should have been devoted to prayer. Music, when not abused, is a great blessing; but when put to a wrong use, it is a terrible curse. It excites, but does not impart that strength and courage which the Christian can find only at the throne of grace while humbly making known his wants and, with strong cries and tears, pleading for heavenly strength to be fortified against the powerful temptations of the evil one. Satan is leading the young captive. Oh, what can I say to lead them to break his power of infatuation! He is a skillful charmer luring them on to perdition.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 333

Everything that is connected in any way with religious worship should be dignified, solemn, and impressive. God is not pleased when ministers professing to be Christ's representatives so misrepresent Christ as to throw the body into acting attitudes, making undignified and coarse gestures, unrefined, coarse gesticulations. All this amuses, and will excite the curiosity of those who wish to see strange, odd, and exciting things, but these things will not elevate the minds and hearts of those who witness them.

The very same may be said of singing. You assume undignified attitudes. You put in all the power and volume of the voice you can. You drown the finer strains and notes of voices more musical than your own. This bodily exercise and the harsh, loud voice makes no melody to those who hear on earth and those who listen in heaven. This singing is defective and not acceptable to God as perfect, softened, sweet strains of music. There are no such exhibitions among the angels as I have sometimes seen in our meetings. Such harsh notes and gesticulations are not exhibited among the angel choir. Their singing does not grate upon the ear. It is soft and melodious and comes without this great effort I have witnessed. It is not forced and strained, requiring physical exercise.

Messages to Young People, p. 295

Music is the idol which many professed Sabbath-keeping Christians worship. Satan has no objection to music, if he can make that a channel through which to gain access to the minds of the youth. Anything will suit his purpose that will divert the mind from God, and engage the time which should be devoted to His service. He works through the means which will exert the strongest influence to hold the largest numbers in a pleasing infatuation, while they are paralyzed by his power. When turned to good account, music is a blessing, but it is often made one of Satan's most attractive agencies to ensnare souls. When abused, it leads the unconsecrated to pride, vanity, and folly.

S.D.A. Church Manual (2005), p. 180

Great care should be exercised in the choice of music. Any melody partaking of the nature of jazz, rock, or related hybrid forms, or any language expressing foolish or trivial sentiments, will be shunned. Let us use only good music in the home, in the social gathering, in the school, and in the church.

It is interesting that the SDA Church does not even enforce everything that is in the manual.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/2003-1533/story2.html>

Here is an opinion on music from a 2003 *Adventist Review* article by David Pendleton:

God relishes the vast variety of creation and is eager to accept our worship, whether with pipe organs and candles or tambourines and drums; whether in formal settings with coats and ties and King James

English responsive readings, or in informal settings with contemporary drama and aloha shirts. Everything offered up to God in a spirit of genuine worship, authentic praise, and sincere thanksgiving is received with divine favor. The worship of a sincere believer is music to God's ears.

That type of belief system is exactly why God does not accept many of the SDA worship services today. Simply because a believer is sincere does not make him right. A person can be sincerely wrong.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_Christian_music

Paul Wohlegemuth, who wrote the book *Rethinking the Church* said that the "1970s will see a marked acceptance of rock-influenced music in all levels of church music. The rock style will become more familiar to all people, its rhythmic excesses will become refined, and its earlier secular associations will be less remembered."

We have certainly seen this change in the churches, sadly, even in the SDA organization. With the majority of the members having partaken of the devil's music, they are now accepting his religion in the Church or outside the Church, and others have left the organization for no religion at all.

Evangelism, pp. 146-147

We cannot be shepherds of the flock unless we are divested of our own peculiar habits, manners, and customs, and come into Christ's likeness....

The workman for God should make earnest efforts to become a representative of Christ, discarding all uncomely gestures and uncouth speech. He should endeavor to use correct language. There is a large class who are careless in the way they speak; yet by careful, painstaking attention, these may become representatives of the truth. Every day they should make advancement. They should not detract from their usefulness and influence by cherishing defects of manner, tone, or language.

The Voice in Speech and Song, pp. 269-271

The minister of God is not to speak words which will create levity....

All lightness and trifling is positively forbidden in the Word of God. His conversation should be in heaven, his words seasoned with grace.

What can the minister do without Jesus? Verily, nothing. Then if he is a frivolous, joking man, he is not prepared to perform the duty laid upon him by the Lord.... The flippant words that fall from his lips, the trifling anecdotes, the words spoken to create a laugh, are all condemned by the Word of God, and are entirely out of place in the sacred desk.

His language should be correct; no slang phrases, no cheap utterances, should fall from his lips.

Ministers cannot be too guarded, especially before the young. They should use no lightness of speech, jesting or joking, but should remember that they are in Christ's stead, that they must illustrate by example the life of Christ....

Flowery discourses will not be sufficient to feed the soul of the famishing child of God.

Some who stand in the pulpit make the heavenly messengers in the audience ashamed of them. The precious gospel, which it has cost so much to bring to the world, is abused. There is common, cheap talk; grotesque attitudes and workings of the features. There is, with some, rapid talking, with others a thick, indistinct utterance.

The messages of truth are to be kept entirely free from cheap, common words of human devising. Thus forcible impressions will be made upon hearts. Let not our ministers cherish the idea that they must bring forth something new and strange, or that cheap, common expressions will give them influence. Ministers are to be the mouthpiece of God, and they must eradicate from their speech every expression that is cheap or common. Let them be careful lest by attempting during their discourse to cause laughter, they dishonor God.

Our message is a solemn and sacred one, and we must watch unto prayer. The words uttered must be of such a character that through them God can make an impression on heart and mind. Let the ministers of the gospel be sanctified through the truth.

Evangelism, p. 178

Never weary the hearers by long discourses. This is not wise. For many years I have been laboring on this point, seeking to have our brethren sermonize less, and devote their time and strength to making important points of truth plain, for every point will be assailed by our opponents. Everyone connected with the work should keep fresh ideas; ...and by tact and foresight bring all that is possible into your work to interest your hearers.

Gospel Workers (1892), p. 71

Long discourses and tedious prayers are positively injurious to a religious interest, and fail to carry conviction to the consciences of the people. This propensity for speech-making frequently dampens a religious interest that might have produced great results.

The Review and Herald, June 23, 1891

To preach in a hard, strained voice, pitched on a high key, is suicidal, and those who have practiced this way of speaking should cease to do it, and learn of the divine Teacher. Several of our ministers might have been alive today if they had observed the simple rules that apply to the use of the voice. Let loud speaking and long discourses cease from among us.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 15, pp. 349-350

Our ministers have not the physical strength to endure the taxation of the vocal organs in this kind of labor. Our ministers should be guarded in regard to preaching long discourses. It is a great tax upon the speaker and a tax upon the people to digest so much matter. Sermons of one half the length would be of far more value than the long sermons usually preached, which are wearing out the strength of the ministers by exhausting efforts that are not necessary.

Is it any wonder that these types of worship services exist when one pastor enjoys praise dancing and the other excelled in football while in high school?

On the Mt. Rubidoux website under "Creative Arts/Ministries" is information on "liturgical dance." It is stated that the purpose of that ministry exists as a way to minister to God's people in order that souls are saved and lives changed, that they wish to use all the talents God has given, and dancing for the Lord is one talent they want to perfect. In the Bible, dancing is never mentioned as part of divine worship.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 707

Again the long train was in motion, and the music of harp and cornet, trumpet and cymbal, floated heavenward, blended with the melody of many voices. "And David danced before the Lord," in his gladness keeping time to the measure of the song.

David's dancing in reverent joy before God has been cited by pleasure lovers in justification of the fashionable modern dance, but there is no ground for such an argument. In our day dancing is associated with folly and midnight reveling. Health and morals are sacrificed to pleasure. By the frequenters of the ballroom God is not an object of thought and reverence; prayer or the song of praise would be felt to be out of place in their assemblies. This test should be decisive. Amusements that have a tendency to weaken the love for sacred things and lessen our joy in the service of God are not to be sought by Christians. The music and dancing in joyful praise to God at the removal of the ark had not the faintest resemblance to the dissipation of modern dancing. The one tended to the remembrance of God and exalted His holy name. The other is a device of Satan to cause men to forget God and to dishonor Him.

S.D.A. Church Manual (2005), p. 179

Another form of amusement that has an evil influence is social dancing. "The amusement of dancing, as conducted at the present day, is a school of depravity, a fearful curse to society."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 399.

Following is the type of dancing in Scriptures that resembles modern dancing.

Exodus 32:17-19

And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Matthew 14:6

But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

Another "creative art" used by Mt. Rubidoux is the drama ministry. Their purpose is to minister through dramatic and artistic presentations to enhance connections and stimulate thoughts relevant to important issues in the church and community.

Many use the excuse for drama because of what is stated in Ezekiel 5:1-4 and Jeremiah 32:14-15. The Lord was simply asking the prophets to use certain objects to make a point or to do something constructive, not to act out a drama. While Jesus spoke to the multitudes, He pointed to the flowers as an object lesson. He did not start performing a drama.

Ezekiel 5:1-4

And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them. Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts. Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel.

Prophets and Kings, pp. 466-469

Laying fast hold on the promises of God, Jeremiah, by means of an acted parable, illustrated before the inhabitants of the fated city his strong faith in the ultimate fulfillment of God's purpose for His people. In the presence of witnesses, and with careful observance of all necessary legal forms, he purchased for seventeen shekels of silver an ancestral field situated in the neighboring village of Anathoth....

Having signed the deeds of transfer and secured the countersignatures of witnesses, Jeremiah charged Baruch his secretary: "Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land." Jeremiah 32:14, 15.

The Desire of Ages, p. 582

The cursing of the fig tree [by Jesus] was an acted parable.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 8, p. 264

This land is not to be occupied with buildings except to provide the facilities essential for the teachers and students of the school. This is the school farm. This land is to be reserved as an acted parable to the students. They are not to look upon the school land as a common thing, but as a lesson book which the Lord would have them study. Its lessons will impart knowledge in the spiritual culture of the soul.

The most common excuse given is that the youth cannot be reached today unless the churches use more contemporary methods such as drama mimes, puppets, and clowns. Nowhere in God's Word are we instructed that in the end times we must use such disgraceful methods in order to attract people to church. Further in Ezekiel 5:11 we read the result of such methods as follows: "Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity." Ezekiel 5:8 tells us "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations." Of all the denominations on this planet, the SDA Church should know better. It has been given plenty of light and those who do not follow that light will be held accountable.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 607

Many urge that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs they might exert a stronger influence over the ungodly. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the Source of their strength. Becoming the friends of the world, they are the enemies of God.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 463

...church theatricals, church fairs...have banished thoughts of God.

This Day With God, p. 359

Let there be no oddities or eccentricities of movement on the part of those who speak the Word of truth, for such things will weaken the impression that should be made by the Word. We must be guarded, for Satan is determined, if possible, to intermingle with religious services his evil influence. Let there be no theatrical display, for this will not help to strengthen belief in the Word of God. Rather it will divert attention to the human instrument.

Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library, Vol. 1, p. 105

Our success will depend on carrying forward the work in the simplicity in which Christ carried it forward, without any theatrical display.

Evangelism, p. 137

Not one jot or tittle of anything theatrical is to be brought into our work. God's cause is to have a sacred, heavenly mold. Let everything connected with the giving of the message for this time bear the divine impress. Let nothing of a theatrical nature be permitted, for this would spoil the sacredness of the work.

Ibid., p. 396

We are to keep as far from the theatrical and the extraordinary as Christ kept in His work. Sensation is not religion, although religion will exert its own pure, sacred, uplifting, sanctifying influence, bringing spiritual life, and salvation.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 142

The work in the large cities is to be done after Christ's order, not after the order of a theatrical performance. It is not a theatrical performance that glorifies God, but the presentation of the truth in the love of Christ.

S.D.A. Church Manual (2005), p. 179

We earnestly warn against the subtle and sinister influence of the moving-picture theater, which is no place for the Christian. Dramatized films that graphically present by portrayal and by suggestion the sins and crimes of humanity—murder, adultery, robbery, and kindred evils—are in no small degree responsible for the present breakdown of morality. We appeal to parents, children, and youth to shun those places of amusement and those theatrical films that glorify professional acting and actors. If we will find delight in God's great world of nature and in the romance of human agencies and divine workings, we shall not be attracted by the puerile [foolish] portrayals of the theater.

Why is the SDA leadership not enforcing what is written in God's Word or even what is in the SDA Church manual? Yes, many are attracted by theatrical performances and contemporary music, but the Holy Spirit does not work through this type of entertainment that destroys a spiritual atmosphere. Can you honestly imagine the heavenly host worshipping with angel actors, clowns, puppets, mimes, drumming and bodies gyrating? No? Then neither should we. Anyone involved in those types of worship activities on this earth would not be happy in the New Earth.

The Signs of the Times, October 13, 1890

Those who have a careless, clownish manner, either in the family or in society, dishonor their divine Lord. Even ministers have thus misrepresented Christ, when in the pulpit they have made a display of theatrical actions and eccentric manners. This is not of God. Eccentricities are sometimes looked upon as virtues by men, but they do not aid in representing Christ. Careless attitudes and irreverent expressions may serve to please men of unrefined tastes, anecdotes may amuse, but the minister who seeks to cater to such tastes has a meager appreciation of the dignity, simplicity, goodness, and loveliness of the character of the divine Lord.

Some of the SDA schools and churches perform Easter plays or show movies in which actors portray Jesus. If we really stop to think about this, it is actually a form of blasphemy. In the past, no one would dare play such a part, but today it is a common occurrence.

Do we really want to be modern Israel dancing around the "golden calf"? Is the SDA Church becoming one big party? What are we celebrating? We should be "sighing and crying" and repenting for falling so low.

<http://news.vzw.com/news/2008/11/pr2008-11-03.html>

On November 8, 2008, Verizon Wireless named the best American church choir in Atlanta, Georgia during the grand finale of the *How Sweet The Sound(SM)* competition. The best choirs from eleven cities competed for \$45,000 in cash prizes in the finale concert. Two Grammy winners and an

award-winning actress served as judges. The choirs with the most votes were invited to perform at some of the “hottest venues” in the country. Some of the regional winners that competed were as follows:

- Atlanta West Pentecostal Church (Lithia Springs, Georgia)
- Acme Missionary Baptist Church (Chicago, Illinois)
- Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church (Riverside, California)
- New Direction Christian Church (Memphis, Tennessee)
- Grace Baptist Church (Mt. Vernon, New York)
- Jubilee Christian Center (San Jose, California)
- Southern Baptist Church Praise and Worship Center (Washington, D.C.)

The Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church choir performance can be described as “a bedlam of noise” with dancing, hands raised, and hand clapping. It can be viewed at this link:

http://www.howsweetthesound.com/media/video_player/2008/21/2008+overall.

We can be certain that the “bedlam of noise” today is far worse than in the pioneer days.

<http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=1607&print=1>

The information that follows comes from the La Sierra University (LSU) website “News & Events” section for April 2009:

Under the direction of Alan Woodson, an LSU alumnus, the 42-member choir won the Los Angeles regionals and performed as the only SDA choir at Atlanta. The members were comprised of Loma Linda and La Sierra alumni and students. They won the Verizon Wireless gospel music contest in Los Angeles before going on to compete at the nationals in Atlanta. Their song, “The Presence of the Lord is Here,” was described as a “toe-tapping combination that started off with an a cappella classical sound” and transitioned into a “hard-hitting gospel rendition with a five-piece band.” At the start of the song, the audience was brought to their feet. Their show “so inspired the choir’s listeners that a competition judge ran up on stage and sang the ending portion of the song with the group.” It must be stated that the presence of the Lord was definitely not at their contests.

S.D.A. Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 1089

We are to use every spiritual nerve and muscle in the contest for the crown of life. No one who does his best will fail in this contest.

The choir members had “prayed God would help them sing their very best. They left the outcome in His hands. God answered their prayers in ways they could not have anticipated and...had the opportunity to witness about their Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.” Before the Los Angeles competition, one of the judges “started praising God, and praising God and praising God. You could just feel the Holy Spirit rip through the sports arena. This went on for 25 minutes.... The competition turned into a worship service. Our prayers, even before we won, were answered.” The choir prayed that they would “represent the SDA Church well.... One judge quipped he wanted to move to Riverside

and asked what time Sunday services began at the Mt. Rubidoux church. The question allowed the group to witness about its Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.”

The article stated that the choir’s competition brought it “high profile performance opportunities.” Among other events, they performed for an Oscar gala and Knott’s Berry Farm. Woodson explained that gospel music is “very celebratory” and that is one reason why he loves it. He joined the LSU gospel choir in 1986, the same year it won a McDonald’s Gospel Fest and performed at an ABC television sports special and a wedding for two film stars. At Mt. Rubidoux, Woodson also leads a worship team, a children’s choir, youth choir, chorale, six praise teams, a drama department, a praise dance group, etc. Each year he also organizes “Soulful Messiah” concerts with well-known gospel artists and has served for six years as the church’s minister of creative music and arts. The article ends with this statement by Woodson: “I knew it was God’s plan I should be doing this.”

What a shame that those involved in this type of gospel music truly believe it is God’s music and that they are witnesses for Him. The first clue should have been when the judge mistook them for Sunday-keepers. If they do not reform their ways, they will certainly become Sunday worshipers.

Madison Mission SDA Church, Alabama

<http://www.madisonmission.net/index.html>

A typical worship service includes a large group on the podium who spend much time in singing (usually one hour) of contemporary gospel/praise music, with clapping, shouting, raising of hands, facial grimacing, and bodies swaying. Some in the congregation will stand up at different times to sway and raise their hands during the music which plays continually during the preliminaries. You also might see individuals prostrating themselves on the floor. The pastor paces the podium during his sermon, while shouting frequently and using many hand gestures. The service may include a dramatic skit.

Selected Messages, Vol. 3, p. 333

Many have attended the meetings and listened to the words of truth spoken from the pulpit, which have convicted and solemnized their minds; but many times the way the singing has been conducted has not deepened the impression made. The demonstrations and bodily contortions, the unpleasant appearance of the strained, forced effort has appeared so out of place for the house of God, so comical, that the serious impressions made upon the minds have been removed.

In 2000 the church opened its 14,000 square foot facility for its 2,000 worshippers. Thousands attended the five-day opening exercises and celebrated with worship, drama, concerts, sports, and community activities. They are currently constructing a building for youth ministry and education. There are also plans to construct a 4,500 seat worship facility and a food and fellowship court. They are proud about departing from "the beaten path" and believe they have raised up a congregation for such a time as this. It is stated that they rejoice as a community of redeemed people, as a community of faithful soldiers, as a community of wounded healers, as a community of saints blessed because of the Spirit of the Lord. They do not realize that it is the spirit

of Satan, not the Lord. They may soon be involved in such Pentecostal practices as speaking in tongues.

Counsels on Health, p. 225

Never are we to rely upon worldly recognition and rank. Never are we, in the establishment of institutions, to try to compete with worldly institutions in size or splendor. We shall gain the victory, not by erecting massive buildings, in rivalry with our enemies, but by cherishing a Christlike spirit--a spirit of meekness and lowliness. Better far the cross and disappointed hopes, with eternal life at last, than to live with princes and forfeit heaven.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 244

Many of the members of our large churches are doing comparatively nothing. They might accomplish a good work if, instead of crowding together, they would scatter into places that have not yet been entered by the truth. Trees that are planted too thickly do not flourish. They are transplanted by the gardener, that they may have room to grow, and not become dwarfed and sickly. The same rule would work well for our large churches. Many of the members are dying spiritually for want of this very work. They are becoming sickly and inefficient. Transplanted, they would have room to grow strong and vigorous.

In Heavenly Places, p. 299

In large churches of believers...there is special danger of lowering the standard. Where many are gathered together some are more liable to grow careless and indifferent than they would be if isolated and made to stand alone.

Selected Messages, Book 2, pp. 34-36

There was much excitement, with noise and confusion. One could not tell what was piped or what was harped.... Others were jumping, dancing, and shouting.... This they repeated again and again. I bore my testimony in the name of the Lord, placing His rebuke upon these manifestations....

There is nothing in these demonstrations which will convince the world that we have the truth. Mere noise and shouting are no evidence of sanctification, or of the descent of the Holy Spirit....

The Lord desires to have in His service order and discipline, not excitement and confusion.... Excitement is not favorable to growth in grace, to true purity and sanctification of the spirit.

God calls upon His people to walk with sobriety and holy consistency. They should be very careful not to misrepresent and dishonor the holy doctrines of truth by strange performances, by confusion and tumult.... When believers speak the truth as it is in Jesus, they reveal a holy, sensible calm, not a storm of confusion.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, pp. 505-506

Eternal things have little weight with the youth. Angels of God are in tears as they write in the roll the words and acts of professed Christians. Angels are hovering around yonder dwelling. The young are there

assembled; there is the sound of vocal and instrumental music. Christians are gathered there, but what is that you hear? It is a song, a frivolous ditty, fit for the dance hall. Behold the pure angels gather their light closer around them, and darkness envelops those in that dwelling. The angels are moving from the scene. Sadness is upon their countenances. Behold, they are weeping. This I saw repeated a number of times all through the ranks of Sabbathkeepers, and especially in -----.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 332

It is not safe for the Lord's workers to take part in worldly entertainments. Association with worldliness in musical lines is looked upon as harmless by some Sabbathkeepers. But such ones are on dangerous ground. Thus Satan seeks to lead men and women astray, and thus he has gained control of souls. So smooth, so plausible is the working of the enemy that his wiles are not suspected, and many church members become lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.-- Manuscript 82, 1900.

The Faith I Live By, p. 242

Musical talent too often fosters pride and ambition for display, and singers have but little thought of the worship of God.

Evangelism, pp. 510-512

There is nothing more offensive in God's sight than a display of instrumental music when those taking part are not consecrated, are not making melody in their hearts to the Lord....

Their heart is gone "after their idols."

Creeping Compromise, Joe Crews, Homeward Publishing, Yorba Linda, CA, 2008, pp. 89-91

By operating through the thalamus, Satan bypasses the mental and spiritual barricades of intelligent reason, and enters the citadel of the mind—the great control center of all human decisions and action. There, in the mind, Satan has the equipment to translate sensual musical impressions into physical action. Through the telegraphic network of nerves reaching every part of the body, he can communicate the appropriate commands to act in accordance with the emotional stimuli of the music.

...there are some broken-meter, harmonic dissonances in the melodic line which are completely out of harmony with natural body rhythms. Such is the typical, insistent tempo of rock-and-roll music.

He [Satan] has been delighted to manipulate the lives of unconverted young people through rock music, but he is even more delighted when he can intrude his mind-bending, hypnotic music into the church. By his age-old program of gradualism, he has managed to break down the fine sense of discrimination.... Any mingling of spiritual and carnal brings a reproach upon the people who are chosen to proclaim God's last warning message.

The Holy Spirit also works gradually with individuals, but He uses truth. When the devil works gradually with individuals, he uses truth and error.

As an introduction to the following quotes, the author spent over 16 years as a professional rock and roll musician in Europe and Africa. After his return to the Lord, he did extensive research on music and its effects.

From Rock 'N Roll to Rock of Ages, Brian S. Neumann, Southern Africa, 1997, p. 56

Take a look at this recent statistic that was printed in the Sunday Times, 30th March, 1997 under the heading, "RHYTHM AND BLUES."

p. 61: Musicians are more twitchy than violin strings, says a report from the British Performing Arts Trust. It found that two out of three musicians suffered rapid heart beat, sweating hands, muscle tension, trembling, shaking, loss of concentration and breathing problems. They are also anxious, depressed and suffer from joint pain, deafness and 'disobedient fingers.' One in five are on permanent medication.

p. 67: *Rolling Stone Magazine*, rock's foremost magazine, proudly noted in its 20th anniversary TV special: It's not just an exaggeration to say that rebellion is more than just an occasional theme in rock, it is its very heart and soul....

p. 75: From here [1950s] on the world embraced the key element of jazz and blues, the beat. On this rhythmic foundation was built the skyscraper of all our modern popular forms of music.

Nothing would ever be the same again....

It is interesting that it was in the 1950s that the SDA organization made its fatal mistake with the publication of the book Questions on Doctrine.

In his book, Brian Neumann also discusses the following facts on well-known rock and roll musicians:

Little Richard stated that this kind of music is demonic, taken from the Voodoo drums, drives people from Christ, and is contagious. Elvis Presley was addicted to drugs and was involved in the occult, as are many in this industry, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and many other musicians today. David Bowie stated that "rock 'n roll" is dangerous, will bring about the "dark era," and has always been the devil's music.

Ibid., p. 91

Read any well researched book about the history and origins of the rock 'n roll beat with its syncopated rhythm, that places the accent on the offbeat in the 4/4 time (march beat), and they will all tell you that the roots of this rhythmical style are derived from the beat of the ritual Voodoo dance's of Africa. The key to its effectiveness lies in constant repetition, which research has shown has a hypnotic effect on those who are exposed to it for extended periods.

p. 92: What about rap, techno, house music and some of the so called newer modes of pop; do their styles of rhythm fall into the same category as the traditionally accepted Rock 'n Roll beat? My categorical reply would be, most definitely, yes!

The music today that most closely resembles the Voodoo ritual dance music is rap and some of its hybrid forms.... The music becomes the hypnotic tool and once under its spell, the mind is left wide open to receive the messages that demons want to implant in their subconscious.

p. 93: Whether we like it or not, the ingredients that make a Voodoo ritual ceremony such as Satanic success are the very same ones that keep the churches of dance and vice so rich and thriving today. No true child of God will be found in their association.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/voodoo>

Voodoo: A religion practiced chiefly in Caribbean countries, especially Haiti, syncretized from Roman Catholic ritual elements and the animism and magic of slaves from West Africa.... To place under the influence of a spell or curse; bewitch.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

What about the lyrics of "Christian rock"? Are those all right? According to Neumann, one song, as an example, contains a "garble of mumblings" in the bridge section of the song.

1 Corinthians 14:9

So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

The lyrics of most modern praise music today lack spiritual depth and are nothing but vain repetition. Often the singers can be seen swaying back and forth to the music, grimacing and using much hand movement. This tends to bring attention to the person rather than to God. Additionally, most vocalists today are trained to sing in a "bar room" style of voice with a breathy sound rather than the soft, low tone of the past. Christian rock music is not sacred and certainly not Christian. In fact, it is worse than secular music because it blasphemes God. Putting Christian words to demonic music does not make it alright.

You may be wondering what type of music is good. Neumann gives some steps which you may wish to follow.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Then you will "discern whether the music you are listening to has a spiritually uplifting effect, or whether it has a rebellious or even depressive effect," even in classical music. "Our music should sound as pure and heavenly as possible."
- If the music contains lyrics, be sure they are biblically sound and do not "insinuate a false spiritual message."
- The vocalist and musician should be focused on Christ not self.

The Signs of the Times, January 16, 1879

Satan had led the heavenly choir. He had raised the first note, then all the angelic host united with him, and glorious strains of music had resounded through Heaven. But now, instead of strains of sweetest music, discord and angry words fall upon the ear of the great rebel leader.

Since Satan was once the music director in heaven, it is logical to conclude that music would be an area where his deceptive skills would be honed to a very sophisticated level. It is also reasonable to conclude that his influence and skills would not be limited to composers of “worship” music. Many composers have written music for special events, ranging from a celebration of the end of a war (Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*) to the Olympic Games (John Williams' theme music). Since many composers have explored the gamut of real and imaginary life in their music, it is difficult to say that a composers' work is all good or all evil. For example, Mendelssohn wrote *A Midsummer Night's Dream* about the love affair between a woman and a half man, half donkey, as well as the glorious oratorio, *Elijah*.

Carelessness in the selection of our music can provide Satan with a powerful tool into our brain and soul. We cannot assume that a piece is good just because it is classical. (Contrast the gloriously reverent style of Handel's *Messiah* with Ramirez' setting of parts of the mass to dance tunes, called *Misa Criolla*. The Andrews University Singers use excerpts from both in their CD titled, “Let the People Praise!”).

Discerning appropriate music will also involve the following questions and research:

- Why was this composition written? What was the original purpose? For example, *The SDA Hymnal* includes national anthems and folk tunes. Does the fact that the compilers included them necessarily make them appropriate to sing as we worship God?
- What type of person was the composer? Was he someone whose life lent itself to inspiration from God or from the evil one?
- What is the theme or focus of the music? Does it bring glory to God? If the music has words, discernment may be simpler.
- What type of rhythm does it have? Music in 2/4 and 4/4 time (march rhythm) tends to be straightforward and positive, like our heartbeat. Music in 3/4, 3/8, 6/8, etc., tends to be dance or waltz-like. A good deal of modern music has been written in odd or unusual time signatures (syncopated), such as 5/7, which are alien to the body's innate rhythm.
- What effect does it have on me? Examples include: Does it lift my spirits or depress me? Does it remind me of heavenly things or make me want to dance? Is it soothing or irritating? Does it make me want to get work done or make me lazy? Is it educational or vain repetition?

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 594

Music forms a part of God's worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor, in our songs of praise, to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs.

On p. 137 of his book, Neumann commends Kenneth Wood, a past editor of the *Review and Herald*, for his article written on January 20, 1972, entitled "Take these things hence."

Christian parents and church leaders do young people a gross disservice when they blur the distinction between acceptable and non acceptable music, and condone a low quality of music and performance within the context of the church, 'to keep the young people in the church.' What a heavy responsibility they will carry for permitting their youth to enjoy sin without guilt.

Neumann concludes with the following appeal on p. 139:

No Christian should be led to believe that in order to reach the world with music, it is necessary to play its music. Music does not convert people, it is the power of God's Spirit that convicts and converts the soul. It is the Christians duty to always present the higher standard. Do not, for one moment, think that you can assist the Holy Spirit in His work by mixing the sacred with the profane. The ground which you will be treading on will be dangerous ground, fraught with evils that you will not be able to control. Our command is to be separate, a royal priesthood, presenting the pure to a world lost in sin.

As the style of music worsened, the music that came before was not so bad. The wrong type of music—from waltzes to rock, rap, etc.—crept in gradually to ensnare even church members and to destroy their taste for heavenly music.

Bellfort SDA Church, Houston, Texas

<http://www.bellfortsda.org>

In 2009 during Sabbath worship, Pastor Joe Grider was shown in photos wearing a robe decorated with what resembles Maltese or Iron crosses. The Maltese cross is the symbol of the Knights of Malta, an order of "Christian" warriors, which originated from the Order of Malta. The Order of Malta is a Masonic Order, closely associated with the Masonic Knights Templar, which is affiliated with Freemasonry, a secret society that is condemned by God. Iron crosses have represented the military, especially in Germany where it was made popular by Adolf Hitler in World War II. Why would an SDA pastor represent himself in such attire? We are not suggesting that Grider is associated with a secret society or fascism. However, the wearing of robes by SDA charismatic pastors during worship services is becoming common practice. One reason given by a pastor's wife was that her husband would sweat too much and it ruined his suits. Is it just a coincidence that these robes,

which resemble Catholic priests' attire, are coming in at the same time as the emerging church movement?

Activities in this church included an International Day Celebration, another practice becoming popular. Drama was also included as part of the church routine.

Celebration Center SDA Church, Redlands, California

<http://www.celebrationcenter.net>

Andy McRae is the current pastor. Besides the usual worship services with Christian rock, hand raising and drama, they also promote the 12 step Celebrate Recovery program.

http://celebrationcenter.net/index.php?nid=146550&s=gl&media_id=434034&showMedia=v

On October 30, 2010, Pastor McRae officiated in a communion service with a dimly lit room and dramatic lighting on the platform. The communion table included lit candles. Part of the communion sermon included a thanksgiving prayer, a practice performed in Orthodox churches. McRae then stated in prayer in reference to the communion emblems: "These gifts of bread and wine, make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ." An emblem is a representation that functions as a symbol. John 6:53 states, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." "Eating Christ's flesh" and "drinking His blood" is symbolic for taking in God's Word, depending on it for spiritual food and drink, just as we depend on food and drink for physical life. If that verse was literal, then all those who do not partake in communion would not be alive, since the verse states that unless you partake, "ye have no life in you." The church members also came forward to receive the emblems, which is a standard procedure for receiving the Eucharist during Catholic mass.

When Steve Daily previously pastored this church, the Events section featured an announcement about the Celebration Center hosting the Great Awakening Tour (April 17-24, 2009) with evangelist Eric Gonyon. It was advertised as a "radical campaign to REACH a radical generation" with the "life-changing message" of Christ. It was also stated that in almost two years almost 25,000 individuals were trained on how to reach communities with the gospel and that over 712,000 people made decisions for Christ. While the revival team is on the road, Eric Gonyon is the administrative assistant to Rodney Howard-Browne. You can find much of his tour activities at <http://www.youtube.com>. He can be seen doing "faith healings" and together with Kenneth Copeland as they are both involved in speaking in tongues and holy laughter. Under the "Kingdom Adventism" section below, notice what Pastor Daily says regarding "holy laughter."

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 414

Some of these have much to say upon the gifts and are often especially exercised. They give themselves up to wild, excitable feelings and make unintelligible sounds which they call the gift of tongues, and a certain class seem to be charmed with these strange manifestations. A strange spirit rules with this class, which would bear down and run over anyone

who would reprove them. God's Spirit is not in the work and does not attend such workmen. They have another spirit.

<http://www.revival.com/revival.xhtml>

This website shows the Great Awakening Tour statistics. As of August 2010, the "tour soul count" was at about 1,166,000 and the "global soul count" at about 4,436,000.

One of the beliefs of Revival Ministries International (a part of The Great Awakening) is that the love of Christ should be the primary message of the Christian church and should take precedence over all theological or denominational differences. This is the same emphasis on ecumenism that is being seen more and more even in the SDA Church. Yes, the love of Christ is primary but there is more to the gospel than that. It is only part of the "picture."

This website includes photos of a Great Awakening Tour in Argentina in November 2010. It shows not only individuals with their hands raised but some lying on the floor who have been "slain in the spirit." It is obviously not the Holy Spirit, but demon possession. This is the direction SDAs are headed if they continue with celebration services. These methods are being directed by Satan himself to prepare fundamental Christians to accept him when he impersonates Christ.

<http://www.revival.com/day-2-pm-service-in-salta-argentina.2865.1.htm>

The following website shows that the Celebration Center SDA Church is listed with the Southeastern California Conference of SDAs.

<http://www.adventistdirectory.org/searchresults.aspx?&Search=Celebration%20Center%20SDA%20Church&EntityType=C&SortBy=0>

Kingdom Adventism

<http://kingdomadventism.com>

2009 and 2010: Steve Daily is currently the senior pastor of the Kingdom Life Fellowship in Redlands, California. While Kingdom Life Fellowship is not part of the SDA organization, it is described below to show the progression that takes place with Daily moving from university chaplain and faculty member at La Sierra University to the Celebration Center SDA Church (with the Southeastern California Conference of SDAs) to the Kingdom Life Fellowship. He states that his "kingdom congregation" is committed to help bring renewal to the SDA Church. His "church" includes a membership of interdenominational Christians not associated with the SDA Church. They emphasize "expressive worship," the gifts of the Spirit, and an openness to other churches. He has ministered in the SDA Church for over 30 years as a pastor, licensed psychologist, author, university chaplain and a faculty member at La Sierra University. He has called for a more open Adventism that moves beyond sectarian claims of being the "remnant church" to embrace other Christians in a Christ-centered and Spirit-filled kingdom mentality. Daily received his BA plus an MA in History at Loma Linda University, an M.Div. from Andrews University, a D.Min. from Claremont School of Theology, and a Ph.D. in psychology from Alliant University. He wrote the book *Adventism for a New Generation* as well as other books and has shared his beliefs in more than 40 countries.

Daily calls himself a "Kingdom Adventist." He believes that denominationalism is divisive and has taken a toll on the "Body of Christ" and he minimizes creeds

and loyalties. He believes Ellen White did not "have it all right," that she has "devotionally blessed us" but that she must be tested by the Bible.

Counsels for the Church, pp. 93-94

It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies....

The gifts are next questioned; then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction. By giving place to doubts and unbelief in regard to the work of God, and by cherishing feelings of distrust and cruel jealousies, they are preparing themselves for complete deception. They rise up with bitter feelings against the ones who dare to speak of their errors and reprove their sins....

If you lose confidence in the Testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning?

Daily also stated that through the "radical grace" of God we will know that all our past, present, and future sins have been forgiven. His ministry includes "prophecy," "delivering those who are demon-oppressed or possessed," and is open to the "gifts of the Spirit" including "tongues" with emphasis on the discernment of these gifts. Sadly, this pastor is trying to deliver others from demon-possession when he is inviting demons himself. He also believes in the type of "tongues" known as "glossolalia," which is unintelligible gibberish or a meaningless jumble of sounds or writing. How does this benefit anyone? "Xenoglossy" or "xenoglossia" is the type of "speaking in tongues" through the Holy Spirit, in which a person is suddenly able to speak or write a foreign language which they never learned. This enables a person, when necessary, to share the gospel to those of a different language.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 39

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." [Acts 2:3-4] The Holy Spirit, assuming the form of tongues of fire, rested upon those assembled. This was an emblem of the gift then bestowed on the disciples, which enabled them to speak with fluency languages with which they had heretofore been unacquainted.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 412

Fanaticism, false excitement, false talking in tongues, and noisy exercises have been considered gifts which God has placed in the church. Some have been deceived here. The fruits of all this have not been good. "Ye shall know them by their fruits." Fanaticism and noise have been

considered special evidences of faith. Some are not satisfied with a meeting unless they have a powerful and happy time. They work for this and get up an excitement of feeling. But the influence of such meetings is not beneficial. When the happy flight of feeling is gone they sink lower than before the meeting because their happiness did not come from the right source.

The most profitable meetings for spiritual advancement are those which are characterized with solemnity and deep searching of heart, each seeking to know himself and, earnestly and in deep humility, seeking to learn of Christ.

After the Great Awakening Tour, Daily stated that he was “totally impressed with Rodney Howard-Browne and his church,” because of his “truly mind-boggling” level of anointing. While sitting next to him at the minister’s luncheon, he was told about a “powerful prophetic word” for the Celebration Center and the SDA Church. Following is what Daily recalled as best he could: That God is pleased with his interdenominational spirit as His servant and that God is going to use him to “raise up an army in his church and in the Adventist denomination” that will give the true gospel and “release His Holy Spirit with fire,” resulting in many souls for years to come. Howard-Browne had Daily give his testimony before television cameras of “what God had done” in his church and community through the Great Awakening Tour. When Howard-Browne prayed over him, Daily states that he “felt a powerful move of God” that allowed him “to experience holy laughter to the greatest degree” at this point. He stated that because he is of Northern European descent that he is not one who “manifests easily” because he suffers from “emotional constipation.” However, he believes that “move of God was powerful” and it will “release” him into a “greater boldness” in his “street ministry.” This information resembles a false latter rain and shows how close we are to the final events of earth’s history. How sad that he is setting himself up to very easily become a Sunday-keeper, unless he repents.

Daily has written about 15 books, including *Adventism for a New Generation*. The foreword to the book was written by Tony Campolo (a non-SDA who is a forerunner in the evangelical emerging church movement). He states that “it is the best book” he has read that explains Adventism. Lynn Mallery (former President of Southeastern California Conference of SDAs) says that Daily’s book addresses the concerns of how to meet the needs of the younger generations. Yet Daily’s methods and beliefs will take the youth further from Christ at the peril of their salvation. Randal Wisbey (president of La Sierra University) finds Daily’s “application of SDA theology” of current issues “extremely helpful and insightful” and that he writes with the “eyes of a prophet.” It is also recommended by Desmond Ford (“new theology” advocate), William Loveless (former pastor of Loma Linda University Church and founder of the Adventist Student Mission program), Gary Swanson (Editor, *Collegiate Quarterly*), V. Baily Gillespie (coordinator for Valuegenesis Research Project), as well as Don Hawley (a former SDA who wrote a book against Ellen White and a former employee for the SDA General Conference Health Department).

Some of Daily’s beliefs as stated in his book include the following: It is not essential for us “in general” to agree about “what is right or wrong concerning homosexuality”; after dating for quite some time, couples should discuss “their

convictions and sexual boundaries" and that "sexual exploration and experimentation before marriage should respect these boundaries", that they should enjoy themselves "in a guilt-free balance within those boundaries"; that the "belief that fallen human beings can perfectly keep God's law is also declared to be a lie in Scripture"; and that we have no right to make ourselves "moral policemen for other Christians."

On the subject of homosexuality, even though the SDA Church officially does not approve of it or same-sex marriage, SDA churches fall far short of disfellowshipping those who practice or promote it, especially if they are in leadership positions. Some are even baptized while practicing this sin.

It is obvious from the Bible that homosexuality is a sin and that God did not create us that way. It is not in the genes. That is an excuse made to condone the practice. God created man and woman (Adam and Eve) and told them to be fruitful and multiply. Satan has counterfeited true marriage. If homosexuals do not believe in the Bible, it is hard for them to believe that being a homosexual is a sin. However, it is something they chose and can only be overcome through the power of God when they repent and ask for help, just as with any other sin. Environmental influences play a large role in homosexual orientation, but a relationship with Christ can keep a person from giving in to those tendencies.

Each person is of value to God and He wants all to repent and follow Him. It is our Christian duty to encourage others to overcome sin. However, if they do not accept our help, we must move on to those who do. The verses below show us what God's Word teaches about this type of relationship.

Leviticus 18:22

Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Leviticus 20:13

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Jesus states the following to show God's ideal for marriage (one male and one female):

Mark 10:6-8

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

Romans 1:26-27

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is

unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Effeminate>

Effeminate:(of a man or boy) displaying characteristics regarded as typical of a woman; not manly.

The following verses give sinners hope when they repent and ask for help.

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

John 8:31-32

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Following are descriptions of some of the graphics that have been on Daily's website:

- The congregation with most raising their hands during the service and in very casual dress, including faded jeans, shorts, or flip-flops.

Child Guidance, p. 531

Many need instruction as to how they should appear in the assembly for worship on the Sabbath. They are not to enter the presence of God in the common clothing worn during the week.... While we should not conform to worldly fashions, we are not to be indifferent in regard to our outward appearance. We are to be neat and trim, though without adornment. The children of God should be pure within and without.

- A worship music team with drums, etc.

- Worshipping with flags.
- A performing dance ministry, including teen dancers.
- Prayer for "deliverance" and a laying on of hands for a person lying on the floor.
- Children stand with raised hands and lead out with flags and dance.
- A large group on the platform rebukes the "religious spirit" with lots of drama.
- A couple participates in a "miracle meal" (a new form of communion) while standing, facing each other, holding hands and each holding a large cup of drink.
- A beach baptism with Daily and a bikini-clad girl in the water.

Daily includes a link to his daughter's church where she is the pastor at Lone Tree Community Church (Lone Tree, Colorado), which worships similarly to his church.

Daily and his daughter are just two more deceived into ecumenism and the charismatic movement. One page on Daily's website had the following title. "Photos from The Kingdom: Our Role in the Latter Rain." The latter rain will never fall on those who promote the devil's tactics.

Kingdom Life Fellowship, Redlands, California

<http://www.kingdomlifefellowship.net/index.html>

Steve Daily, the senior pastor, stated that he is on "spiritual overload" from all that "God is doing." He shares how he spent a "powerful weekend" at his daughter's church to preach and saw God's Spirit working powerfully with her kingdom congregation. There were at least 17 groups around the country in just two weeks who showed an interest in working with his church and Kingdom Adventism. He also shared that the Lord gave him a new topic for Easter weekend entitled "Holy Levitation!" and encouraged his members to "celebrate Resurrection weekend with a bang!" (written March 2010).

The website also strongly emphasizes "small groups and weekly fellowship," which uses contemplative prayer practices, etc.

Kingdom Kids: According to the "children's pastors," children are nurtured in a safe environment through prayer, relationships and worship through song/dance, creative arts, and "other expressions of the heart." They explained that through "uninhibited worship" they discover what it means in the Bible to be "at rest"—a place "where God can work His power" through them "in healing, deliverance, and miracles."

Yes, God can work through people in healing, deliverance, and miracles but not when they are involved with those things not taught in God's Word.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_Adventism#cite_note-108

It is interesting to note that Wikipedia states how Adventist churches with "charismatic leanings have been controversial," and that some have left the denomination. One author states that the first celebration churches in the early 1980s were the New Life Celebration church in the Portland, Oregon area; the Celebration Center in Colton, California; the Hillview Church near Avondale

College in Australia; the Buffalo Church in the New York Conference; and the Cherrybrook church in Sydney—the first in Australia.

Many today believe that the following Spirit of Prophecy quote gives us license to have loud and entertaining worship services and parties.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 371

Shall we not keep holy festivals unto God? Shall we not show that we have some enthusiasm in His service? With the grand, ennobling theme of salvation before us, shall we be as cold as statues of marble? If men can become so excited over a match game of cricket, or a horse race, or over foolish things that bring no good to anyone, shall we be unmoved when the plan of salvation is unfolded before us? Let the school and the church henceforth have festivals of rejoicing unto the Lord.

However, please notice that in the following paragraph that precedes this, it is referring to the joy of having the Holy Spirit—and not in a charismatic way.

Ibid., p. 370

Again and again the heavenly Messenger has been sent to the school. When His presence has been acknowledged, the darkness has fled away, the light has shone forth, and hearts have been drawn to God. The last words spoken by Christ to John were: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17. When we respond to God and say, "Lord, we come," then with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation.

If you read other Spirit of Prophecy statements on this subject, you will realize that it does not approve of today's types of festivals. We are to have holy joy and enthusiasm, through the Holy Spirit, in the work of the Lord. When we have the true Holy Spirit in us, the worship services will be interesting without entertainment. That is how heaven worships.

Southeast SDA Church, Cleveland, Ohio

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYspnYhZsQI>

This video featured a 2010 "Preachout" with very charismatic preaching by several SDA pastors. It seemed the louder they preached and the more they moved, the more attention they received. It is so far away from the reverence of true preaching and something devils appreciate and heaven abhors. If it is not repented of, then "holy laughter," "speaking in tongues," and "healings" will follow.

Evangelism, p. 184

The Lord calls upon you to make decided improvement in your manner of presenting the truth. You need not be sensational. Preach the Word, as Christ, the Son of God, preached the Word. Violent gesticulations detract greatly from the impressions the truth would make upon human hearts, and lessen the force of the demonstrations of the Spirit of God. They efface the solemn impressions regarding God's Word that holy angels desire shall be made upon minds.

Ibid., p. 640

I see that great reformation must take place in the ministry before it shall be what God would have it. Ministers in the desk have no license to behave like theatrical performers, assuming attitudes and expressions calculated for effect. They do not occupy the sacred desk as actors, but as teachers of solemn truths. There are also fanatical ministers, who, in attempting to preach Christ, storm, halloo [shout], jump up and down, and pound the desk before them, as if this bodily exercise profited anything. Such antics lend no force to the truths uttered, but, on the contrary, disgust men and women of calm judgment and elevated views....

Awkward and uncouth gestures are not to be tolerated in the common walks of life; how much less, then, are they to be endured in the most sacred work of the gospel ministry. The minister should cultivate grace, courtesy, and refinement of manner. He should carry himself with a quiet dignity becoming his elevated calling. Solemnity, a certain godly authority, mingled with meekness, should characterize the demeanor of him who is a teacher of God's truth.

Why do people need a church service that entertains? Because they have grown up with entertainment in their home. A love for amusement destroys a love for truth.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 437

When faith lays hold upon Christ, the truth will bring delight to the soul, and the services of religion will not be dull and uninteresting.

Metropolitan SDA Church, Hyattsville, Maryland

<http://www.metrodda.org/home.html>

This 900-member church, with Brenda Billings as the senior pastor, is not only charismatic but a good example of ecumenism.

http://www.ttembassy.org/Invitation_to_Inter-Faith_Service.pdf

This link announced an interfaith service held at their church on a Sunday morning to celebrate the 48th anniversary of independence with the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Pastor Billings delivered the homily.

Ministries for the over 200 young people include the following:

- Each year the church Cavaliers play in an SDA Church basketball league, with “playoffs and a championship game for each age group.” What a shame that they include children as young as six years old. Of course they could not go without mentioning that their “adult team was league champion for the 2004-05 season.” They even mention that the games provide a chance for their young people “to engage in fun, competitive activity” as well as fellowship. It is then stated that once you attend one of their games, you will be sure to be “hooked and keep coming back for more!” Games take place at various county public school gyms. Yes, the devil is very good at hooking the unwary.

- In the last few years for Children's Sabbath, the Children Ministries and the Education Department collaborated to "host this special day, including an oratorical contest for elementary and high school students."
- Puppets for Christ is one of their newest ministries, in which "the puppets present a story on the second Sabbath of each month" and is a "favorite with Metropolitan's children." This ministry's goal is to teach children "important moral and spiritual values, through the puppets' often humorous exploits and antics." The puppets were to be featured in a series of DVDs to be shared with members of their church as well as for "an evangelistic tool to reach non-members." They explained that if a church member loves children and is interested in acting or scriptwriting, but does not like "being in the spotlight" that the puppet ministry "might be just the thing for you."

Their Metro Praiz choir was advertised as a "rollicking, hand-clapping, foot-stomping gospel choir" that uses a "contemporary musical alternative," incorporating "style, professionalism and pizzazz within a deeply spiritual framework to create a consistently moving worship experience." True Christians find it hard to understand how that type of "music" can have a "deeply spiritual framework." In line with the usual rhetoric, it was mentioned that they have performed with many artists in the Washington Metropolitan area and that they represented the Allegheny East Conference of SDAs by achieving 3rd place in the competition at the BAYDA Youth Congress held in 2001 in Indiana. They ended by saying that "all the honor and glory belong to God," in spite of their mentioning that the director did an outstanding job and that he was "proud of their performance."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwN4FqXzQgw>;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lodZn7Vx37A>

Purpose Driven movement

This movement began with the teaching of Rick Warren, an evangelical and a Southern Baptist senior pastor of the megachurch called Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. The movement originally began as a paradigm taught to pastors worldwide to help them be more effective leaders. Details are included in his 1995 book, *The Purpose Driven Church*. In 2002 he wrote *The Purpose Driven Life* as a 40-day devotional book. Both books are international best-sellers with millions of copies in print and have been shared worldwide in churches, conferences, seminars, etc. Warren has also authored many other "Christian" books. He is also the major "catalyst" for the emerging church movement and heavily endorses contemplative prayer. He promotes other emerging church leaders such as Bill Hybels (pastor and founder in 1975 of the non-denominational megachurch Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, Illinois); Leonard Sweet (Methodist preacher into mystic beliefs); and Brian McLaren (influential evangelical pastor and author, on the board of Emergent Village, and founding pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in Maryland).

Warren's two Purpose Driven books minimize doctrine (the true gospel) and stress entertainment and the "something for everyone" approach. In *The Purpose Driven Church* book, Warren states: "Are there unrepentant pagans

mixed into Saddleback's crowd of 10,000? Without a doubt...that's okay. Jesus said...Don't worry about the tares...." Incredibly, that same mindset is found in the SDA Church.

Many SDAs have gone to Saddleback and Willow Creek churches to learn their programs. The *Adventist Review* for December 18, 1997 featured an article by Andy Nash that recommended visiting Willow Creek. The church has three weekend services with about 23,000 attendees and is the first-largest church in the U.S. It is interesting that Nash stated in the *Adventist Review* article that he was grateful for Willow Creek, because it prompted his former academy church, Forest Lake (Florida) to get "intentional about worship" and that his SDA relatives and friends now "recognized their natural abilities," including drama. At the beginning of 2011, the following SDA churches were listed as belonging to the Willow Creek Association.

<http://www.willowcreek.com/membership/profilesearch.asp>

- California: Alhambra; La Mesa; Palo Cedro; Placerville; Rocklin-Sunset Oaks; Westminster Good Samaritan
- Florida: Forest Lake; Florida Hospital
- Colorado: Newday Christian
- Idaho: Lifesource Community; Oasis
- Maryland: New Hope; Spencerville
- North Carolina: Foster
- Nevada: Living Water Fellowship; Mountain View
- Ohio: Toledo First
- Utah: Wasatch Hills
- Washington: Anacortes Adventist Fellowship; Connections

Below is just a small list of SDA churches that have or are still promoting the Purpose Driven movement.

Portsmouth SDA Church, New Hampshire

http://www.portsmouthsdachurch.org/Pastor_%20Johnson.htm

Pastor Phil Johnson recommends that new believers read *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, which he describes as "40 short, biblically-based chapters on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus."

Pleasant Hill SDA Church, California

<http://www.pleasanthilladventist.org/podcasts>

A sermon by Chris Estay on January 16, 2010 was entitled "The Purpose Driven Church" and discussed ideas by Rick Warren.

Tunapuna SDA Church, Trinidad & Tobago

http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20080408192451/http://www.tunapunasda.org/sermons/2007/11/03/divine_hour/sookra

"The purpose driven life" sermon by Henry Sookra on Sabbath, November 3, 2007 included eight listed purposes.

Hillcrest SDA Church, Nashville, Tennessee

<http://www.hillcrestsdachurch.org/PDF%20Files/November21.pdf>

Announcements, Sabbath, November 21, 2009

"Hillcrest's Purpose Driven Youth Ministries"

This church also recommends rock/contemporary gospel.

Carmichael SDA Church, California

http://www.jeffrobinson.net/carmsdastuff/Bulletin/bulletin_20030614.pdf

June 14, 2003 bulletin announced Friday nights as time to discuss the book "The Purpose Driven Life" as a way to "discover purpose for your life." Contemporary music and refreshments were included.

This church also held a marriage seminar (by a non-SDA ministry) entitled "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage." While it may have had some good ideas, would it not have been better to have a seminar based on the Bible and *The Adventist Home* book by Ellen White?

The For My People Ministry received an email describing a marriage seminar held by another SDA Church. It was advertised as "Movie Night for Couples Only" and used the book *Empowering Couples: Building on Your Strengths* by David and Amy Olson. This is what the correspondent shared: "I find it strange that ministers promote this book rather than *The Adventist Home* by Ellen White. In fact, no mention is ever made of it to new members. It is saddening to witness how our churches easily ignore counsels and warnings contained in the Spirit of Prophecy and enthusiastically reach out to embrace teachings from non Seventh-day Adventists. It is shocking and baffling."

It is also enlightening to know that David is the president and Amy the research associate at Life Innovations. David has received many awards from nationwide organizations, is a member of the American Psychological Association, has written over 20 books and 100 journal articles, and has appeared on numerous shows, including NBC Today Show, CBS Morning Show, and Oprah.

Riverside Community Church, California

<http://www.riversidecommunitychurch.com>

This is a Purpose Driven church that uses Natural Church Development "to build a healthy church family." The current pastor, Eric Brown, is a nationally certified Coach Trainer, who occasionally travels to train Natural Church Development coaches. But most weekends "you'll find him doing something just a little bit crazy as he finds ways to make the Bible easy to understand and memorable."

Worship Services have included:

- "Jesus Jungle Jam" for children ages 6-12 who are sent home with "tons of God goodies."
- "Junior High Jolt!" for 7th and 8th graders.
- "High School Surge!" that is "fun, real, and if you plug-in, you can get SHOCKed."
- A variety of adult Bible study options in which the "GodSpot" host can give assistance.
- A contemporary worship service in which dress is "come-as-you-are casual."
- "Toast n' Jam," a time to get together before the morning service to "share in some food and fellowship and have an impromptu worship 'jam'

session' experience" where you have "plenty of time to grab something to eat and still be in your seats on time for the 11 am service."

The Celebrate Recovery 12 step program is also available. The evening ends with Solid Rock Café.

This church would do well to ask the Lord's forgiveness for using His name so lightly. Additionally, grabbing food and getting to your seat in time sounds like buying food at a theater and getting to your seat in time for the movie. Is this the low level that our churches have reached? Is it all just about food and entertainment? That is certainly what the world has indoctrinated humanity with.

The Reach SDA Church, West Richland, Washington

<http://www.gotothereach.com/cms>

This church website included the following information:

- Involved with "40 Days of Community" (a part of the Purpose Driven movement).
- Links to sermons by Morris Venden on faith.
- Worship with drama and the "Back Stage" praise band.
- Worships "vibrantly casually" so that all members may "comfortably visit / share / mingle / empathize together without care for a written or unwritten code of dress or conduct."
- Promotion of small groups for fellowship as a way to provide an environment in which to safely confess, grow, and share struggles together in order to "be free of the unhealthiness we know we have inside."

Counsels for the Church, p. 304

Sin of a private character is to be confessed to Christ, the only mediator between God and man. For "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. Every sin is an offense against God and is to be confessed to Him through Christ. Every open sin should be as openly confessed. Wrong done to a fellow being should be made right with the one who has been offended. If any who are seeking health have been guilty of evilspeaking, if they have sowed discord in the home, the neighborhood, or the church, and have stirred up alienation and dissension, if by any wrong practice they have led others into sin, these things should be confessed before God and before those who have been offended.

It was explained that Jesus showed us what small groups can provide, since He had a group of twelve disciples and also an intimate group of three (Peter, James, and John.) This reasoning sounds quite innocent, until one learns what it is really about.

Yes, small groups are fine, but what is being taught? If a person has not responded to the true gospel, accepting Rick Warren's methods will definitely not help. The idea that as times change the church must change with them

comes from the fallen one who hates true worship and will do all he can to send souls to their eternal death. Misery loves company.

Emerging Church Plants

http://www.goodnewsatlanta.net/network/emerging_church_plants

This website shows the SDA Emerging Church Plants in the Atlanta, Georgia area. The following website was listed as a resource:

<http://www.purposedriven.com>

It is obvious that the Purpose Driven movement is not driven by God's purposes.

Emerging church movement

How did it begin?

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/leadershipnetwork.htm>

Many think that the Emerging Church movement was started by a bunch of young people who wanted a hip atmosphere at church ... not so at all.

According to an article in the recent edition of Criswell Theological Review, written by Mark Driscoll of Mars Hill, it was the Leadership Network that initiated the Emerging Church movement. Driscoll states:

In the mid-1990s I was a young church planter trying to establish a church in the city of Seattle when I got a call to speak at my first conference. It was hosted by Leadership Network and focused on the subject of Generation X. ... Out of that conference a small team was formed to continue conversing about postmodernism ...

By this time Leadership Network hired Doug Pagitt to lead the team and organize the events. He began growing the team and it soon included Brian McLaren, Pagitt, McLaren, and others such as Chris Seay, Tony Jones, Dan Kimball, and Andrew Jones stayed together and continued speaking and writing together as friends....

McLaren, a very gifted writer, rose to team leader in part because he had an established family and church, which allowed him to devote a lot of time to the team. That team eventually morphed into what is now known as Emergent. (Mark Driscoll, "A Pastoral Perspective on the Emerging Church")

Incidentally, in Driscoll's article about the Emerging Church, he left out the one element that counts the most - the Emerging Church's affinity with contemplative spirituality. As I have often said, remove contemplative from emerging and all you have left is coffee, couches and candles.

Spiritual Formation

The Great Controversy (1911), p. 464

Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world

has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.

In a previous section, we learned that spiritualism appears beautiful on the outside and will teach a higher form of spirituality. Spiritual formation fits this description. On the surface, it sounds innocent, but as we will see, it is nothing more than a disguised form of spiritualism and is being used to lead people back to Rome. Because it is embraced by all religions, we should be alarmed and question its origin and where it leads. Following are further details on spiritual formation and spiritual direction.

Presbyterian Church

<http://game.pcusa.org/ministries/spiritualformation/whatis>

Spiritual formation is the activity of the Holy Spirit which molds our lives into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This likeness is one of deep intimacy with God and genuine compassion for all of creation. The Spirit works not only in the lives of individuals but also in the church, shaping it into the Body of Christ. We cooperate with this work of the Spirit through certain practices that make us more open and responsive to the Spirit's touch, disciplines such as sabbath keeping, works of compassion and justice, discernment, worship, hospitality, spiritual friendships, and contemplative silence.

First United Methodist Church

http://www.cfumc.org/fumc/spiritual_formation

Spiritual Formation is the process by which people are shaped by God's love and enabled to grow in their faith. We are spiritually formed through practices such as prayer, study, fasting, worship, and other disciplines. There are several programs at First Church which focus on spiritual growth. Here at First Church, we provide resources and information about Spiritual Formation, both in our church and elsewhere.

How is spiritual formation achieved?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_formation

Formal Study

- Theological Training
- Certificate Programs in Spiritual Direction
- BA and MA Programs

Informal study

- Bible Studies
- Retreats

- Conferences
- Independent study/reading the classics

Community/church involvement

- Corporate worship
- Volunteer service

Practice of spiritual disciplines

- Prayer, the study of scripture, fasting, simplicity, solitude, confession, worship, submission, service, etc.

Ordinary experiences of everyday life

- Work and play
- Family life

Many of these approaches are not questionable, and this is what makes spiritual formation deceptive. Some of those promoting it may not even realize its dangers, because on the surface it appears to be Christ-centered.

If you have become involved in mystical spiritual formation, please read the following:

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The Review and Herald, May 6, 1862

When those who have witnessed and experienced false exercises, are convinced of their mistake, then Satan takes advantage of their error, and holds it constantly before them, to make them afraid of any spiritual exercises, and in this way he seeks to destroy their faith in true godliness. A fear rests upon the mind, of making any effort by earnest, fervent prayer to God for special aid and victory, because they were once deceived. Such must not let Satan gain his object, and drive them to cold formality and unbelief. They must remember that the foundation of God standeth sure. Let God be true, and every man a liar. Their only safety is to plant their feet upon the platform of truth, to see and understand the third angel's message, prize, love, and obey the truth.

Alpha course

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/alphacourse.htm>

Lighthouse Trails Research has added the Alpha Course to its Spiritual Formation list.... It is the hope of Lighthouse Trails that believers can be made aware of this fast growing spirituality that negates biblical Christianity because of its mystical, panentheistic roots....

“The NEW AGE of Alpha: A critique of the Alpha Course for those who know their Bible”

THE Alpha Course has swept the globe and is being used by an incredibly wide range of groups—including Anglicans and Roman Catholics, Methodists and Seventh Day Adventists. Where other evangelistic initiatives have petered out very swiftly, Alpha has done the

opposite. From its roots in the late 1970s, Alpha has grown to stunning proportions today and millions have already participated.

http://www.alphana.org/Groups/1000047505/What_is_Alpha.aspx

This information comes from the Alpha course website:

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course usually meets once per week for 10 weeks, and includes an amazing one-day or weekend getaway. Each session, people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile....

During the 1990s, the Alpha course spread—first throughout the UK and then internationally—as more churches and groups found it a helpful way to answer people’s questions about the Christian faith. Now, there are more than 33,500 courses run in 163 countries and the Alpha course is supported by all major denominations.

Alpha also includes a marriage course. Following are some of the SDA churches where the Alpha Course has been offered:

<http://www.mainePCA.org/oldsite1/alpha.html>

White Memorial SDA Church, Portland, Maine

http://alphana.org/Articles/1000056694/Welcome_to_Find.aspx?search=adventist; <http://www.knowgodmore.com/index.php/outreach/#Alpha>

Ken Dedeker, Minnetonka SDA Church, Minnesota

Grace Adventist Church, National City, California

<http://torquaysda.2day.ws/torquaysda/section/AlphaCourse>

Torquay SDA Church, Canada

<http://www.alpha.org/node/10016825>

Contact: Pastor Damir Super, Croatia

It is tragic that so many SDA churches continue to use the devil’s methods to lure in the unchurched.

Spiritual direction

Catholic Church

<http://ncronline.org/news/spirituality/ancient-and-contemporary-pathway-god>

An ancient and contemporary pathway to God, Tom Gallagher, May 28, 2010

“Spiritual direction is an ancient practice in the church and was recovered and renewed by Vatican Council II,” said cofounder Mercy Sr. Janet Ruffing, an author and a professor in the practice of spirituality and ministerial leadership at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.

Spiritual Directors International (SDI)

<http://www.sdiworld.org>

SDI explains that it is an interspiritual "learning community committed to advancing spiritual direction around the world" with a membership that "consists of people from many nations and many faiths." According to SDI, spiritual direction is "the contemplative practice of helping another person or group to awaken to the mystery called God in all of life," and they respond "to this call by tending the holy around the world and across traditions."

<http://www.sdiworld.org/amazon/spiritual-direction-bibliography/theses-and-dissertations2.html>

This website's spiritual direction bibliography for theses and dissertations on Spiritual Direction and Formation in August 2001 listed the following two SDA pastors: Lyle Arakaki on spiritual direction as a model for assimilating new baptized members in the SDA Church (1997, San Francisco Theological Union) and Derek Morris on nurturing the pastor's spiritual discipline of prayer through the dynamic of spiritual direction (1987, Andrews University). Michael Edward Dunn (Angwin, California) is listed under the spiritual directors for the SDA Church.

Spiritual Direction was started by mystics and promoted by "Christians." According to Wikipedia online, it is "the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the divine, or to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. The person seeking direction shares stories of his or her encounters of the divine, or how he or she is experiencing spiritual issues. The director listens and asks questions to assist the directee in his or her process of reflection and spiritual growth. Spiritual direction develops a deeper relationship with the spiritual aspect of being human." God's words teach the opposite of these practices.

Micah 7:5

Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide.

Isaiah 45:22

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 2, p. 164

God has been greatly dishonored by His people leaning upon human beings. He has not told us to do this. He has told us that He will teach us, He will guide us. We may come to Him and receive help. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally," and upbraideth you not for your ignorance.

The Gospel Herald, March 1, 1901

Do not depend upon human beings for spiritual help. Resist the temptation to make flesh your arm. Look to God as children look to an earthly Father. Believe that He loves you and that He will help you, even as He has promised. If you will believe, you will have confidence, trust, reliance, and rich blessings, because you will realize that Christ is the foundation of your faith.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 381

The promises of God are full and abundant, and there is no need for anyone to depend upon humanity for strength. To all that call upon Him, God is near to help and succor. And He is greatly dishonored when, after inviting our confidence, we turn from Him--the only One who will not misunderstand us, the only One who can give unerring counsel--to men who in their human weakness are liable to lead us astray.

Ibid., p. 487

I shall not dishonor my Lord by encouraging people to come to me for counsel, when they have a standing invitation to go to the One who is able to carry them and all their burdens.

This instruction from the Lord also applies to such programs as Promise Keepers, counseling, and modern psychology.

Contemplative prayer

This type of prayer has no scriptural support. Philippians 4:6 tells us to let our requests be made known to God through prayer. It is to be comprehended communication with God, not mystical meditation with mantras. Matthew 6:7 states that when we pray, we are not to use vain repetitions. This is also a problem with popular songs of today that tend to repeat the same words often or include hypnotic drum beats.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 18, pp. 101-102

By the expression "vain repetitions" the Saviour meant words without meaning, words oft repeated without corresponding thought or proper understanding, words spoken without true and earnest desire. God is not pleased with a careless, unmeaning repetition of many words. This is what makes many prayers long and tiresome....

Having cautioned His disciples not to use vain repetitions in their prayers, Christ gave them a model prayer. "After this manner therefore pray ye," He said:

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." [Matthew 6:9-12]

I am instructed to say to all our churches, Pray the prayer that Christ taught to His disciples. Study this prayer; live it; and you will win a crown of life everlasting.

True meditation is to think about or fill our minds with God's Word, not empty our mind as in Eastern meditation. The quotes below instruct on how to meditate and show us the right type of contemplation and transformation.

Psalms 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 60

God bids us fill the mind with great thoughts, pure thoughts. He desires us to meditate upon His love and mercy, to study His wonderful work in the great plan of redemption. Then clearer and still clearer will be our perception of truth, higher, holier, our desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought will be transformed by communion with God through the study of Scriptures.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 15, p. 25

Fill the mind with the great humiliation of Christ, and then contemplate His divine character, His majesty and glory of the Highest, and His disrobing Himself of these and clothing His divinity with humanity. Then we can see a self-denial, a self-sacrifice, that was the marvel of angels.

Lift Him Up, p. 43

The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate the affections, and completely transform the whole character....

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 20, p. 339

There is a rich abundance of precious truths in God's Word--truths which are of vital consequence to the people of God, truths which will fill the mind with fragrant thoughts of heavenly things and provide a solid foundation for character building. Discard fables and vain imaginings. Present only the words, "It is written." Let Jesus take possession of mind and heart.

Shalem Institute

<http://www.shalem.org>

The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation (Washington D.C.) is one of the leading centers of contemplative spirituality and for training "spiritual directors." It offers various resources and programs for clergy, lay leaders, spiritual directors, and individuals. They "honor each individual spiritual path" and welcome those who seek to learn the contemplative way. The question is asked: "Do you wish to deepen your spiritual life?" The Personal Spiritual Deepening Program is a resource for anyone wanting to "integrate a contemplative orientation." This institute was founded in 1972 by Tilden Edwards (an Episcopal priest and author), and Gerald May (1940-2005), an author who practiced medicine, psychiatry, and spiritual counseling. The institute's mission is to spread the new spirituality prayer to Christianity. Two of its programs offered include the Earth Mystics series and the Group Spiritual Direction Workshop & Retreat. This institute teaches that "contemplation includes a reverence for the Divine Mystery, finding God in all things, or being open to God's presence, however it may appear." SDAs have trained at this

institute and teach its practices to SDA members. We have to wonder why, when pantheistic practices are clearly involved.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 291

Already there are coming in among our people spiritualistic teachings that will undermine the faith of those who give heed to them. The theory that God is an essence pervading all nature is one of Satan's most subtle devices. It misrepresents God and is a dishonor to His greatness and majesty. Pantheistic theories are not sustained by the word of God. The light of His truth shows that these theories are soul-destroying agencies. Darkness is their element, sensuality their sphere. They gratify the natural heart and give license to inclination. Separation from God is the result of accepting them.

Mystics (non-SDA)

Below are some of the most notable non-SDA mystics and/or proponents of the emerging church movement with some background information.

- Alice A. Bailey (1880–1949)
 - Author and teacher of the occult, pantheism, theosophy, esoteric healing, astrology, meditation, psychology, the New Age, and contemplative spirituality. She is a large part of the reason for the New Age and emerging church movements today and originated the term “New Age.” She believed in the “coming Christ” but not the true Christ of the Bible.
 - Referred to her togetherness/community mindset as “right human relations.”
 - Stated that most of her writings were telepathically dictated to her by a “Master of the Wisdom,” initially referred to only as “the Tibetan,” or by the initials “D.K.,” later identified as “Djwhal Khul.”
 - Influenced by Madame Blavatsky, who lived in the 1800s and was the founder of theosophy and dealt in mythology and the supernatural.
- Henri Nouwen (1932–1996)
 - Catholic priest and mystic.
 - Authored 40 books on spirituality, with the most widely read being *Sabbatical Journey*; *The Way of the Heart*; *The Wounded Healer*; *The Life of the Beloved*; *In the Name of Jesus*; and *Clowning in Rome*.
 - Taught at the University of Notre Dame, Harvard University, and Yale University.
 - Studied psychology to be able to “better communicate theology.”
 - Did not believe that Jesus was the only way to God.
 - Believed that all make their own way to God, because God dwells in each human being.
 - Very influential in promoting contemplative spirituality and contemplative prayer.
 - Promoted Hindu spirituality, stating that “all is One,” that all paths lead to God, and that the God in everything unites everything.
 - Endorsed a Hindu book that teaches mantra meditation.

- Taught that leaders of the future must move to the mystical.
- Thomas Kelly (1893–1941)
 - Quaker scholar, missionary, speaker, educator, and a panentheist. Authored the book, *A Testament of Devotion*. The back cover states that the book urges us to center our lives on God's presence, to find stillness, to discover the peace of the inner spiritual journey.
- M. Scott Peck (1936–2005)
 - American psychiatrist and author of the self-help book, *The Road Less Traveled*, which sold millions of copies.
 - Wrote on mystical prayer in his book, *A World Waiting to Be Born*.
 - Stated that Zen Buddhism should be taught in all the fifth-grade classes in the U.S.
 - Wrote in his book, *A Time of Departing*, that individuals are to become "totally, wholly God" and that this was promoted by Buddha, Christ, and many others. Later became a "Christian" and promoted Christian mysticism and contemplative prayer.
 - Endorsed a book which stated that we should move away from the historical Jesus toward the "cosmic Christ."
 - Major New Age leader.
 - Thought the idea of the resurrection of the body to be distasteful.
- Thomas Merton:
 - Catholic monk.
 - Recently popularized contemplative prayer; interspirituality; New Age thinking, especially Taoism (Chinese witchcraft), Buddhism, and Hinduism. Authored the book *Contemplative Prayer*.
 - Believed that when mankind comes into unity that disease, sickness, poverty, etc. will be done away with.
- Thomas Keating:
 - Catholic monk and priest; author and teacher.
 - Founded centering prayer in the 1970s, along with William Meninger and Basil Pennington; directs retreats in the practice.
 - Wrote the book, *Intimacy with God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer*, which teaches centering prayer, Lectio Divina, praying the rosary, etc.
 - Has attracted tens of thousands in speeches and retreats, spreading the word to a world of "hungry people, looking for a deeper relationship with God."
 - Believes that centering prayer should be a time to let go of all thoughts. He even claims that the Holy Spirit will not "barge in" and that "when we are willing to abandon our very limited human modes of thought and concepts and open a welcoming space that the Spirit will begin to operate in us at this divine level." This is a common concept in the New Age movement and leaves no room for the Holy Spirit but leaves plenty of room for the spirits of devils.
- Matthew Fox:

- A former priest.
- Believes in ecumenism and New Age mysticism.
- Authored *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ and Creativity: Where the Divine and the Human Meet*.
- Former president of the University of Creation Spirituality which he developed, since he believes that God and Christ are in all things; lectures, teaches, and is president of Friends of Creation Spirituality.
- Taught at Stanford University, University of Oklahoma, Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, Unity Institute in Kansas City and Wisdom University.
- Richard Foster:
 - Quaker theologian and has been a professor at Friends University and a pastor of Evangelical Friends churches.
 - Best known for his book *Celebration of Discipline*, which includes the inward discipline of meditation, the outward discipline of solitude, and the corporate discipline of celebration.
 - Wrote *Streams of Living Water*, which examines contemplative prayer, the charismatic “spirit-empowered life,” the incarnational and sacramental life, and that he envisions “a great, new gathering of the people of God” with “a Catholic monk standing alongside a Baptist evangelist together offering up a sacrifice of praise.”
 - Founded *Renovaré* in 1988, a Christian renewal para-church organization. In 2008 Foster retired as president of Renovaré, but remains a member of the Board and Ministry Team. Over the following years, Renovaré held conferences in the U.S. on spiritual formation.
 - Along with several other authors, wrote two editions of an NRSV-based study Bible entitled *Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible*, which focuses on his six disciplines.
 - Co-authored the book *Longing for God*.
- Thad Rutter, Jr.:
 - Wrote the book, *Where the Heart Longs to Go: A New Image for Pastoral Ministry*.
 - Believes that a pastoral ministry which is rooted in contemplative prayer will nurture the pastor's own faith journey and is for the caring of God's people.
- Neale Walsch:
 - Prominent New Age leader promoting a “new reformation” and a “new spirituality,” yet not even a Christian.
 - Believes in the “global community” that incorporates all beliefs and which makes everyone right.
 - Author known for the New Age bestseller series of books, *Conversations with God*, including the book, *Conversations with God for Teens*, with unbiblical answers to questions that he dictated as he listened to an inner voice and includes teaching on the wrong type of meditation.

- Brennan Manning:
 - Has been a Catholic priest, friar, an author, and a speaker who leads spiritual retreats and travels worldwide.
 - Recommends mysticism, contemplative prayer, psychology, the New Age movement, liberation theology, and a mixture of Catholicism and Protestantism.
 - Invited by Malcolm Maxwell to give the Week of Prayer at Pacific Union College a number of years ago.
- Dallas Willard:
 - Philosophy professor and author.
 - Promotes contemplative prayer and mysticism through spiritual formation.
 - Participated in the Ancient Wisdom Conference on mysticism.
 - Helped launch the *Renovaré Spiritual Formation Study Bible*.
- Eugene Peterson:
 - A pastor, scholar, author, and poet.
 - Wrote over 30 books, including *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (available at ABCs), which is a contemporary paraphrase that includes Marxist, pantheist, and spiritualist thinking. He also wrote the book, *The Contemplative Pastor*.
- Philip Yancey:
 - One of the best-selling evangelical authors. Millions of his books have been sold around the world.
 - Columnist and editor-at-large for *Christianity Today*, which calls the road to maturity the fact that evangelicals are learning from wise teachers in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. In their November 2004 issue, Yancey wrote, "Perhaps our day calls for a new kind of ecumenical movement: not of doctrine, nor even of religious unity, but one that builds on what Jews, Christians, and Muslims hold in common. . . . Indeed, Jews, Christians, and Muslims have much in common." On contemplative prayer, he quoted Meister Eckhart: "The quieter the mind the more powerful, the worthier, the deeper, the more telling and more perfect the prayer is." ("For God's Sake," *Christianity Today*). The following comes from Wikipedia online: "*Christianity Today* is an Evangelical Christian periodical based in Carol Stream, Illinois. It is the flagship publication of its parent company Christianity Today International. . . . The founder, Billy Graham, stated that he wanted to 'plant the evangelical flag in the middle-of-the-road, taking the conservative theological position but a definite liberal approach to social problems.' " This periodical is read regularly by many SDA leaders.
 - Speaker at the pro-homosexual American Baptist convention in 2005. Gave a presentation at Avondale College SDA Church in October 2001, which was broadcast throughout the South Pacific Division and spoke at Avondale College in 2007.
- Erwin McManus:

- Lead pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles, California.
<http://mosaic.org>
- A worldwide lecturer on leadership, post-modernism, culture, creativity, and change.
- Authored about ten books on emerging church ideas.
- His goal is to “destroy Christianity as a world religion and be a recatalyst for the movement of Jesus Christ.” He also stated, “Some people are upset with me because it sounds like I’m anti-Christian. I think they might be right.”
- Has promoted the Myers-Briggs psychological personality indicator and various other types.
- Founder of Awaken where film makers, humanitarians, artists and poets are involved together with the goal of “maximizing the divine potential” in everyone.
- Promotes contemplative “breathing.”
http://mosaic.org/wp-content/themes/mosaic2/media/breathe_1.pdf
- **Dan Kimball:** A pastor and author of several books, including *The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations*. He promotes spiritual formation, discipleship, the prayer labyrinth, prayer stations, New Age meditation, and “following Jesus without following organized religion.”
- **Tony Campolo:**
 - Pastor, sociologist, public speaker and author.
 - Wrote the book, *Speaking My Mind*, which states that contemplative prayer is the “common ground” between Islam and Christianity.
 - Promotes Catholic mystics like Ignatius of Loyola.
 - Promotes progressive thought and reform for the evangelical community.
 - Believes that the Protestant Reformation left too much Catholic truth behind and that the real problem in this world is “rigid” Christians who believe in Christ’s soon return and are to blame for wars and many other evils.
 - In his book, *20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid To Touch*, he writes: “recently, I was a speaker for a large assembly of Seventh Day Adventists. . . .”
 - Wrote in the foreword to *Adventism for a New Generation* by Steve Daily about his positive experiences speaking at numerous SDA universities.
 - Presented at the first International Conference on Adventists in the Community.
 - In his book, *Letters to a Young Evangelical*, he states that intimacy with Christ develops gradually through centering prayer.
- **Robert Schuller:**
 - Chairman of the Crystal Cathedral church’s board of directors in Garden Grove, California.
 - Retired pastor and founder of the “Hour of Power” worldwide television program.

- Author who promotes psychology and those like Bill Hybels of the Willow Creek megachurch and Henri Nouwen.
- Advocates visualization.
- Chuck Swindoll:
 - Evangelical pastor of the Stonebriar Community Church in Texas.
 - Founder of the worldwide radio program, "Insight for Living."
 - Head of Dallas Theological Seminary.
 - Educator and author of many books, including one on contemplative prayer entitled *So, You Want to Be Like Christ? Eight Essentials to Get You There*.
- Max Lucado:
 - Founder of UpWords, a teaching radio ministry.
 - In 25 years of writing, more than 65 million of his books have been sold.
 - *Reader's Digest* named him "America's Best Preacher"; *Christianity Today* called him "America's Pastor."
 - A DVD called "Be Still" was produced by Lucado, Dallas Willard, and many others and features an interview with Richard Foster, Dallas Willard and others.
 - A preaching minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.
 - Lucado quotes from a book on Jewish mysticism as well as other mystics and contemplatives, such as Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Merton, Eugene Peterson, and Richard Foster.
 - Barnes and Noble bookstores include Lucado's book *Cure for the Common Life* under their New Age section.
 - Lucado's books are sold at some ABCs.
- Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen: Authors of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book series, which is popular with SDAs. Over 80 million copies have been sold. Even though the stories seem uplifting, the authors' New Age spirituality should lead us to avoid books by these types of authors. Canfield practices yoga, tai chi (a Chinese martial art) and meditation (vipasana which is ancient Buddhist techniques, transcendental which is mantra meditation, along with sound mantra). In addition, he teaches the occult "psychosynthesis" method and has stated that he "felt God flowing through all things." He also has written and speaks on success principles, including information on metaphysics and meditation. Hansen promotes meditation, and both authors promote occult writers who are channelers and mediums.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 232

Just so when infidel authors are studied. These men have sharp intellects, and their sharp ideas are presented, and the mind of the student is influenced by them; they are pleased with their brilliance.

But where did those men obtain their powers of intellect? Where did they get their sharpness? From the fountain of all knowledge. But they have prostituted their powers; they have given them as a contribution to the devil, and don't you think the devil is smart? Many are traveling in the

devil's tracks by reading infidel authors. Satan is a sharp being, and they fall in love with his learning and smartness.

The Review and Herald, August 17, 1897

It is not wise to send our youth to universities where they devote their time to gaining a knowledge of Greek and Latin, while their heads and hearts are being filled with the sentiments of the infidel authors whom they study in order to master these languages. They gain a knowledge that is not at all necessary, or in harmony with the lessons of the great Teacher. Generally those educated in this way have much self-esteem. They think they have reached the height of higher education, and carry themselves proudly, as though they were no longer learners. They are spoiled for the service of God. The time, means, and study that many have expended in gaining a comparatively useless education should have been used in gaining an education that would make them all-round men and women, fitted for practical life. Such an education would be of the highest value to them.

SDA proponents

At this point in the chapter, you will continue to see the widespread apostasy and spiritualism in the SDA Church and learn about some of the most notable SDA proponents of the emerging church movement.

General Conference of SDA

http://www.adventist.org/mission_and_service/features/-an-adventist-en.html

A cover story on the General Conference website's home page for August 11, 2010 discusses how Debbie Higgins has felt called to become the resident director for two years at The Kilns in Oxford, England—C. S. Lewis' home for 20 years where he wrote some of his “most beloved works,” such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Higgins is an Adventist professor from Southern Adventist University (SAU) and has spent much of her career studying and teaching about Lewis. She taught a class on him at Southern and is taking a two-year break. She has a long history with the C. S. Lewis Foundation and has visited The Kilns periodically since the mid 1990s, spending six months there in 2007. She states that she wrote the last two chapters of her dissertation in the office where scholars think Lewis wrote the chronicles of Narnia. Her doctoral committee stated that the last two chapters of her dissertation were her best. While at The Kilns, part of her duties involves overseeing the scholars-in-residence program that allows doctoral candidates from Oxford to reside there while writing their dissertations. Higgins also explains that she hopes to bring the academic side to The Kilns as well as to share the “magic atmosphere” with visitors who tour the home.

Be aware that any of the following is not safe to be involved with.

C.S. Lewis (1898–1963): He was an English author who wrote fantasy, science fiction, and Christian apologetics. He also tutored in philosophy and literature. His writings include:

- *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which are seven fantasy novels (fairy tales) for children that mix Christian themes with mythology, spells, and magic, and

have been adapted for radio and television. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is the best known novel.

- *The Screwtape Letters*, which is a story about letters from a demon to a tempter, advising him on methods to secure the damnation of a man and includes a section where an individual dies and goes to heaven.

In 1955 he admitted that ever since the age of 13 he had trouble with a lust for the occult, due to the influence of a schoolmistress who was involved with it. He became a “Christian” in 1931 and made friends with individuals such as the following:

Charles Williams (1886–1945), who was a “dear friend” and adviser to Lewis; a devout Anglican; a specialist in tarot cards (fortunetelling) and Kabbalah (mystical teachings); known as an odd and charismatic man; wrote plays and novels which were often referred to as “supernatural thrillers” about black masses, magical tarot cards, an Antichrist, and necromancy (the dead who speak with the living), and seemed to have a fascination with the occult.

J.R.R. Tolkien (1892–1973), who was a devout Roman Catholic and authored, among other works, *Lord of the Rings*, which includes rings with magical powers, violence, mythology, fantasy, and religion (still popular today and seen in artwork, music, radio, films, television, videos, games, and literature).

Owen Barfield (1898–1997), who was a philosopher and writer focused on the “evolution of consciousness” and promoted the works of Rudolf Steiner who held wrong views on Jesus and the Second Coming, believed in mysticism, Gnostic elements, spiritual exercises, meditation, reincarnation and karma, and belonged to a Masonic order (a secret society).

Neville Coghill (1899–1980), who was a literary scholar and theatrical producer and director.

During the 1930's and 40's, both Lewis and Tolkien were part of a literary group associated with the University of Oxford known as the Inklings. Many assert that both men were closet members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn—an amalgamation of Freemasonry (a secret society which includes Babylonian mystery religions). Among the Golden Dawn's first initiates was a coroner who allegedly performed necromantic rites (black magic; communicating with the “spirits of the dead” in order to predict the future), while another early member was Aleister Crowley, who dealt in black magic. Lewis and Tolkien were also involved with the following: Theosophy; Eliphas Levi's teachings (a high level black magic occultist); Enochian Magic (an elaborate system of advanced, Satanic, ceremonial magic); the Kabbalah (highest level of Jewish witchcraft); and medieval grimoire (a manual of black magic for invoking spirits and demons).

Christian Education, p. 245

Literary societies are quite frequently organized, but, in nine cases out of ten, they have proved a damage to souls, rather than a blessing. This is because an alliance is formed with the world, or with a class whose influence and tendency is ever to lead away from the solid, to the

superficial, from the real, to the fictitious. Literary societies would be of great advantage, if controlled by a religious element; but sooner or later, the irreligious element is almost certain to gain the ascendancy, and have a controlling influence.

Evangelism, pp. 591-592

Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for Spiritualism and Theosophy--those modernized forms of ancient heathenism--to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Side by side with the preaching of the gospel, agencies are at work which are but the medium of lying spirits. Many a man tampers with these merely from curiosity, but seeing evidence of the working of a more than human power, he is lured on and on, until he is controlled by a will stronger than his own. He cannot escape from its mysterious power.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 84

We are not to unite with secret societies or with trades unions.

Ibid., Vol. 8, p. 27

A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama,--Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect.

The Review and Herald, July 31, 1894

Be afraid of uniting with the world in secret societies, or of being bound in bundles with them.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 131

Those who choose to unite with these secret societies are paying homage to idols as senseless and as powerless to bless and save the soul as are the gods of the Hindus.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 20, p. 286

I have been permitted to look in upon these secret societies, their feasts, their order, their works, and my prayer has been, 'Hide them from my sight forever. Let me not understand more.' One thing I do know, that those who remain in connection with them will be burned up with the bundles of tares, one with them in the last day.

Evangelism, p. 622

Those who stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel cannot be united with the Free Masons or with any secret organization. The seal of the living God will not be placed upon anyone who maintains such a connection....

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 85

The Lord also revealed to me Brother Faulkhead's connection with the Free Masons, and I plainly stated that unless he severed every tie that bound him to these associations he would lose his soul.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 14, p. 10-11

I know from the light given, if you remain connected with the Free Masons, you will surely be bound up with them at last, to receive your portion with them.

With this type of background information, why would the General Conference promote Lewis? This is nothing more than promoting the occult. Tragically, we are now seeing the result of Lewis' errors being taught for decades in SDA schools.

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 688-689

Through the agency of evil spirits strange gods were introduced; and because of transgression, the chosen people were finally scattered from the Land of Promise. This history Satan is striving to repeat in our day. God is leading His people out from the abominations of the world, that they may keep His law; and because of this, the rage of "the accuser of our brethren" knows no bounds. "The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:10, 12. The antitypical land of promise is just before us, and Satan is determined to destroy the people of God and cut them off from their inheritance. The admonition, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation" (Mark 14:38), was never more needed than now.

The word of the Lord to ancient Israel is addressed also to His people in this age: "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them;" "for all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:12.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=3762>

The September 16, 2010 issue of the *Adventist Review* also featured the same information on Higgins and Lewis.

<http://www.kidsviewmag.org/site/1/issue1010/calendar.jpg>

The October 28, 2010 *KidsView* section of the *Adventist Review* featured a "Hidden Treasure" word search based on Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It suggested that if the child had not yet read the book that perhaps they would after doing the puzzle. The next page was a children's calendar that included a photo of Lewis.

At Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, a 2008 weekend Saxon Lecture Series featured a Lewis scholar, Louis Markos, the English professor at Houston Baptist University. He wrote a book on how Lewis can train us to wrestle with the modern and postmodern world. The series

included a Friday night lecture on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and a forums meeting on Saturday afternoon on "Making Sense out of Postmodernism."

http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:OW_a5RTTA_oJ:www.pucchurch.org/ministry/srr/index.shtml+Narnia+Without+Aslan+markos&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=au&source=www.google.com.au

On the Pacific Union College SDA Church website, under "Spiritual Renaissance Retreat," there were lectures by Louis Markos, with one entitled "Narnia Without Aslan" (the lion character).

Counsels for the Church, p. 210

Shall pagan and infidel sentiments be presented to our students as valuable additions to their store of knowledge? The works of the most intellectual skeptic are the works of a mind prostituted to the service of the enemy; and shall those who claim to be reformers, who seek to lead the children and youth in the right way, in the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in, imagine that God would have them present to the youth for their study that which will misrepresent His character and place Him in a false light? Shall the sentiments of unbelievers, the expressions of dissolute men, be advocated as worthy of the student's attention, because they are the productions of men whom the world admires as great thinkers? Shall men professing to believe in God gather from these unsanctified authors their expressions and sentiments, and treasure them up as precious jewels to be stored away among the riches of the mind? God forbid!

The Adventist Chaplain

The July-September 2003 edition of *The Adventist Chaplain* included information on "spiritual direction" by the editor, Martin Feldbush. He reveals that while serving as a chaplain near Chicago, he took a class in Spiritual Direction at DeAndreis Theological Seminary. He explains that it was his "introduction to the classic ministry form refined through the centuries by Catholic religious and clergy and in recent decades discovered by many Protestants as well." He also asked two SDA women who were trained as spiritual directors to give an overview of their ministry. They were Delcy Kuhlman and Diane Forsythe. It was then stated that "several spiritual direction training programs are available for chaplains and pastors" and to request more information by visiting <http://www.sdiworld.org> and taking the navigation bar to "Training Programs and Retreats." He ended by suggesting that "some of the better-known programs are The Shalem Institute and The Upper Room," but that there were others as well.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM)

<http://www.adventistsingleadultministries.org/index.php>

ASAM is a part of the NAD of Family Ministries for the SDA Church. Their goal is to "support and nurture relationships for single adults with each other and with other members of the church family." As you read what follows, you will notice that about the only relationship that is fostered is that with the world. How is that really helping with true relationships? Is not our relationship with God the most important?

A resource provided for the next ASAM convention included the director of Single Adult Ministries of the Worldwide Assemblies of God.

Non-SDA Resources referenced:

- Boundless Webzine: promotes C.S. Lewis
- Saddleback Church
- The Purpose Driven Life
- A "Laugh All Night comedy concert" was promoted.
<http://laughallnight.com>

The Signs of the Times, March 19, 1894

There is need for every soul to study the Pattern, Christ Jesus. Those who follow his methods of labor will have freedom in utterance and earnestness in manner. They will be inspired by the sacred themes of truth.... But let no one think that God will approve of a method which will require a man to act the part of a clown, or like a man who has lost his senses. Such methods as these are wholly unnecessary and inappropriate.

Among the Salvation Army workers such methods as these have been employed; but it is more necessary that they should study and preach the word than act in a sensational way in order to draw the attention of the people. It is the word of truth that, like a strong, golden chain, will bind men to God, where they will learn of the great Teacher. It is the word of God that is to test character. The Lord has precious, conscientious souls who have joined the Army; but they need to advance and receive other and higher truths of the word of God.

That I May Know Him, p. 141

While we are not to be gloomy, but cheerful and happy, there is to be no silliness, but a sobriety in harmony with our faith. Words and actions form character. Therefore our words should be clean, pure, simple, yet elevated. The gift of speech is a valuable talent, and the Lord has no pleasure in hearing low, cheap, degrading nonsense which tastes strongly of vice and revelry. No Christian should condescend to imitate and catch such habits from another.... These evil, silly words are discordant notes and contribute to the happiness of no one. They are a detriment to spirituality. The Word of God forbids them.

Just because a comedian makes a person laugh, does not make them truly happy inside.

The Adventist Home, pp. 521-522

The multitudes are eager for amusement. The mind becomes trifling and frivolous because it is not accustomed to meditation or disciplined to study. Ignorant sentimentalism is current. God requires that every soul shall be cultivated, refined, elevated, and ennobled. But too often every valuable attainment is neglected for fashionable display and superficial pleasure.

The exciting amusements of our time keep the minds of men and women, but more especially the youth, in a fever of excitement, which is

telling upon their stock of vitality in a far greater degree than all their studies and physical labors, and have a tendency to dwarf the intellect and corrupt the morals.

The youth are swept away by the popular current. Those who learn to love amusement for its own sake open the door to a flood of temptations. They give themselves up to social gaiety and thoughtless mirth. They are led on from one form of dissipation to another, until they lose both the desire and the capacity for a life of usefulness. Their religious aspirations are chilled; their spiritual life is darkened. All the nobler faculties of the soul, all that link man with the spiritual world, are debased.

Many are eagerly participating in worldly, demoralizing amusements which God's word forbids. Thus they sever their connection with God and rank themselves with the pleasure lovers of the world. The sins that destroyed the antediluvians and the cities of the plain exist today--not merely in heathen lands, not only among popular professors of Christianity, but with some who profess to be looking for the coming of the Son of man. If God should present these sins before you as they appear in His sight, you would be filled with shame and terror.

The desire for excitement and pleasing entertainment is a temptation and a snare to God's people and especially to the young. Satan is constantly preparing inducements to attract minds from the solemn work of preparation for scenes just in the future. Through the agency of worldlings he keeps up a continual excitement to induce the unwary to join in worldly pleasures. There are shows, lectures, and an endless variety of entertainments that are calculated to lead to a love of the world; and through this union with the world, faith is weakened.

Innovative Impact 2010 Pastor's Leadership Conference

<http://www.innovativeimpact.org/index.php>

This conference was designed to be a "team thing" geared for pastors and the "key members of their church leadership teams to share and grow together over two days sitting under some of the most insightful leaders in the 'frontline' church today." Those "insightful leaders" include many involved in the charismatic and spiritual formation movements, such as Hyveth Williams, Derek Morris, Fredrick Russell, Carlton Byrd, Roger Hernandez, and others. "Innovative Impact pulls out the stops in making sure that . . . you will encounter Christ all over again, and receive afresh, the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit.'" There is an increasing tendency by the leadership to reference the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How can these leaders actually believe it is the Holy Spirit when they are borrowing from Satan's methods? They are inviting a spirit, but it is not a holy one. Again we see signs of a counterfeit latter rain.

Jeremiah 2:19

Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

The Signs of the Times, April 21, 1881

A deplorable state of coldness and backsliding exists in the Christian world today. The Spirit and power of God seems in a great measure to

have departed from his professed people, and the enemy of truth rejoices at their weakness and defects. Infidelity is lifting its proud head, and denying the evidences of Christianity, because of the sins existing among professed followers of Christ.

The Upward Look, p. 123

Christ saw Satan patterning after heaven by the use of human association, thus extending the contagion of evil, and He determined to make His church a resisting element. His people are not to borrow the forms and customs of the world, but are to be instinct with the principles which make the church on earth a symbol of the church in heaven, a channel through which heaven's rich blessings can flow.

Partners in Innovation

<http://www.sdapartnersininnovation.org>

Partners in Innovation is a missional effort started by the Ohio Conference of SDAs, partnering with other church-related organizations. It is committed to forming the emergence of new ways of doing ministry and missions and to have a "culture of innovation" with "sound theology," missiology, and other disciplines. They wish to develop communities who will carry faith into the "complex world of the 21st century."

The Publishing Ministry, p. 102

Some are always straining to get something original. This places them in great danger. They produce something new that is not according to the Word of God, and they have not the discernment to see the real harm that results from their ambition to excel some other one in new and strange productions. Thus error comes to appear to them as truth, and they present it as wonderful new light, when it is an innovation that makes of none effect a "Thus saith the Lord."

Below is a partial list of SDA and non-SDA presenters at the Partners in Innovation conferences from 2005–2010.

2005

James Londis: Received a Ph.D. in Philosophy and an emphasis in religion and ethics at Boston University; director of Ethics and Corporate Integrity, Kettering Medical Center Network with 20 years as a healthcare administrator; religion and ethics professor and Corporate Integrity Officer at a healthcare college; president of a Christian college; a previous pastor at Sligo SDA Church in Maryland.

The following was included in one of the many church resources for the 2005 Partners in Innovation Conference: "A growing number of congregations are realizing that traditional worship (however you define 'traditional') will only attract a small percentage of the community around the church. Many non-church people cannot relate to the tone and culture of our worship services." One suggestion given to reach the community was to develop an "alternative, innovative, indigenous worship service for and with that group while maintaining the traditional service for those who benefit from it."

The details of this suggestion are as follows: 1) Since it is “deadly” for church “insiders” to plan worship for non-members of the community because it would be the same as what we already have, ask the community to help plan the worship. That way you will be “much more on target!”; 2) The music needs to “speak to your target group,” “to be a medium for offering the Good News.” “Music is always the glue to worship,” especially innovative worship. The music “doesn’t have to be the music you, as a church member likes. This service is for a new group. If you don’t like that music you don’t have to go to that worship service!”; 3) “As with any change, it is helpful to build congregational support for the launching of this new service. Take the time to prepare your congregation, explaining again and again how a new worship service will help the church move closer to its vision and mission.”

It is obvious from what is transpiring in a growing number of SDA churches that these suggestions have been followed.

2005/2006

Leland Kaiser: The founder and president of Kaiser Consulting (a health care consulting firm located in Brighton, Colorado); co-founder of the Kaiser Institute and Two Worlds Wisdom School; a motivational speaker “known for his ability to change the way organizations think”; an advocate of self-designing communities and organizations; an intuitive, executive coach, and organizational consultant; an author, educator, and pioneer in the field of electronic teaching technologies; a futurist and “acknowledged authority on the changing American healthcare system”; a mentor to many hospitals and healthcare organizations in the U.S.; and a pioneer in tithing programs for hospitals. Kevin and Leanne are his children.

Kevin Kaiser: Co-founder of Kaiser Institute; influential in applied intuition; working to create intuitive organizations; pioneers innovative learning that produces people’s extraordinary intuitive gifts; creator of Kaiser Institute’s Program in Intuition; and a speaker and executive coach.

Leanne Kaiser Carlson: Co-founder and initiatives leader of Kaiser Institute and Two World Wisdom School; an influential health futurist, speaker, and advisor; a writer and a hospital trustee; a Senior Fellow of the Estes Park Institute in the areas of Futures, Innovation, and Wisdom Cultures.

2007

Doug Pagitt: Pastor for Solomon’s Porch (a “holistic, missional, Christian community”); owns businesses in Minnesota; authored *Church Re-Imagined* and *Preaching Re-imagined*.

Jon Paulien: Well-known SDA theologian and author; Professor of New Testament Interpretation [Andrews University] and Dean of the Faculty of Religion at Loma Linda University.

Rabbi Marcia Prager: Dean of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal Rabbinic Program; rabbi for Philadelphia and Princeton P’nai or Jewish Renewal Communities; authored *Path of Blessing* and called “one of the best introductions to Jewish Renewal learning and practice.” From her website: Jewish Renewal seeks to “embrace a global vision of the role of all human beings and spiritual paths in the transformation of life.” It sees renewal “as a

process reaching beyond denominational boundaries and institutional structures . . . in which Judaism is conscious of its place in an interconnected world.” It is “built on the idea that we live in a transformative moment in time, in which a new paradigm for spiritual life is being developed.” Amidah cards can be ordered from her website. They offer the “ancient nineteen blessings in guided imagery, so you can participate in this soul-expanding journey in a new and inspiring way. The full Hebrew text, when memorized and softly chanted (or ‘davvened’) is a hypnotic mantra enabling the ‘davven-er’ to use its images as aids to deep inner work.” “The Amidah is one of the most powerful meditations in Jewish spiritual practice. These nineteen blessings of praise, hope, holiness, healing, restoration and peace are luminous gateways which guide you in a process of spiritual transformation.”

Philip Jenkins: Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University; graduate of Cambridge University; published over 20 books on “contemporary religious phenomena”; known best for the highly acclaimed book, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*.

Two features advertised for the 2007 conference were as follows:1) “Innovations – incremental and radical – are occurring in various contexts. Be introduced to a sampling of these innovations; be inspired by those who are on the frontline, reinventing their way to growth, value, and excellence”; 2) “An experiential, participatory, and communal ‘immersion’ to developing your innovation instincts and abilities.”

2008

Kelly Monroe Kullberg: Founder and director for project development of The Veritas Forum; co-authored best-selling *Finding God at Harvard: Spiritual Journeys of Christian Thinkers*; authored *Finding God Beyond Harvard*; taught film and C.S. Lewis at Harvard College; past chaplain of Harvard Graduate School Christian Fellowship.

Julius Nam: Received a Ph.D. in Church History/Adventist Studies from Andrews University; part-time associate professor of religion, Loma Linda University School of Religion; enrolled in Juris Doctor program at UCLA Law (California); known for being an engaging Adventist scholar; active in the American Academy of Religion, Adventist Society for Religious Studies, and The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians; taught at Pacific Union College; served as pastor in Korea and the U.S.; a principal in organizing the 2007 scholarly conference on the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine*; an initiator of “Adventists Against Prop 8”—a small group opposed to California’s 2008 “Proposition 8” which banned same-sex marriages—in contrast to the SDA organization’s official position on heterosexual marriage only, with Nam stating that it is “a question of justice” and that we should “lead the way in pushing for equality”; published in magazines, including an interview in *Spectrum* magazine entitled “In Japan, Adventists find Willow Creek bridge to the unchurched.”

Leonard Sweet: E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew Theological School and Visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University; Methodist preacher and worldwide speaker; founder and president of Spirit Venture Ministries; promotes “new light” leaders; author of 600 published sermons, over 100 articles, and 30 books, including *The Gospel According to*

Starbucks; his book, *Quantum Spirituality: A Postmodern Apologetic*, included a statement from the Jesuit philosopher, Karl Rahner, who stated that a Christian will be a mystic or he will be nothing.

Miscellaneous: Ohio Conference of SDA; Kettering Medical Center Network; The Kaiser Institute; Office of Creative Ministries in the Columbia Union; Versacare, Inc.; Focus PT, Inc.; Center for Creative Ministries and Leadership & Educational Administration Department of Andrews University.

2009

David Neff: Served as editor of a magazine for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (an evangelical and interdenominational campus ministry with over 700 chapters); vice president of Christianity Today International; editor-in-chief of Christianity Today Media Group and *Christianity Today* magazine, with article topics that include Middle-East peace, environmental concerns, and contemplative prayer.

Suzy Welch: Author, business journalist, commentator, and the former editor of *Harvard Business Review*; writes (along with her husband) the weekly column *The Welch Way*; columnist for *O – The Oprah Magazine*; authored *10-10-10: A Life-Transforming Idea* (on self-help). (*The Welch Way* gives ideas on business management, career success, global competition, mission and values, and how to win in the business world and is in *Business Week* magazine and the *New York Times*).

2010

The 6th Annual National Conference on Innovation entitled “Infusion...Where Faith Meets Innovation” was held in Columbus, Ohio and sponsored by the Ohio Conference of SDAs. It was advertised for those who desire transformation, creative change, and purposeful living (similar to the “purpose-driven” movement), as well as living in a “revolutionary” way (means a drastic or rapid change). The following comes from their website:

- Kettering Adventist Health Care *Innovation of the Year Award*. (See this chapter's section entitled “Honor of men.”)
- Vervent *Innovative Church of the Year Award*. (Vervent is the SDA NAD's new Church Resource Center with innovative products and services, more specifically, resources emerging because of “felt needs” discovered through research with local church leaders.)

Someone on the Vervent forum mentioned how we should not call non-SDAs “lost” but call them “friends.” What does God's Word say?

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Christ Triumphant, p. 157

What carefulness should be exercised in the formation of friendship! Companionship with the world will surely lower the standard of religious principle. Solomon's heathen wives turned away his heart from God. His finer sensibilities were blunted, and he became hardhearted, for he lost his sympathy for humankind and his love for God. His conscience was seared, and his rule became tyranny.

The Great Controversy (1888), pp. 508-509

When Christians choose the society of the ungodly and unbelieving, they expose themselves to temptation. Satan conceals himself from view, and stealthily draws his deceptive covering over their eyes. They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded.

Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 362

The minister who is a co-worker with Christ will have a deep sense of the sacredness of his work and of the toil and sacrifice required to perform it successfully. He does not study his own ease or convenience. He is forgetful of self. In his search for the lost sheep he does not realize that he himself is weary, cold, and hungry. He has but one object in view—the saving of the lost.

- One hour of college credit available through Washington Adventist University.

“Innovation” is not only in the Ohio Conference but has spread across the U.S. and worldwide.

- Author Book Signings

Each must ask whether the Great Author will be signing their book of life with these words: “. . . he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 557

The Book that is to judge him [Satan] and his followers he puts in the shade, just where he wants it....

- Kettering Adventist Healthcare contributed \$3,000 as the “Innovation of the Year” award for meeting the following criteria:
 - Innovation.

- Missional impact as it relates to systems such as church policies, common practices, and social norms.
- Entrepreneurship relating to efficient use of internal and external resources to “make things happen,” and scanning for change and new opportunities.
- Aspiration and growth.
- Sustainability involving revenue and the missional aspirations over time with the ability to deal with challenges in a flexible manner.
- Some of the questions on the award application included the following information:
 - What is new in the innovation that is different to how things have been done?
 - How is the innovation making a profound change in the traditional system?
 - What risks and obstacles were involved in the initiatives?
 - Are there similar innovations elsewhere?
- Applications were to be emailed or mailed to the Ohio Conference of SDAs.
- The SDA NAD Church Resource Center contributed \$2,000 plus travel expenses for a pastor and two laypeople as a “2010 CRC Innovative Church of the Year” award for meeting the following criteria:
 - Due to a “changing society” the church took advantage of opportunities to do ministry in new ways.
 - The initiative helped with membership growth, “spiritual growth” and contributed to the “target community.”

The innovation addresses some of the Natural Church Development (NCD) characteristics—an organization that supposedly improves quality in order to improve church growth and has reached 40,000 churches in 70 countries. It promotes emerging church ideas such as a book on the paradigm shift and discipleship resources, Bill Hybels and Willow Creek. NCD’s U.S. partner is ChurchSmart, which is promoted by SDA institutions such as Andrews University through a book by ChurchSmart Resources being required reading for a course entitled “Strategies for Church Growth.” <http://www.andrews.edu/~ricardo/Church%20Growth.htm>

- The initiative offered the possibility of spreading to other churches.
- The pastor and two laypeople must attend the Partners in Innovation conference.

Applications were to be mailed to the NAD Church Resource Center at the SDA Church headquarters.

Below is a list of speakers for the 2010 Innovation conference.

- Alan Hirsch:
 - Speaker topics: “Recalibrating the Church for the 21st Century: Part I – ReJesus, ReDisciple; Part II – ReMission, ReOrganize.”

- Adjunct professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, George Fox Seminary, and Wheaton College.
- Author of numerous books mostly on the subjects of missional thinking and discipleship.
- Barbara Bradley Hagerty:
 - Speaker topic: "Is There Evidence for God? Dispatches from the Frontiers of Science."
 - Religion correspondent for National Public Radio.
 - Reports on science, politics, culture, the intersection of faith, and law.
- Zdravko (Zack) Plantak:
 - Speaker topic: "The Leaves are for the Healing of the Nations: Repairers of Broken Walls and Restorers of God's Justice."
 - Washington Adventist University Theology Department chair and religion professor.
 - Served as president of Adventist Society for Religious Studies.
 - Lectured worldwide on theology and ethics.
 - Authored *The Silent Church: Human Rights and Adventist Social Ethics*.
- Neil Cole:
 - Speaker topic: "Church 3.0: Upgrades for the Future of the Church."
 - Founder and executive director of Church Multiplication Associates (movement of rapidly growing churches which meet at businesses, campuses, and homes worldwide).
 - Travels to teach leaders how to develop these churches.
 - Served in a smaller church as well as a megachurch.
 - Author of many books.
- Samir Selmanovic:
 - Ph.D. from Andrews University.
 - Attended the Innovation conference in 2009.
 - Ordained pastor and missional entrepreneur.
 - Founder and co-leader of FaithHouse Manhattan (interfaith community of Christians, Jews, Muslims, humanists, and atheists "for the good of the world").
 - Served as teaching pastor at CrossWalk SDA Church in Redlands, California. It is a typical emerging church today, previously pastored by Morris Venden, and now promotes the wearing of jeans to church, gives permission to laugh at the jokes or videos, drinking coffee, the world's movies and music, music festivals, competition, raffles, circus shows, mentions connectedness, creativity, and Communion as the Eucharist, suggests feeling and tasting their "Sabbath rhythms," quotes C. S. Lewis, etc., yet listed in the NAD church directory.
 - Authored the book, *It's Really All About God* (dedication includes Roy Naden and Brian McLaren; acknowledgments include Raj Attiken, Ryan Bell, Tony Campolo, Jon Dybdahl, Lawrence Geraty, Fritz Guy, Kevin Kaiser, Julius Nam, Doug Pagitt, Jon Paulien, and Monte

Sahlin). Early promoters of FaithHouse Manhattan also included Samuel Leonor (chaplain of La Sierra University) and Johnny Ramirez-Johnson (Professor of Religion, Psychology, & Culture, Loma Linda University).

- Helped to develop the emerging church through his work at Emergent Village and in the Re-church Network.
- States that to believe that God is limited to Christianity would be an attempt to manage God.
- Recent endorsements of FaithHouse Manhattan included a monk; the professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture at Union Theological Seminary; the director of Interfaith & Social Justice Initiatives at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts; and the Humanist Chaplain of Harvard University.
- Leader of "Citylights," a Christian community.
- Serves on the Interfaith Relations Commission of the United States National Council of Churches.

http://www.faithhousemanhattan.org/faith_house/2010/09/living-room-samhain-a-season-of-harvest-a-circle-of-remembrance.html

The online FaithHouse Manhattan announced their October 2010 event entitled "Living Room Samhain: A Season of Harvest, a Circle of Remembrance" with Temple of the Spiral Path. Samhain (pronounced Sow-en) is an ancient Celtic festival celebrated by modern neo-pagan witches. The article stated: "In the US, Wiccans have been an example of a 'minority' religion, often met with misunderstanding and at times with hostility. We want to learn about and from them and are welcoming them to Faith House!" They take comfort in the "closeness of the spirits of Nature, our Gods and Goddesses, and especially our Ancestors." Temple of the Spiral Path represents the family of covens practicing witchcraft, exploring many aspects of Wicca, and anchors its tradition "within the rich tapestry of the Western Mystery Tradition."

Why would someone with a Ph.D. from Andrews University be involved with witchcraft? That path is a downward spiral to spiritual death. What does God's Word tell us about fellowshiping with witches?

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Why would God's people want to "experience our neighbor's faith," as it states on the FaithHouse website?

Christ Triumphant, p. 157

When the Lord's people turn from the God of all wisdom, and look to people who love not God, in order to obtain wisdom and arrive at

decisions, the Lord will allow them to follow that wisdom that is not from above but from beneath.

http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/MIN/MIN20060801-V79-08_B.pdf

The August 2006 *Ministry* magazine included an ad for the 2nd Annual National Conference on Innovation for October 2006 in Columbus, Ohio at the time the Kaiser family were presenters. It was announced to register in order to secure a spot and included conference contact information. It then included the speakers and topics:

Leland Kaiser, Ph.D, President, Kaiser Consulting: *"Bottlenecks & Breakthroughs"*; Leanne Kaiser Carlson, Co-founder, The Kaiser Institute: *"How to Fund Innovation with Donor/Investor Partners"*; Kevin Kaiser, Co-founder, The Kaiser Institute: *"Spiritual Capacities of Innovation Leaders."* Also included was a recommendation by a 2005 participant who stated that it was the most relevant, practical and useful Adventist conference that they had ever attended. Sponsors mentioned were *Partners In Innovation* — The Ohio Conference of SDAs; The Kettering Medical Center Network; Office of Creative Ministries; the Columbia Union Conference of SDAs; The Kaiser Institute; Focus Physical Therapy, Inc.; and Versacare, Inc.

Some protested at the beginning of this movement, but it has continued and is growing worldwide. One example comes from Africa's Ghana Union Conference of SDAs 2008 *GUC News Digest*, Issue No. 4, which featured an ad regarding Partners in Innovation. It stated that Raj Attiken (president of the Ohio Conference of SDAs and director for Mission & Strategy) is calling for a "culture of innovation" in worship and outreach in SDA churches in order to be effective and relevant. He is concerned that church members will become too self-absorbed in "protecting truth" and "preserving tradition" and will "slip further and further into inaction and irrelevancy."

<http://www.sgcsda.org/docs/Newsletter%20GUC%204.pdf>

According to God's Word, it is when we stop protecting truth and preserving the faith of our fathers, that we "slip further and further into inaction and irrelevancy." Satan twists religion to resemble the opposite of what it is, yet it looks good from the outside and the majority are deceived.

Below is a description from the Innovation website about the 7th Annual National Conference on Innovation called, "Infusion: Where Faith Meets Innovation" to be held in October 2011 in Dayton, Ohio.

The conference will be a three day gathering for "hope-filled, faith-inspired individuals with an almost cellular drive for transformation, creative change, and purposeful living. The sharp, daring, and provocative explorations will expand your thinking, stretch your faith, and compel you to live out your values in a bold and revolutionary way." Each year participants come from the U.S. and other countries, and a "nationally renowned team of presenters in the fields of faith, spirituality, culture, academia, business and global affairs" come together. This event is always rated by past attendees as "unique, best-in-class, and of high value for their personal and professional lives."

The Center for Creative Ministry

<http://www.creativeministry.org/index.php>

This is a para-church ministry recognized by the SDA Church in North America and listed under Reconnecting Ministries. It supports local churches "in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting." As can be seen in the examples below, it is all about emerging church programs.

- Promotes the 6th annual National Conference on Innovation (2010)
- Includes a quote by Leonard Sweet.
- The Q & A section includes a statement about how their "reach extends around the world, not only to Adventists but to people of all faith groups. On an ongoing basis we are doing research work with 40 faith groups and many other para-church organizations. We welcome and enjoy the collaboration." What a sad witness to the other faith groups.
- The following words are included in their core values: Jesus; relevance; innovation; love; networking; fun; spirituality; and creativity—all "emerging" terms.
- Resources by Monte Sahlin (promotes spiritual formation; chair of Creative Ministry).
- Ryan Bell, pastor of Hollywood SDA Church in California, is a board member of Creative Ministry.
- Board members come from California, Washington state, Maryland, New York, Florida, and Ohio. Interestingly, those states include many of the progressive SDAs in the U.S.
- Included a photo of Paul Richardson, Director of Center for Creative Ministry, with Raj Attiken, a prominent supporter of the innovation conferences. The caption stated, "It was great to see Raj Attiken, conference president in Ohio, at a leadership conference in August, 2007. Ohio is a progressive professional environment these days due to Raj's leadership."

Suggested having different types of reconnecting activities for inactive members, such as self-help seminars, small groups, sports leagues, service projects, and classic car rallies.

This innovation movement calls for the greatest alarm from faithful SDAs.

Emerging churches (SDA)

Early Writings, p. 125

God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.

I saw that we have no time to throw away in listening to fables. Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth, and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be able to give a

reason of our hope from the Scriptures. While false doctrines and dangerous errors are pressed upon the mind, it cannot be dwelling upon the truth which is to fit and prepare the house of Israel to stand in the day of the Lord.

Christ Triumphant, p. 362

A new order of things has come into the ministry. There is a desire to pattern after other churches, and simplicity and humility are almost unknown. The young ministers seek to be original, and to introduce new ideas and new plans for labor. Some open revival meetings, and by this means call large numbers into the church. But when the excitement is over, where are the converted ones? Repentance and confession of sin are not seen. The sinner is entreated to believe in Christ and accept Him, without regard to one's past life of sin and rebellion. The heart is not broken. There is no contrition of soul. The supposed converted ones have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus....

The Lord desires His servants today to preach the old gospel doctrine, sorrow for sin, repentance, and confession.... Sinners must be labored for, perseveringly, earnestly, wisely, until they shall see that they are transgressors of God's law, and shall exercise repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ....

Listed below are just some of the SDA emerging churches that mix error with truth.

Burbank SDA Church, California

<http://burbanksda.com/thisweek.html>; <http://www.burbankcr.blogspot.com>

These two websites include the following information for the Burbank church's 12 step Celebrate Recovery program held each Friday night. It begins with "food, fellowship, and fun." Next are the large group testimonies and teaching, then the small groups for open sharing. It ends with a 9:00-10:00 p.m. program that meets at the Solid Rock Café to "socialize with group members over coffee and dessert." It is obvious that this church needs to provide a Celebrate Recovery program on overcoming the coffee-drinking habit.

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 425

Tea and coffee drinking is a sin, an injurious indulgence, which, like other evils, injures the soul.

One of their blogs included a recovery program on a Friday night with Sheila Raye Charles (daughter of celebrity Ray Charles) who gave her testimony with her contemporary music and that of her father. A link was included to the "Celebrate Recovery Headquarters" at the Saddleback Church.

A November 5, 2007 announcement stated, "This Week at Burbank: A Purpose Driven Church" where the "un-churched may find a home." According to the official Purpose Driven Church website with Rick Warren, the Burbank church has also been involved in the 40 Days of Community (a part of the Purpose Driven movement).

A February 2010 Pacific Union *Recorder* article included some of the community events held at this church. An outdoor "Family Fun Festival" occurred in September 2009 with an "outreach focus" that offered carnival-type games and prizes. At Halloween time, a "Christian magician show" was sponsored as a "safe alternative activity" along with handing out glow sticks (details follow). A neighbor said that when she visited the church she liked the feeling she got when no one minded that her kids were "being kids." <http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/16/7/247>

Child Guidance, p. 540

The house of God is often desecrated, and the Sabbath violated by Sabbath-believers' children. In some cases they are even allowed to run about the house, play, talk, and manifest their evil tempers in the very meetings where the saints should worship God in the beauty of holiness. And the place that should be holy, and where a holy stillness should reign, and where there should be perfect order, neatness, and humility, is made to be a perfect Babylon, "confusion." This is enough to bring God's displeasure and shut His presence from our assemblies.

Pete McLeod (an SDA formerly with the Heritage Singers) was invited to perform a magic show, which included "magical mystical sticks."

<http://www.mcleodmagic.com>

McLeod's background includes 30 years of performing experience, with abilities in song writing, public speaking, magic, comedy, gymnastics, and a Masters Degree in Counseling. After describing a magic trick that he performs, McLeod ends by saying, "I take my bow to thunderous applause." The following have invited and promoted McLeod: Dan Matthews (co-host of Lifestyle Magazine television show and pastor of Loma Linda University SDA Church); a principal from the Simi Valley SDA Academy; and a manager from Loma Linda University Medical Center. "Your school will scream with laughter" describes McLeod's Christmas show. One of his contemporary Christian music albums won an Angel award for "Best Album of the Year." He has also written a book entitled *The Magical Journey*. It includes 40 illustrated pages of magic tricks described as "secrets and mysteries," the "secret code of magicians," and tips on how to perform a magic show."

The Review and Herald, October 13, 1874

Professed Christians engage in feastings and in scenes of amusement which degrade the religion of Jesus Christ. It is impossible for those who find pleasure in church socials, festivals and numerous gatherings for pleasure, to have ardent love and sacred reverence for Jesus. His words of warning and instruction have not weight upon their minds.

The Bible Echo, October 8, 1894

Is it possible to have joy in obeying Christ? It is the only real joy that any soul can have. You may have what you call "a good time," and laugh and joke; but your joy will be only a foolish gratification of a mind that is not well balanced by the Spirit of God. Christ continued, "I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Do you expect that the world

will love you when you go contrary to the customs and traditions of the world? Do you expect to be treated better than was the Master of the house?

The "Give & Take" section of the May 20, 2010 *Adventist Review* included a statement that it does not hurt to use a little biblical humor occasionally and featured a Bible joke. Actually, biblical humor does hurt us. More importantly, it hurts God, because it goes against His Word.

Counsels for the Church, p. 252

We should reverence God's word. For the printed volume we should show respect, never putting it to common uses, or handling it carelessly. And never should Scripture be quoted in a jest, or paraphrased to point a witty saying. "Every word of God is pure;" "as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6.

Hollywood SDA Church, California

<http://www.hollywoodsda.org>

Ryan Bell is the senior pastor with a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University, and he is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary. He writes articles on the missional church and suggests the liberal Spectrum magazine's Sabbath School commentary as a resource for the adult Bible Study class on Sabbath. Worship services include drama, a contemporary band and casual dress, including jeans. Their worship team is one of the "most active ministries," and their Hollywood Worship Band leads them in worship almost every week.

The congregation is advertised as being on a missional journey.

A video showed the church's Ash Wednesday service in a darkened room with candles and incense burning, with the pastor placing a cross of ashes on the members' foreheads. Ash Wednesday is observed at masses which are Eucharistic celebrations in the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church and by Protestants. It marks the first day of Lent in the Western Christian liturgical year and is a season of fasting, cleansing, and spiritual discipline.

<http://www.hollywoodsda.org/time/seasons-of-the-church-year>

This web page reveals how the Hollywood church celebrates the following seasons throughout the year: Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. It stated that "from Advent until the Day of Pentecost we preach from the lectionary, and during Pentecost/Ordinary Time our services are more thematic and topical." A lectionary is a reading, especially from the Bible. Notice the following resources:

- Emerging Word: A Creation Spirituality Lectionary: Scripture Readings and Commentary for the Church Year by Donald Schmidt.
- Story Lectionary: A Free Online Resource For the Emerging Church
- Calendar and Lectionary for 2011 with the liturgical year beginning on Advent Sunday 2010, and ending on the eve of Advent Sunday 2011.
- Revised Catholic Mass Lectionary, translated into many languages and incorporating existing or specially prepared translations of the Bible, with

readings for national celebrations added as an appendix or incorporated into the main part of the lectionary.

Why this sudden need to use a lectionary? Emergents would answer that it is relevant for the postmodern culture of today. Will they use the same reasoning for giving up the Sabbath when Sunday laws arrive?

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 386

Says Howard Crosby: "...Christians are making a great deal of Lent and Easter and church ornamentation. It is the old trick of Satan. The Jewish church struck on that rock; the Romish church was wrecked on the same; and the Protestant is fast reaching the same doom."

The Actors/Writers Workshop on Thursday nights in the Community Chapel is for "professionals in the field looking to improve their acting and writing abilities. Anyone that is looking to expand their writing, acting or directing abilities are more than welcome to come on out and have a good time with us!"

Community partners included Emergent Village and Allelon (a movement of missional leaders).

During "holy week," the church invites anyone to "journey with Christ towards the cross with daily readings, and worship on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday."

It was announced that on a Saturday a group conversation and lunch would be held hosted by their "Peace and Justice" organizer, who develops ways of getting involved in the neighborhood community. It is interesting to note that one website includes information on The Institute for Peace and Justice Education and the Summer School for Emerging Leaders in Conflict Prevention and Transformation, with workshops to support long-term peace.

Jeremiah 8:11-12

...saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

The Hollywood church is also proud to be the recipient of the 2010 Innovation of the Year Award and the Innovative Church of the Year Award.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/2002-1539/news.html>

An *Adventist Review* article included the following: "Loving Babylon--the first ever gathering of the re:church network-challenged both conference attendees and the church as whole to take on the adventure of mission to big cities." The three-day conference included 60 participants from across the U.S., 15 volunteers from the local church, and 10 speakers. Ryan Bell was one of the conference organizers. Experienced church planter Ed Dickerson was given the re:church Issachar Award at the end of the conference. Bell explained that "re:church is a network of supporting friendships among missional leaders

committed to transformation and the shaping of the Emerging Church. God is doing a new thing in our midst—that there is an Emerging Church that we are only just beginning to see. We believe that He is calling leaders to listen, challenge and form His church for a new generation.”

Evangelism, p. 512

When professing Christians reach the high standard which it is their privilege to reach, the simplicity of Christ will be maintained in all their worship. Forms and ceremonies and musical accomplishments are not the strength of the church. Yet these things have taken the place that God should have, even as they did in the worship of the Jews.

The Lord has revealed to me that when the heart is cleansed and sanctified, and the members of the church are partakers of the divine nature, a power will go forth from the church, who believe the truth, that will cause melody in the heart. Men and women will not then depend upon their instrumental music but on the power and grace of God, which will give fullness of joy. There is a work to be done in clearing away the rubbish which has been brought into the church.

Beltsville SDA Church, Maryland

<http://beltsville22.adventistchurchconnect.org>

The church's pastor is Kermit Netteburg. Here is information from their November 2010 bulletin:

- A Christmas social included a vespers, then “Christmas goodies” and a Christmas movie with “fun for the whole family.”
- A Christmas silent auction hosted by Takoma Academy “TABoosters” in Maryland. Participants could buy tickets, sponsor the auction, or shop for “great gift items like luxury vacations, spa treatments, Redskins [football] tickets, and more.”

http://d.sermonplayer.com/c/BeltsvilleSDA/pdf/2535251_25939.pdf

Another bulletin included these events: a Song Fest, Sermon Skit, Scripture Skit, puppets, and the “Beltsville Ballers” basketball teams playing at a middle school.

Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland

<http://www.sligochurch.org>

The senior pastor is Charles Tapp. The information below comes from their website.

- Promotion of Philip Yancey as well as the 12 step recovery/regeneration program.
- Kid's church includes “lots of music, drama and stories.”
- Children's Street Ministry, which presents a “radical example of Christianity in action” and includes puppetry, face painting, balloon sculpting, drama/mime, and clowning. The ministry goes into a community and “builds relationships while having fun and showing the love of Jesus in action.”

A true Christian will find it difficult to imagine Jesus approving of puppets, face painting, mimes, and clowning to build relationships and show His love in action.

<http://www.sligochurch.org/assets/107399>

The following comes from their December 2005 bulletin with the title "Sligo Sabbath Celebration: Third Week of Advent" and a sermon by Kermit Netteburg.

- Lighting of the Advent Candle
- An outreach and social day for the youth with a coffee and food drive where they would give away socks that were donated, then "food, fellowship, and fun" at the "ESPN Zone" (a sports bar and grill restaurant.)
- A reminder to sign up for the Washington Wizards game (basketball), an event open to all high-school youth.
- An announcement about Sligo's "International Christmas Festival."
- Walk Through Bethlehem: *Jesus is our Hope* interactive Christmas play at the General Conference of SDAs. Purchase of tickets required.
<http://www.bethlehemwalk.info>

<http://www.sligochurch.org/assets/107005>

From a February 2007 bulletin:

- Puppet practice
- An announcement about Sheri Jackson receiving her music training at Oakwood College and the School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana, and that she was the 2006 winner of the Annapolis Opera Competition and was preparing for performances abroad.

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 459-460

Many of the amusements popular in the world today, even with those who claim to be Christians, tend to the same end as did those of the heathen. There are indeed few among them that Satan does not turn to account in destroying souls. Through the drama he has worked for ages to excite passion and glorify vice. The opera, with its fascinating display and bewildering music, the masquerade, the dance, the card table, Satan employs to break down the barriers of principle and open the door to sensual indulgence. In every gathering for pleasure where pride is fostered or appetite indulged, where one is led to forget God and lose sight of eternal interests, there Satan is binding his chains about the soul.

Evangelism, p. 510

The long-drawn-out notes and the peculiar sounds common in operatic singing are not pleasing to the angels. They delight to hear the simple songs of praise sung in a natural tone. The songs in which every word is uttered clearly, in a musical tone, are the songs that they join us in singing. They take up the refrain that is sung from the heart with the spirit and the understanding.

<http://www.sligochurch.org/assets/107382>

From an August 2005 bulletin:

- An announcement about a “Hiding Place” meeting each Wednesday night in the Youth Room and that it is a “Christian ‘hangout’ spot for youth with live music, food, games, and fun.” They feature a different genre of music each week and that particular week they had a block party.

Campus Hill SDA Church, Loma Linda, California

<http://www.campushillchurch.net>

This church promoted the following:

- Men’s 12 Step Group
- Al-Anon Program – a Spanish 12-Step
- Fridays: Celebrate Wholeness– “If you’re struggling with habits, hangups and hurts, a twelve-step program begins with a free light meal . . . praise music, testimonies, instruction and break-out sessions for men and women.”
- Folk music, pop guitar, drumming, and cultural dances.
- “Come and enjoy an evening of music with a young, talented octet from South Korea. The Golden Angels [contemporary music] are visiting our church after being featured at the SDA General Conference Session in Atlanta, GA.”

This link shows a video of the November 21, 2009 church service with hula dancing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJXIWnbDuBU>

This link shows a video of their December 9, 2008 “The Majesty of Christmas” program with sheep on the platform and camels walking down the aisle: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEiNZJ0PDhU>

Living Stones SDA Church, La Crescenta, California

http://www.livingstonessda.com/core_values/index.html

This church’s “core values” include these typical emerging church terms: discipleship; fellowship; unity through diversity; authenticity; God matures us within community; cultural relevancy; innovative; creativity; praise; and a friendly and accepting environment. They explain that their church supports small groups “for the benefit and spiritual growth of its members” and recommend being a part of this “life-changing experience!” Details follow.

<http://noralpastors4ncd.wordpress.com/holistic-small-groups>

Following is information the church provided for their “holistic small groups” or “cell groups” taken from the “facilitators’ guide/Introduction to Crash Groups: Christianity at Work Through Community.” The reasoning behind this is that “the disciples were a support system to each other, even after Jesus ascended to heaven” and life to them was about “living together in the way that Jesus taught them to live.” Therefore, the hope is that through this system the “crash group” can achieve this too. Each group should consist of 6 to 12 people who meet weekly for 10 out of 12 weeks. The program consists of weekly gatherings, one-on-one fellowship, and working for the community. “Tools” are provided to make the program “as effective as possible.” The group is to be “like a family”; “confidentiality and reliability are crucial to the feeling of security for every member.” A system of “W’s” can be used to “guide the flow of the meeting”: welcome, word, worship, and witness.

The welcome is to be a time of fellowship, a time of getting to know each other. They are to get into pairs and ask one of the following two questions: "How are you doing . . . really?" or "What is the one question you don't want me to ask you right now?" A new question is brought to the group of new pairs at the next meeting, such as finding out "everyone's dream vacation destination." Casual answers are not to be allowed. It is to be a time to "be real with each other," talking about struggles and blessings, and "holding each other accountable in whatever way we might wish," a time to "hear each other's 'life story.'" It is stressed that "confidentiality and complete acceptance of every person in the group is crucial."

For the Word time, "the sky is the limit as far as what can be used." Suggested ideas were to show a video; go to <http://nooma.com> (video website with Rob Bell, pastor of the non-SDA mega-church, Mars Hill Bible Church, in Michigan that promotes contemplative prayer and the emerging church; nooma comes from the word pneuma, meaning breath or spirit) or go to <http://www.damah.com> (a film festival website; damah means to imagine); read a chapter from a book "that has moved you"; study a challenging section of the Bible; or discuss a "different concept of God you have come across recently."

Worship time ideas included: "Spend a significant time in silence," "listen and meditate on a song playing on a stereo and how it relates to your walk with God"; or "try different prayer exercises, both modern and ancient," such as <http://www.sacredgateway.org> (a place for online contemplative prayer with help from "modern Jesuit writers") or the online prayer labyrinth at <http://www.yfc.co.uk/labyrinth/online.html>. It is an "online translation of the Cathedral Labyrinth created by London alternative worship groups Grace, LOPE, and Epicentre" and toured United Kingdom cathedrals from 2001-2003. Youth For Christ hosted the tour. The original is described as "an interactive installation for spiritual journeys." It consisted of a pathway on the floor for visitors to follow. "During this journey participants pause and listen to a piece of music and a meditation. They also undertake some symbolic action or ritual."

During the worship time, it was also suggested to "use any of the arts . . . to create a worship-type atmosphere" and that it may be necessary "to turn out all the lights so as not to have any distractions."

The witness is a time to organize a trip and an outreach project. The trip can be "camping, going to an amusement park or museum, or anything that the group might be interested in" and "is best if it is at least an overnight stay." In the past, groups "have been known to fly across the country or even visit other exotic destinations." The outreach project should be something that "builds up the community" and "will be enjoyable for everyone." At the end of the witness, "go around the room and ask this simple question to every person individually: 'Are you willing to pay the price?'" This means that the Crash Group must be a high priority. "It isn't some cult-like weirdness, but a sincere and thoughtful decision to love each other in the group no matter what the cost. An affirmation of this question is required for acceptance into the group."

The ending of the weekly "gathering" should include prayer. "It may seem a bit silly at first, but it is important. This is best done while in a circle either holding

hands or with your arms around each other.” Before leaving, “everyone must get a hug from each other.” It was also encouraged for members to “bring friends to come and hang out at the weekly gatherings.”

Comments by participants included:

- “Talking to guys going through the same things I was and having the same trials was really helpful.”
- “Crash groups have profoundly impacted my spiritual life. They have provided a place where I can be utterly honest with other people about my struggles, shortcomings, failures. . . .”
- “Crash Groups combine a laid back atmosphere with something deeper.”

The individual pairs “should meet with each other outside of the weekly gathering before the next meeting. It does not have to be anything serious, and can take as much time as just grabbing some coffee or lunch in the afternoon.” The group is supposed to be “trying to live life together as a family.” “Because of this dynamic only one weekly meeting will not typically work. So this gives a chance to pull together even tighter.”

The facilitator guide ends with “may your Crash Group be a process of life changing transformation. . . .” Below is a list of concerns regarding this type of meeting.

- The confidentiality factor, especially in the sharing of personal sins. This is very similar to confessing to a priest and is unbiblical, unless the person has been affected by that sin.
- Turning out the lights.
- Fun, travel, and amusement are stressed.
- Why would prayer “seem a bit silly”?
- The familiarity of physical contact as a “family” is stressed, such as holding hands, arms around each other, and hugging.
- The mention of meeting for coffee.

The Crash Group is named after Rob Bell’s “The Crash” and can be found at this website: <http://www.atthecrash.com>. The use of the word “crash” is quite appropriate. If their emerging beliefs are not repented of, they will “crash” and not survive to the kingdom, because of the Satanic deceptions. Yes, Crash Groups is a “cult-like weirdness.” It resembles the beginnings of a “secret society” and is the perfect “testing ground” to see who will fall for contemplative prayer, etc.

Here is a write-up on one of Rob Bell’s “noomah” videos called “Bullhorn”:

It begins with a “nerdy evangelist in a white shirt” who is “photocopying hellfire-and-brimstone tracts and packing up a bullhorn as he prepares to shout at people on street corners.” There is now a second preacher, “a very different kind of clergyman” who is sitting on a city street bench in a t-shirt and sandals. It is Rob Bell at 34 and looking “like that cool guy in Verizon ads with glasses

and spiky hair," pastor of "a hot new church for twenty somethings." He talks "straight and fast about a loving kind of God who accepts everyone 'just the way they are.'" As if addressing the "hellfire preacher," he says: "Bullhorn guy, I don't think it's working. . . . I think it's making things worse. I don't think this is what Jesus had in mind." The video ends with Bell saying "No, the whole point of Christianity is to experience God's love, to love one another and never to scare or threaten people."

This is an example of not only disrespect and false theology but the beginning of persecution of faithful evangelists, just as the Spirit of Prophecy predicted many years ago.

Counsels for the Church, p. 356

The coming of Christ is nearer than when we first believed. The great controversy is nearing its end. The judgments of God are in the land. They speak in solemn warning, saying: "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

But there are many, many in our churches who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which says so plainly that the end is near. Oh, how many who have not sought their souls' salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!"

Many other churches are doing the "holistic" small groups, including the Orangevale and Vallejo Central SDA Churches in California.

Miracle Temple Worship Center, Baltimore, Maryland

<http://www.miracletemple.net>

The Miracle Temple Worship Center falls under the emerging/charismatic church category. Below are some of its practices.

- Includes "Regeneration: 12-Step Recovery."
- "Discipleship" classes are held for newly baptized members.
- The home page mentions "helping our members in becoming Kingdom People NOW."
- Advertised as "one of the fastest growing Adventist churches in the Baltimore metropolitan area."
- In 2005 Pastor Fredrick Russell (who serves as a columnist for the *Adventist Review*), initiated the First Annual Innovative Impact Pastor's Leadership Conference, bringing in pastors from around the world to Miracle Temple in order to learn how to "grow their local ministries." The current pastor is Errol Stoddart. <http://www.innovativeimpact.org>
- Children's Church: This is a new trend in which children are separated from their family during the worship service. This church's program for children ages 4-11 is called "KidzSpace" and was advertised that the goal for the children was to "have fun while praising God!" The teachers share the gospel in a "refreshing and innovative manner." It is a time of "high-energy, high-impact and brimming with activity."

- Small Group Leadership Training: Includes “training and discipleship development,” which included a workshop on the subject of “Life Changing Small Groups” as well as Pastor Stoddart’s seminar topic “Destined Discipleship.”
- Total Praiz Dance Ministry: This ministry will be having Praise Dance rehearsals for children between the ages of 6-12 years every 1st and 3rd Sabbath of each month. At such a young age, the children are already being indoctrinated.
- Prayer meeting: It was stated that they have “truly seen miracles happen at these services.” They have “called on Jehovah Rapha and seen people healed.” Calling on God as Jehovah Jireh, they “have seen financial breakthroughs,” “addictions stopped and people who were imprisoned set free!”

This is a perfect example of the counterfeit latter rain—the work of the enemy.

Maranatha, p. 168

There will be conversions many, after a peculiar order, but they will not bear the divine signature. Immortality will come in, and extravagance, and many will make shipwreck of faith.

Why do SDA pastors long for what the world has? The SDA Church has been given the purest, richest truths and yet the leaders are not satisfied with it. They want something they believe is better. It is the typical case of the blind leading the blind. Because they cannot see the precipice ahead of them, they are going over the edge to perdition.

The Paulson Collection of Ellen G. White Letters, pp. 270-271

I would that all our people might see the inconsistency of those who profess to be God's commandment-keeping people, a peculiar people zealous of good works, thinking that they must copy after the world's pattern, in order to make their own successful. Our God is stronger than any human influence. If we will accept Him as our educator, if we will make Him our strength and righteousness, He will work in our behalf.

Prophets and Kings, p. 660

"They that forsake the law praise the wicked." Proverbs 28:4. When those who are uniting with the world, yet claiming great purity, plead for union with those who have ever been the opposers of the cause of truth, we should fear and shun them as decidedly as did Nehemiah. Such counsel is prompted by the enemy of all good. It is the speech of timeservers, and should be resisted as resolutely today as then. Whatever influence would tend to unsettle the faith of God's people in His guiding power, should be steadfastly withstood.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 210-211

In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over

the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.

The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: "Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house."

Here we see that the church--the Lord's sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust.

- Harvest Festival Concert: Features Gerald Scott & Co., the Miracle Temple Community Mass Choir with liturgical dance and music and "giving our highest praises to our God!"
- "Turkey Roll Gospel Skating Party": All were invited to the "ultimate gospel skating party" with the "hottest gospel music from top gospel artists." It was stated that it would be a "praise-filled event!" and that they should eat their "turkey" then go "roll it off at the party!"
- The photo gallery for a Spring Retreat revealed a program teaching "Affirming Practices – Ideas from Jewish Sabbath Traditions," which included information on a Friday evening "Blessing of Children" and a Saturday evening "Havdalah Ceremony." A table included challah bread, a cup of "wine," two candles, etc. Havdalah is the Jewish ceremony that marks the end of the Sabbath or a festival that includes the blessings over wine, candles, and spices. Challah is a loaf of leavened egg bread that is usually braided and eaten by Jews on Sabbath, holidays, and other ceremonies.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2010-1530&page=29>

In the September 9, 2010 issue of the *Adventist Review*, Fredrick Russell writes an article entitled "We Have the Who, Now for the What," in which he refers to a book by Jim Collins.

The book *Faith Undone* by Roger Oakland reveals that Collins "took a course by Michael Ray called *Creativity in Business* in 1982. The course (and the book named after the course) takes 'much of its inspiration from Eastern

philosophies, mysticism, and meditation techniques.' The book talks about 'your wisdom-keeper or spirit guide—an inner person who can be with you in life' and says, 'We meditate to unfold our inner being.' The book also presents Tarot cards. Collins calls the course 'profoundly life changing' and says '[I] would not be where I am today, with the wonderful life I've been given, without that course.' Collins was so inspired by Ray's course that he wrote the foreword for Ray's 2004 book, *The Highest Goal*. In that book, Ray tells readers to 'practice emptying your mind,' 'experience not thinking,' and 'meditate regularly.' Other quotes in the book include those of Eastern religion gurus such as Ram Dass, Jiddu Krishnamurti, and Swami Shantananda. Buford's website not only carries an endorsement for Jim Collins but also a number of articles by or about those who promote mysticism as well." Why would an SDA leader promote a book by someone who believes in Eastern mysticism?

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=186>

In a 2005 *Adventist Review* article entitled "Sold Out to God," Pastor Fredrick Russell was featured in an interview. At the time, he was the senior pastor of the Miracle Temple Worship Center. Currently he is the president for the Allegheny West Conference of SDAs and has started a company called the True North Leadership Group.

The *Adventist Review* article discussed how Russell wanted to change his midweek prayer service because "nothing was happening." So he made a visit to the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City—a non-SDA charismatic church. He was impressed that there were 2,000 people in attendance at the prayer meeting. Since when is high attendance a true indicator that God is working? He stated that at a certain point, the prayer warriors "began to pray over the lives of the people in the audience" and "One brother prayed over me. He prayed things into my life that only God would know."

A typical prayer service at Miracle Temple includes the following:

- The lights are lowered.
- Two screens are on with soft music playing.
- A praise and worship team "ushers you into the presence of God" for about 15 minutes.
- A pastor gives a "teaching word" for about 15 minutes.
- A period of about 25 minutes to share praise reports.
- After an offering and announcements, there is a time of intercessory prayer.
- Corporate prayer is offered.
- Ends with about an hour for people to pray while seated and listening to piped in music. This includes pastors standing up front so members can come up and mention personal things to the pastors. (This resembles confession to a priest.) Prayer warriors pray with people throughout the congregation. The pastor usually stays until 11:00 p.m. so that people can "continue in the presence of God."

Russell recommended the following books:

- *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* (about the “Spirit”) by Jim Cymbala, senior pastor at Brooklyn Tabernacle.
- Any book written by E. M. Bounds (1835-1913), a Methodist minister; evangelist; revivalist; author; army chaplain; lawyer; a “teacher on prayer”; wrote “*Power Through Prayer*” and many other books on prayer.
- *The God Chasers* by Tommy Tenney, who writes on prayer but is a Charismatic into emotions and manifestations; believes that “God is everywhere in everything” (pantheism); promotes mystics; and downplays the Bible.
- *Prayer Warriors* by Ron Halvorsen, Sr., a retired SDA pastor and evangelist.

Atlanta Berean SDA Church, Georgia

http://www.atlantabereansda.org/Berean_Church/home.html

This is another emerging/charismatic church. Carlton Byrd is the senior pastor and the new Associate Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry. He received a Master of Divinity Degree and the Doctor of Ministry Degree at Andrews University. The following points may sound impressive. However, while not all these may be a problem, when put together they raise concerns.

- Byrd's honors and achievements:
 - Received the 2007 “Chosen Pastor Award” for Atlanta's Gospel Choice Awards, which recognizes the Atlanta area's outstanding pastors for their “exceptional leadership and community involvement.”
 - Named as a resident for the 2008 and 2009 “Who's Who in Black Atlanta.”
 - In 2008, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta.
 - Served as a guest minister on TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network).
 - Church attendance has doubled under his leadership.
- The worship services are called “Sabbath Celebration.”
- In 2009 the church was awarded a \$5.2 million grant from HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) in order to build a Senior Citizens' Housing Facility with 50 apartments.

Counsels on Health, p. 290

God calls for men whose hearts are as true as steel, and who will stand steadfast in integrity, undaunted by circumstances. He calls for men who will remain separate from the enemies of the truth. He calls for men who will not dare to resort to the arm of flesh by entering into partnership with worldlings in order to secure means for advancing His work--even for the building of institutions.

- Byrd encouraged the members to “pray for the power of God” and the “outpouring of God's Spirit” on their church family.
- The church was named the NAD's 2009 Innovative Church of the Year for the SDA Church.

- Byrd desires to lead others through an “innovative, seeker-sensitive, Christ-centered ministry.”
- During the 59th SDA General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, the Berean church, along with Byrd and the minister of music, hosted the “Spring Into Praise Choir Festival,” which was Adventist-founded six years ago (<http://www.SpringIntoPraise.org>). Their mission statement includes the following: to bring together SDA music organizations such as ministers of music, choir directors and members, and praise teams/dancers; to facilitate each choir member to be part of a “first class mass choir” that covers “all music genres” enabling them to “better serve their local church”; to invest in “future musical greats” by providing scholarships to students who have “acumen for the arts.” Their graphic displayed a group with raised hands toward a dove in the sky and the words “Spring Into Praise,” which sends a charismatic message.
- During the General Conference Session, the Berean Invitational Basketball Tournament was held in the Berean Christian Junior Academy gymnasium. Participation included guest teams from across the country.
- “The Mark Thompson Show,” was a scheduled event for a Saturday night—a “Christian Fun Show for All Ages featuring Christian Ventriloquist, Mark Thompson.” He is advertised on his website as an international favorite, “doing silly things along with the puppets” while teaching about a God who loves them, as well as using contemporary music. The character cast includes a zany country disk jockey; a wacky hypochondriac bird; a crafty and mischievous young man; a very emotional younger sister; and the world’s smallest trumpet playing tiger. His act is promoted as fast paced, entertaining with high energy, funny and hilarious with comedy and games. Topics include salvation and discipleship, and his programs include “Family Day Celebrations” and “Kids Day Celebration.”

The Voice in Speech and Song, p. 104

Christ did not employ illustrations that would create amusement and excite laughter.

In the instruction of the divine Teacher, there was no illustration used that would leave the least shadow upon the tablets of the soul. His words were of the purest and most elevated character. He never stooped to utter that which was comical, in order that He might attract an audience.

Community Praise Center SDA Church, Alexandria, Virginia

http://www.cpcsd.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=10226

This church has over 1,000 members. Its website includes the following:

- Information for the “2nd Base Ministry” (sports term) with “events and structures to celebrate and serve” those beginning their “journey of discipleship.”
- States that SDA worship styles differ greatly, that some churches are very formal, (sing hymns and anthems along with an organ or piano), others are “laid-back” and feature praise music with guitars or a small band, others are more “exuberant expressions of praise,” and that whatever the style, all SDA churches are worshipping the same God. Unfortunately, that statement comes from the General Conference of SDAs at this website:

<http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/neighbor/index.html>. If a person studies and believes God's instructions, he will understand that not all SDA churches are worshipping the same God. If a church worships against His Word, such as with Christian rock music or in a charismatic format, it is not the Creator of the universe that is being worshipped.

- Includes Ellington's Christian Café at the church with the purpose to provide a "Christian social venue for Christians" in that area, where "Christian artists (musicians, poets, dancers, mime, drama, comedy, and picture artists) can Reach-Out," and "Reach-In to inspire, uplift and encourage the Body of Christ;" a 2008 ad for a café event: performances by Momentum award nominee, Alyce Metallo (contemporary gospel), Drew Davidsen (jazz guitarist), and recording artist from the church, Angela Bryant-Brown (contemporary praise music) with "great food and great fun" and ticket purchases up to \$15 each. This type of event at an SDA church is patterned after other denominations.

<http://upcoming.yahoo.com/event/430358/DC/Alexandria/Ellington39s-Christian-Cafe/Community-Praise-Center>

- Provides a Youth Church twice a month, a Youth Prayer Meeting with Bible study and a movie clip "which sparks a vibrant rap session," a Drama Team, Mentoring, Basketball, missionary trips abroad (including the Drama group traveling to Bermuda). The young people were invited to join the youth group as they "celebrate what it means to be a young Christian." Sadly, most do not know what it means to be a Christian.
- Listed as the 2006 eChurch of the Year Winner.

It is disheartening to know that most churches in the Washington, D.C. area and beyond are very similar to this church.

City Temple SDA Church, Dallas, Texas

<http://www.dallascitytemple.org/index.htm>

This church's Young Adult Ministries includes gospel plays. The church also organized its first Junior Bible Bowl Team in 2004 and has won the Federation and Conference level championships since they began. The Bible Bowl now includes the Pathfinders organization, and an Adult Bible Bowl was started. A group of young men from the Ypsilanti SDA Church in Michigan performed a mime routine entitled "I'm a Warrior" at the City Temple SDA Church. <http://www.religiousworks.tv/videos/426/dlj-mime>

The Review and Herald, October 13, 1874

Should Christ come among the assembly who were absorbed in their plays and frivolous amusements, would the solemn melody of his voice be heard in benediction, saying, "Peace be to this house"? How would the Saviour of the world enjoy these scenes of gaiety and folly?

Grace Temple SDA Church, Ft. Worth, Texas

<http://www.bible-bowl.org/pdf/2008%20Fort%20Worth%20Article.pdf>

A "Champions in the Word" 2008 National Bible Bowl XXVI Junior Youth championship game was held in the "hallowed halls" of this church. The event was written in sports-announcing terminology, including the scoring. At the end of the game, applause continued as a tie was announced. The competition resumed, then a buzzer sounded at the finish, and the winner was announced.

About 32 teams had come to Fort Worth, Texas to compete for the “coveted spot” as champions.

In 1979 a pastor and youth ministry director who became the conference president had desired a way to lift the spirituality of the youth and encourage them to study God’s Word, so “through the impress of the Holy Spirit,” he created the game. He moderated the final game of the adult division, and the photographer was the president of the Southwest Regional Conference. The photos displayed individuals with very large trophies and medallions. Learning the Bible is not about knowing the most trivia and turning it into a game. It is about following and sharing all its truth in preparation for Christ’s return. The games do not foster spirituality but rather a competitive spirit and encourage the addiction. We are only fooling ourselves if we say differently. Ballgame championships are bad enough, but when the Bible is cheapened in this way, it is appalling. Additionally, it is a desecration to hold a rivalry in a church sanctuary.

College View SDA Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

<http://www.collegeviewchurch.org/index.php>

Their Young Adult Sabbath School class is called “Next ADVENTure” and is advertised as a Jesus-centered, lively and progressive Sabbath School.

Advertised events included:

- A concert by a non-SDA contemporary southern gospel quartet called “Forgiven” at a Baptist church worship hour on a Sunday.
- A concert by a non-SDA southern gospel group called “The Chosen Ones” at an SDA church on a Sabbath evening.
- An Adventure Club “registration party” for any who want to be a part of a “fun ministry” with “awards, cool stories and silly games”. . . “and we want to build our lives for Christ.” These two scenarios are far from having much in common with building lives for Christ.

Co-op City SDA Church, Bronx, New York

<http://coopcity22.adventistchurchconnect.org>;

<http://www.yahwehspeople.com/index.html>

The following information comes from the bio section of the Yahweh’s People website done by Anthony DeMore, an elder at the Co-op City SDA Church.

- Revelation 14:6-8 (first and second angels’ messages) are quoted.
- Stated that Yahweh’s people (God’s people) are “preaching, teaching and taking the Gospel to the street, to every Nation, Kindred, Tongue and People with hard edge uncompromising Christ centered lyrics.”
- Explained that Brother DeMore is calling Christians to “stand-firm on the foundation of truth, which is Christ” in a time “when truth is called error and error is heralded as truth”; said that “just as the raw unwavering truth of Christ has always been controversial,” that his album “is sure to have heads buzzing,” that it is not for “the Christian who is faint of heart” but rather a “buzz saw of truth cutting deep into the spiritual marrow of all who will hear it;” ended by comparing it to “double-edged, Holy Spirit fire, warriors grab your sword (the Bible), Gospel hip-hop. It’s FIRE!!”

- His “resume”: 1) Preaching and teaching at the Co-op City SDA Church for about six years; 2) Before coming to Christ in 2000, founder and lead vocalist of a hip-hop, metal band called “AD”; 3) Toured Europe and recorded two CDs; 4) Is a public school teacher, poet, screenwriter, and an award-winning playwright.
- Advertised that his “arresting music immediately grabs you, and holds you with its power and urgency” and is delivered with “lyrical grit and old-school Christian fearlessness.”
- The biography ends with these words: “Yahweh’s People is life music, come out of the dark into God’s light music, that raw simplistic God is love-truth music, God can resurrect you-free the slave-break all chains music, God is coming back for every nation, kindred, tongue and people music. This is Holy-Spirit-God calling you to change music, this is music that once you hear it, you will want to see and hear the Brother preach and proclaim the Name of God like only he can, live and direct. Yahweh’s People... Our time is now. This is truly music with a message for the last days!”

The sad part of this is that rap “music” was already being promoted by the *Adventist Review* about 20 years ago. An SDA rap group was featured in a cover article that stated they were the SDA Church’s “best missionaries.”

Eight Mile Rock SDA Church, Bahamas

<http://emr.interamerica.org/announcements?archives=true>

In August 2009 this church advertised its 1st Annual Talent Show. It stated that since all its church members had talent they could now “show it off.” The categories included: vocal, instrumental, and drama.

North Wembley Community SDA Church, United Kingdom

<http://northwembley-adventistchurch-org-uk.adventist.eu>

This church advertised the following events:

- A “Creative Community Worship” in the afternoon on the second Sunday of each month. It is a “relaxed atmosphere” with arts and crafts, refreshments, practical workshops and praise and worship. It stated “there is something for everyone in the family.”
- The pathfinders are “currently, in faith, taking drumming lessons and one of their goals is to represent the borough of Brent at the opening of the 2012 Olympics.”
- A “Community Fun Day” at a park that included football, cricket, and rap music. It was asked, “When was the last time you saw young Asian men from the community spontaneously rapping in front of a mixed audience of friends, family community members with Adventist onlookers, to rapturous applause?”
- “Church on the Street for Brixton: Drummers ready!” Those words started the Youth Day Brixton Drum Corps march through the streets followed by the children of the church and at times a large group from the community to “highlight the need to defeat drugs and knife crime and was encouraged by the Brixton police who have struck up a friendship with the Brixton Church.” Besides passing out tracks and booklets, the church members also mobilized their praise team to “sing songs that got

everyone moving.” The audience chose their favorite songs and the members were “happy to oblige.” There were also individual singers and a mime group.

- The church plans to “take the message of salvation” to the community “by the grace of God” in “more profound ways in the future.” With what they have already done, true Christians can only imagine what “more profound” would entail.
- The Scottish mission delivered two “very powerful drama performances” at the 10th Trans-European Division Camporee in Finland. The second drama was performed on the “International Evening” and depicted salvation in a “creative and contemporary way.”

Avondale Memorial SDA Church, Australia

<http://avondalememorial.adventist.org.au/church-programs>

- One option for the Sabbath School group Bible study includes “De-Caf (for adults in a smaller, more informal setting).”
- Song Service includes contemporary Christian songs.
- Special Items can include a drama performance.
- Children's Church done for children by children twice a year is “interactive and engaging” and includes drama.

Collegedale SDA Church, Tennessee

<http://www.collegedalechurch.com>

This church uses the following programs:

- Celebrate Recovery, in which it was stated that the “guidelines maintain strict confidentiality to create a ‘safe place’ where you can take off the ‘mask’ and be real and honest without fear.” Confidentiality is a primary principle of the program, and when it comes to fallible human beings, confidentiality can be broken.
- Listed under the Spiritual Abilities Inventory was “Entertaining ability: to perform, act, speak, magic.”
- Group Life/Group Link small groups with links to <http://www.smallgroups.com> through Christianity Today, which included, under their online Store section, Assessment Packs with these titles: Spiritual Formation in Small Groups; Christian Education and Spiritual Formation; and Spiritual Disciplines Assessment Pack. Another recommended website was <http://www.touchusa.org>, which included “The Spiritual Formation Backpack,” a complete set of discipleship resources, and the “Children's Spiritual Formation Bundle,” a “one-of-a-kind discipleship series for children grades 1-3.” It did not take long for the emerging church teaching to reach very young children. Under the Spiritual Formation (Discipleship) section was listed 12 books for adults, 9 for children, and 2 for youth.
- Andy Nash and his wife lead “Connect,” Collegedale Church's multi-generational, contemporary, informal worship service, where “music is a priority.” Nash also teaches journalism at Southern Adventist University (SAU). Connect has a weekly “Connect Arts” ministry that includes a girls' worship-ballet for ages 4 to 11 and is taught by an SAU student. The Connect leadership team is implementing some new ideas. In a

November 18, 2010 *Adventist Review* article, Nash described some of Connect's "fresh approaches" to supplementing the preaching as follows: 1) For their Gospel of John series a member built an arch and etched a new name for Jesus each week, such as the Good Shepherd; 2) For the Philippians study they released balloons in the parking lot to symbolize their joy and freedom in Christ; 3) The Esther study ended with a Purim celebration, an Esther drama, Jewish dancing, and a Jewish potluck. Nash stated that "one struggling cook joked that she was going to buy a cake and write 'Jewish' on it."

- The Son Rise Resurrection Pageant is an "interactive, put-you-there-at-the-scene trip through Christ's final days leading to His death and resurrection." The cast is composed of over 500 church members and SAU students. The Collegedale church has presented the "walk-through" pageant since 1996. It begins in the church sanctuary and continues across SAU's campus on the Saturday of Easter weekend. "Casual dress and comfortable shoes are encouraged for the leisurely, less-than-a-mile walk."

The Collegedale Adventist Youth in Action (CAYA) is mostly about playing ballgames, such as volleyball tournaments, as well as picnics, outings, and community service. CAYA community study guide resources include these websites: <http://group.com> with Sunday school curriculum, small groups, leadership conferences, and retreats; <http://www.simplyyouthministry.com> with Sunday school curriculum, small groups, and discipleship. The CAYA soccer website advertised soccer as an activity they will use for the youth to achieve a spiritual, physical, and socially healthy environment for their kids. The website artwork included a drawing of Jesus playing soccer. It must be noted that God does not approve of such a drawing, since He does not approve of competitive sports. <http://sites.google.com/site/cayasoccergocougars>

Fresno Westside SDA Church, California

<http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/39/2/483>

The Pacific Union *Recorder* featured an article about this church's Sabbath morning activity in May 2010. The event was sponsored by West Care California and the Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative as well as the church. It was Fresno's Safe Community Partnership Strategy Initiative and was entitled "Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life." Pastor Earl Canson stated that "partnering with city officials, other denominations and community organizations allows our church members to reach out and heal." While a praise band performed, "neighborhood residents explored the more than 30 health education and services booths." Additions to the health fair offerings were give-aways of food and clothing; a prayer booth; Bible stories and other activities for the children; a small exhibit of the Old Testament Tabernacle; and "plenty of good hot food kept the neighbors coming." They could also attend a "special" Sabbath school program inside the sanctuary. Canson gave a short message from the bandstand and, along with local church elders, laid hands on and prayed over the Fresno mayor and police chief.

It must be plainly stated that while it is good to "reach out and heal," this activity was not only promoting ecumenism, but it was not the proper time. It made extra work on the Sabbath and was a distraction to the worship services, causing an irreverent atmosphere. If Jesus had walked past this scene, He

surely would have said, "Take these things hence." This is nothing more than a bribe to get the community into the sanctuary. What will the churches think of next to raise the membership figures?

Laying on of hands

The February 2010 *Recorder* stated that invitations were sent to the President of the United States and his cabinet, the U.S. Congress and Senate, governors, mayors, world leaders from every nation, etc. because they wanted to have the youth lay hands on them as well as pray for the leadership in order to impact the world. The quotes below reveal that the laying on of hands is only appropriate for those entering the gospel ministry.

1 Timothy 4:14

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Presbytery: a body of elders in the Christian church; all the pastors of churches.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 89

This advice was followed, and by prayer and the laying on of hands, seven chosen men were solemnly set apart for their duties as deacons.

Ibid., p. 110

God will send forth into His vineyard many who have not been dedicated to the ministry by the laying on of hands.

Ibid., p. 160

Before being sent forth as missionaries to the heathen world, these apostles were solemnly dedicated to God by fasting and prayer and the laying on of hands. Thus they were authorized by the church, not only to teach the truth, but to perform the rite of baptism and to organize churches, being invested with full ecclesiastical authority.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Ecclesiastical: consecrated to the service of the church and the ministry of religion.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 162

At a later date the rite of ordination by the laying on of hands was greatly abused; unwarrantable importance was attached to the act, as if a power came at once upon those who received such ordination, which immediately qualified them for any and all ministerial work. But in the setting apart of these two apostles, there is no record indicating that any virtue was imparted by the mere act of laying on of hands. There is only the simple record of their ordination and of the bearing that it had on their future work.

Counsels on Health, p. 540

The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work. It includes prayer and the laying on of hands; he therefore should be as sacredly set apart for his work as is the minister of the gospel.

Daughters of God, p. 102

Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord should be appointed to visit the sick, look after the young, and minister to the necessities of the poor. They should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands.

Forest Lake SDA Church, Apopka, Florida

<http://www.deeperfaith.org/home/about>

This website is for the church's collegiate and young adults. They are about "authenticity, devotion, passion." Dany Hernandez, who is their pastor, stated "Here's the deal with DEEPER . . ."

- We are "passionately seeking an encounter with God."
- We call it a "Gathering."
- We "don't worry about what people are wearing" or the "color of their hair," or "what you had for breakfast" because after all, didn't Jesus say 'Come as you are?'"
- "The last thing you'll notice is a group of people in desperate need of a savior."
- "At DEEPER we take off our masks understanding that no one is perfect except God."

Hernandez ends with the words "Encounter, Connect, Ignite." When he prays and "preaches", it is very casual. Theatrical skits are performed by the young adults. All these terms and activities are the perfect recipe for an emerging church. If the group at DEEPER are not in "need of a savior," then the Savior cannot save them. If they do not believe that perfection can be attained in this life, then it will not happen for them. They have forgotten that with God all things are possible.

New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland

http://mynewhopechurch.com/pages/page.asp?page_id=96213

Here is part of the description for the church logo that is green in color: " 'Going green' is to live and work in ways that protect and replenish the environment." While we are to care for what God has given us, we must be careful not to get involved in the world's New Age environmental philosophies.

"Restore" is a "young adult worship gathering that was birthed out of a GODencounters event" hosted at New Hope. "Many of the attendees and leaders from that event decided that gathering together for worship and fellowship on a regular basis seemed to be a worthwhile idea." It includes "food and fellowship at Restore Café followed by inspirational Worship by Rick Anderson, Jr. and band and an inspirational message." The announcement included a photo of a doughnut and coffee.

"Food, fun and fellowship for young adults." This was an invitation for young adults to "come with food and leave with friends!" at Food Friendly, which takes place after the Sabbath worship service at the home of a host.

New Hope stated that "the wind of the Spirit is stirring in the hearts of prayer intercessors and prayer leaders, who have stepped and are stepping out of the crowd." Their prayer ministry includes Prayer Warriors who are "available to pray with you after our Saturday services" at the front of the auditorium.

Ignite is a "prayer meeting for kids and adults" and the place "where we journey to the very heart of God. This journey includes speaking God's Word, Testimony, Drama, Dance, Praise, Worship and other varieties of talent that God has blessed His people with. We believe that every prayer need can be answered with a revelation of God's love." Contrary to their beliefs, drama, dance, and other displays of "talent" are not gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wednesday evenings "is your time to allow God to Ignite His presence in you." A photo showed members participating in laying on of hands. Quite a few of the website photos included men and women wearing jewelry.

New Hope's Visual Arts includes multi-media presentations that "play a large part in the worship experience" including song lyrics, sermon slides, announcements, "cool videos," and dramatic lighting. The Worship and Creative Arts Ministry at this church is advertised as "the best place for you to use the gifts God has given you if you are an artisan." They "minister" at weekend services and other key events through music, liturgical dance, video and drama. Their hope is to passionately work together to "enhance the worship experience at New Hope in a powerful and imaginative way." Actually, they are degrading the worship experience, providing no hope of enhancement unless they do away with the drama and dance. They state that the purpose of New Hope Dance Restoration Ministry (NHDRM) is to "Praise and Exalt the name of our Lord Jesus Christ with the dance, and to make His praise Glorious." Instead they are praising and exalting the name of Satan. They "desire to create an atmosphere that invites God's presence" into their midst with their "joyful expressions of praise." They are really creating an atmosphere that invites the presence of demons. They believe the praise and worship services are enhanced through their "bold movements inspired by the Spirit of God," that it will teach "how to experience true praise and worship unto Him in the dance. It's all about God!" God believes their worship services are degraded through their bold movements inspired by the spirit of Satan, that it teaches how to experience the praise and worship to the devil, and that it is all about the god of this world.

The ad concludes by summarizing that if individuals join the NHDRM, they can expect to grow in their relationship with God; find "new freedom in expressing meaningful praise and worship to God"; receive "continual revelation of God's purpose for your praise expression in dancing"; receive a "spiritual breakthrough for yourself and others as your obedience allows the anointing of the Spirit of God to flow freely"; and receive "a new body as we continue in weekly dance rehearsals and a lifestyle of praise and worship unto the Lord." A faithful SDA would conclude by summarizing that if individuals join the NHDRM, they can expect to grow less and less in their relationship with God; find a new bondage in praising and worshipping the devil; receive continual revelation of

Satan's purpose for their dancing; receive the world's pain as their disobedience allows the anointing of Satan's spirit; and receive a body that does not bring praise and worship to the true God—unless they repent.

The following are leaders at the New Hope church:

- Rajkumar Dixit is an associate pastor over Community Development and Administration at New Hope. He has been involved in Christian development and non-profit leadership for over ten years and spends much time "forging relationships with civic and community leaders." Dixit also lectures and speaks frequently "on a wide range of topics related to leadership, church administration, worship, and branding" in religious and non-profit communities. He earned a doctoral degree with a concentration in leadership from the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and authored the book *Branded Faith*. Among other ideas, the book instructs on how to change the image of your church from a negative focus, such as speaking against homosexuality, to a positive focus of how to help in different community projects. It is a dangerous idea to think that talking against sin is negative. If that is the case, then we must ignore the Bible. His book also includes a foreword by Brian McLaren. Following is a quote regarding Dixit by McLaren: "Rajkumar Dixit loves the church, and he's in it up to his elbows - pastoring, leading, studying, thinking. He has correctly identified one of the truly pivotal issues the church must face this century, and he writes with clarity and passion to help Christians, church leaders, and denominational leaders move wisely into action. ~Brian McLaren, activist, author" <http://www.revealworshipconference.com>
- Ann Roda is responsible for families and children at New Hope. Her three goals in life are to first "be still and know God" (contemplative prayer?), the second to be "a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ," and the third "to lose those last annoying 7 pounds." Before entering Pastoral Ministry, she spent fifteen years in a corporate career. Roda loves to "hang out with her husband, bike, study history, travel, eat Thai food and sit with a hot cup of coffee surrounded by good folk and good conversation." Her husband is a Chaplain Director with Adventist Health Care.
- Rick Anderson, Jr. is the pastor for Worship and Creative Arts. He grew up in a "solid Christian home where music was always an essential element of family worship. His parents, both Christian educators, led a Christian singing group at the High School they taught at and Rick grew up on the front row of their concerts, singing at the top of his lungs." He studied Communication Technology and Religion at Southern Adventist University, and grew as a worship leader. After ministry at a church plant in San Francisco, Anderson came to New Hope "where he believes that God has big things in store." He and his wife "love spending time with friends and family, exploring the outdoors, traveling to exciting places, and cheering for any pro sports team from New England!"
- Dave Gemmell is a pastor for Young Adults and is the Associate Director of the NAD Church Resource Center (CRC). His role at CRC is "to tell the story of healthy churches" in the NAD through seminars, web sites, online newsletters, DVDs, and film. He received a Bachelor in Theology from Pacific Union College and Ministry degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary and the Andrews University Theological Seminary. Gemmell

pastored in the San Francisco Bay Area, Hawaii, and for the Las Vegas Mountain View Church. Two of his grown children are instrumentalists at New Hope. "In his spare time he dreams of kite surfing."

- Brian Wight, the Media Director and Producer at New Hope, "comes from a long line of ministers, educators and artists." He studied Health and Fitness at La Sierra University, Kinesiology from California State University in Long Beach, and Spiritual and Pastoral Care at Loyola University (a Jesuit, Catholic University) in Maryland. Wight served as a chaplain at Washington Adventist Hospital, the Associate Producer for "Morning In America," a syndicated political talk radio show, and was the On Air Radio Host for "Sounds of Contemporary Gospel," a local gospel music segment for a Christian radio station. He has also worked in television and film, has been a teacher, and is the creator of Enhance Productions, a film production house "dedicated to Christian themed productions." His other interest is sports.
- Timothy Nelson is a lay pastor and the Musicians Director. He has sung "for most of his life and has been a drummer for over 18 years." He is the Dean of Men at Washington Adventist University, and is pursuing a Masters in Counseling Psychology.

It was advertised that this church is "exploding with growth." Just like the megachurches? With all the above details on the leadership and activities at New Hope, this church is not following God's plan for a church. Until the necessary changes are made, it would be appropriate to change its name to the No Hope Non-SDA Church.

Mountain View Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

<http://www.come2mountainview.com/index.php>

The following is typical of an emerging church:

- Advertised as "A Seventh-day Adventist Community of Faith."
- Mission: "To transform the unchurched into mature disciples of Jesus Christ"
- Newsletters which include:
 - A section for joking and comic style artwork.
 - A little encouragement and humor from C. S. Lewis.
 - A movie review section for parents.
 - Recommends the following website, which is ecumenical and promotes Christian rock music and comedy:
<http://www.realworldparents.com/starters>.
- Wednesday Night Power Hour to study "The Journey."
- An Alcoholic's Anonymous 12 Step Group
- Sabbath "Encounters" drama.
- Sabbath morning performance of Bible parables by a non-SDA professional actor and advertised as a "terrific 'seeker friendly' program."
- A devotional from *Faith That Works* by Morris Venden.
- A candlelit communion service.
- A worship department that seeks individuals to fill the following positions:

- Drama team members “to bring stories and sermon illustrations to life.”
- Drummers who are “high-impact percussion musicians” as part of a praise music worship team.
- Lighting technicians to “set the moods for worship.”
- Stage managers to help “create pleasing stage arrangements for worship and other services.”

Regarding his church, the pastor stated that he wants each member to be “saturated with the Holy Spirit and on fire for allowing ourselves and our church to be tools in God’s hands to do His work.” He will be waiting a lifetime unless he and his members repent of the apostasy, because the Holy Spirit will not come under the present condition.

Pioneer Memorial SDA Church, Michigan

<http://www.pmchurch.org>

This is the Andrews University campus church with Dwight Nelson as the senior pastor. Notice the following practices and events and ask yourself if this is one reason the university is in spiritual trouble. If you are a true SDA Christian, you will answer with a yes.

Andrews University Campus Ministries Radio (CMRadio) plays modern praise songs and Christian rock music.

A bulletin announcement included information on a Couples Agape Celebration.

<http://www.pmchurch.org/article.php?id=531>

Small Groups

The “Different Ways to Pray” section under “Leader Resources” has listed “Prayer Models for Small Groups” where these suggestions were given.

- “Popcorn prayer”: “Begins with tiny seed words and thoughts that gradually expand and bounce off others, exploding in prayer and praise until the burst subsides and the room is full of God’s presence. This prayer, as opposed to ‘sentence prayer’ or ‘conversation prayer’ uses only single words, names or short phrases. Prayers can ascend in any order, and even be overlapped.”
- “Learning to Be Silent”: “Silence in our lives isn’t always peaceful; silence can be frightening” as quoted by Henri Nouwen.
- “Touch and Agree”: “Touch, as a physical act, is well-documented for its soothing and healing properties. When you touch and agree, you surround someone in your group who has a special need, or is about to embark on a special mission. Pray for them while resting hands on their shoulders and head. It’s a tangible symbol that you all agree in asking God to be with them in a special way.” Again, we see here a charismatic activity that belittles the act of laying on of hands. That act is to be reserved for ordaining deacons, deaconesses, elders, pastors, medical missionaries, and Bible workers. Nowhere in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy is it used in any other way.

- **Prayer Walking:** It was stated that prayer walking could be done with a group in a “very natural setting, stopping at various places for prayer and reflection” or “done around a campus or in town pausing at different places for prayers of intercession.”
- **Lectio Divina:** This is a very ancient method of praying and meditating over Scripture. It can be used very effectively in groups. The emphasis is on hearing God’s voice speak to you through His Word.

Whatever happened to the good old-fashioned “get on your knees” type of prayer? Has that become boring to the “postmodern culture”? If so, their spirituality needs to be re-examined.

<http://www.pmchurch.org/article.php?id=114>

“Small Group Values” included these emerging terms.

- **Openness:** to be “authentic in relationships, sharing our feelings, struggles, joys and hurts.”
- **Safety and Confidentiality:** to “keep in confidence what is said in the group.”
- **Evangelism:** to “expand the community of believers.”
- **Multiplication:** “To see more people connected in Christian community, growing in relationship with Christ.”

Relationships are being stressed here, which are important. However, we must remember that this is also seen as the third stage of the “sacred path” in the prayer labyrinth. In regard to the confidentiality, we must point out again that we are to trust only in Christ, not man.

<http://www.pmchurch.org/article.php?id=528>

The “Spiritual Body Building” section under “Leader Resources” has a “Nine Dots” exercise in which it is stated that it illustrates the need for “new solutions to old problems,” that sometimes we need to “think outside” our “current framework to find better solutions,” to “break out of the walls of our mental box to find God’s answers in today’s challenges.” It concludes by saying that “to implement God’s vision for church we will also have to overcome some of our preconceived ideas of ‘how to be church.’ ” This is an “out of the box” scenario with a desire to give up traditional methods of church worship services, etc.

Southeast SDA Church, Cleveland, Ohio

<http://www.se7day.org>

Features from this church have included:

- Concerts with contemporary gospel recording artists and Grammy award winners.
- Ecumenical meetings with those of other religions.
- The “Creative Movement Ministry” that uses “creative movement to encourage and fulfill a worship experience that exemplifies love, expresses gratitude and joy,” and glorifies God through “expressive movements.”

- An April 2009 *Southeast Spirit* newsletter advertisement of a massage therapist who also does reflexology, polarity, and Reiki.

Glenvale SDA Church, Australia

<http://glenvale.adventist.org.au>

This church includes singing of contemporary Christian songs as well as drama performances. Also there are links provided for “Christian satellite TV channels,” which are an ecumenical blend of interfaith networks as follows:

- EWTN Global Catholic Network.
- Focus on the Family, whose founder is James Dobson, possibly the most influential Christian leader in the U.S. He is an evangelical author and psychologist. No longer with Focus on the Family, he now has a radio broadcast, “Family Talk with Dr. James Dobson.”
- The Apostolic Oneness Network, founded by the Christ Apostolic Temple, Inc. Fellowship (CATIF).
- JCTV Christian youth network, with music video countdown shows, interviews with top artists, and today’s top concert performances and festivals. Also included are action sports, award shows, movies, variety shows, reality series, comedy shows, talk shows, and more.
- The Church Channel, a multi-denominational religious network.
- The God Channel, whose vision statement is to “present world class anointed, prophetic, supernatural content . . . reconciling man, woman and child with God by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Just the name alone of the channel is blasphemous. God’s name is being used today as if it was trivial.
- Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), advertised as the most watched faith channel in the U.S. and the world’s largest religious network that appeals to a variety of Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant denominations. Programs include testimonials from famous celebrities, sports figures, and ministers, exciting movies, contemporary Christian music. For teens and young adults, it’s anything from “muscle men to hot music videos . . . Christian programming that speaks their language.”

Daystar Television Network, “with an extensive blend of interdenominational and multi-cultural programming.”

<http://glenvale.adventist.org.au/christian-tv>

It would be better to not provide any satellite channels than to include those that teach untruths and the world’s ways. This is a sad example coming from an SDA church.

Coastlife Adventist Church, Australia

<http://coastlifeadventist.com>

A sample worship service topic at this church was entitled “Core Values – Relevance, Authenticity.”

The goal at Coastlife is to “help every person find their place in God’s service, whether it is cutting sandwiches at the Family Fun Days or playing guitar in one

of our worship bands.” So what is wrong with their Family Fun Days? The answer is in this ad:

Saturday, July 10, 2010 at 1pm to 3pm

Family fun day– free ball games, jumping castle and face painting is being provided by the Coastlife Adventist Church.

This was held at a local park and repeated again on Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Child Guidance, pp. 533-534

Parents, above everything take care of your children upon the Sabbath. Do not suffer them to violate God's holy day by playing in the house or out-of-doors. You may just as well break the Sabbath yourselves as to let your children do it, and when you suffer your children to wander about and suffer them to play upon the Sabbath, God looks upon you as Sabbathbreakers.

The parents may take their children outdoors to view God in nature. They can be pointed to the blooming flowers and the opening buds, the lofty trees and beautiful spires of grass, and taught that God made all these in six days and rested on the seventh day and hallowed it. Thus the parents may bind up their lessons of instruction to their children, so that when these children look upon the things of nature, they will call to mind the great Creator of them all. Their thoughts will be carried up to nature's God-- back to the creation of our world, when the foundation of the Sabbath was laid, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Such are the lessons to be impressed on the minds of our children.

We are not to teach our children that they must not be happy on the Sabbath, that it is wrong to walk out-of-doors. Oh, no. Christ led His disciples out by the lakeside on the Sabbath day and taught them. His sermons on the Sabbath were not always preached within enclosed walls.

Other church announcements included the following:

- “A revolution is a fundamental change in power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time. We all need a revolution in our lives from time to time – a changing of old ways, a turning around to face God again, a line in the sand. Revolution is a week of spiritual transformation that takes place each year at Coastlife.” This year Revolution will feature Eddie Hypolite from England and “whether it's upbeat worship, food and friends or challenging messages, Revolution promises to change your life.” Revolution will then “finish with a bang on Saturday night with a party and Barn Dance with Peter Dixon (blues and classic rock music). If the 300 people at the Barn Dance last year were anything to go by, it's a night not to be missed. Come along to Revolution this year and be prepared to grow out of sight!”
- “Superhero Day” was the title of a Kids Church, which included music and puppets. A thank you was given to those who invested in the “spiritual development of our kids!”

According to God's plan for church worship and Sabbath-keeping, the spirituality at Coastlife is at an all time low.

Escondido SDA Church, California

<http://www.escondidosda.org>

This church advertises "You don't have to dress up. Just come as you are."

It is also very active with ecumenical community outreach projects, such as the following:

- "A Christmas-time outreach displaying a live scene of Bethlehem," partnering with the Methodist Church "by providing actors, greeters and snacks. Over 1,200 visitors take the tour each year."
- "Each spring our church joins with other churches and agencies in a walk to raise awareness and needed funds for those suffering from hunger and poverty world-wide."
- Partners with youth leaders from the Methodist and Episcopal churches to "provide a community Easter Sunrise Service, weekly summer beach days, Back-to-School BBQ and Thanksgiving weekend celebration (including Can Hunger! food drive)."
- "We have also participated in such events as block parties. . . ."
- "Interfaith Community Services (ICS) – We partner with over 400 other faith groups through one central agency to provide basic needs to those regaining self-sufficiency."
- "Our church and academy serves a public school specifically for homeless children in San Diego."
- "Our church participates with other faith groups and the City of Escondido in a prayer event at City Hall on the designated Day of Prayer in May each year."
- "Summer Student Internship": A6 to 8 week discipleship training program for high school and college youth; includes a prayer tour in Los Angeles. . . .
- . . . and much more.

While it is commendable to help those in the community, would it not be better for SDA churches to conduct their own programs rather than unite with those of other religions, which causes ecumenical problems and lack of accountability?

Community Services

There is a trend today in the SDA churches to be zealous in feeding the homeless on the streets, yet ignoring their own SDA church members. We can only conclude that it is because those who practice this trend are either ignorant of their priorities or are seeking to gather recognition with the world, to say, "Look what I'm doing!" Should we not help our worthy members first before helping those on the street who do not care about spiritual matters, but are simply looking for a handout? Yes, we are to feed the hungry, but we are also expected to use common sense in the process. We cannot afford to focus more on feeding stomachs than on feeding spiritually.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Our Father Cares, p. 54

In a special sense Christ has laid upon His church the duty of caring for the needy among its own members. He suffers His poor to be in the borders of every church. They are always to be among us, and He places upon the members of the church a personal responsibility to care for them. As the members of a true family care for one another, ministering to the sick, supporting the weak, teaching the ignorant, training the inexperienced, so is the "household of faith" to care for its needy and helpless ones.

It is the duty of each church to make careful, judicious arrangements for the care of its poor and sick.

Any neglect on the part of those who claim to be followers of Christ, a failure to relieve the necessities of a brother or a sister who is bearing the yoke of poverty and oppression, is registered in the books of heaven as shown to Christ in the person of His saints.

Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 82

What a reckoning the Lord will have with many, very many, who present the words of Christ to others but fail to manifest tender sympathy and regard for a brother in the faith who is less fortunate and successful than themselves.

Many will allow a brother to struggle along unaided under adverse circumstances, and in thus doing they give to one precious soul the impression that they are thus representing Christ. It is no such thing; Jesus, who was rich, for our sake became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. That He might save the sinner, He withheld not His own life. The heart of Christ is ever touched with human woe.

Welfare Ministry, p. 105

Wherever the truth has been proclaimed and people have been awakened and converted, the believers are at once to unite in exercises of charity.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 550

Should our whole attention be directed to relieving the wants of the poor, God's cause would be neglected. Neither will suffer if His stewards do their duty, but the cause of Christ should come first.

Matthew 26:11

For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 102

What you need is less temporal food and much more spiritual food, more of the bread of life.

Education, p. 150

Genius, talent, sympathy, even generous and kindly deeds, may thus become decoys of Satan to entice souls over the precipice of ruin.

There is also a new trend in the SDA organization to be more community service oriented. While we are to reach out to our communities and be of service, we wonder why the following underlined words are used by Adventist Community Services International (ACSI), which is under the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SSPM) Department of the General Conference of SDAs.

<http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/article.php?id=7>

This website stated that ACSI “promotes an incarnational ministry that well represents Jesus’ method of proclaiming the Gospel.” Its vision is that every SDA church be a “transforming agent in its community, following the method of Jesus to bring help and hope through ministries of compassion in His name (see Luke 4:16-21; MH 143).”

Those statements remind us of information gleaned from the following website.

<http://www.crossroad.to/Quotes/Church/post-modern/incarnational.htm>

- The word “incarnational” is heard in most denominations and postmodern churches. “It’s at the heart of the new, experiential form of Christianity -- the transformative movement attempting to unify the world under the banner of the evolving ‘Church.’ ”
- It fits into Rick Warren’s worldwide P.E.A.C.E. Plan and Brian McLaren’s Kingdom of God.
- “The new emphasis is primarily on collective experience and unifying community service. To avoid conflict, the true gospel -- including the ‘offense of the cross’ -- must be banned along with other divisive Scriptures.”
- According to Jim Montgomery from the movement, DAWN (Discipling a Whole Nation), the Lord seemed to be telling him, “See to it that I, the Lord, truly become incarnate, as you have been suggesting, in every small group of people on the earth.”
- The beginning workbook for the Renovaré Spiritual Formation Groups is based on these six major dimensions: Contemplative (The Prayer-Filled Life); Holiness (The Virtuous Life); Charismatic (The Spirit-Empowered Life); Social Justice (The Compassionate Life); Evangelical (The Word-Centered Life); and Incarnational (The Sacramental Life).
- The following statement by Leonard Sweet was in response to why he has stated that the church needs to use pop culture as a way to share the gospel: “Because it’s the Roman road; it’s the road people are traveling on; it’s the dominant global culture. For the church not to speak to pop culture, not to use images that come from it and sounds that come from it, smells that come from it, well ... that’s not being very incarnational ... In order to incarnate Christ into the culture that is there, then we have to look to redeem pop culture.”

http://www.leonardsweet.com/article_details.php?id=13

Adventist Urban Congress

<http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=229>;

<http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=207>;

<http://www.columbiaunion.org/article.php?id=149>

This NAD-sponsored congress was held at Oakwood College in Alabama on July 22-27, 2007. It was the “first major gathering in NAD in more than 100 years to be focused on the needs of urban communities.” The theme was “Transforming the City: Urban Ministry in the New Millennium.” It was also open to people of all religions. About 200 “urban practitioners” in the NAD and beyond attended the congress. It was cosponsored by the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Institute for Continuing Education in Ministry, Oakwood College, Columbia Union College, NAD Evangelism Institute, Philanthropic Services for Institutions, Ministerial Association, and Adventist Community Services. Speakers included Ron Sider, well-known advocate for the poor and professor at Eastern University in Pennsylvania; Barry Black; E. E. Cleveland; Charles Bradford; Gaspar Colon, Washington Adventist University (WAU) Dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, professor of Theology, and director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry at WAU; Monte Sahlin; Zdravko Plantak; more than 40 pastors from the Allegheny East Conference; and others. The event included workshops in “program development, networking, partnerships, fund raising, wholistic ministry, public policy and social justice theology.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 551-552

It was not the purpose of God that poverty should ever leave the world. The ranks of society were never to be equalized, for the diversity of condition which characterizes our race is one of the means by which God has designed to prove and develop character. Many have urged with great enthusiasm that all men should have an equal share in the temporal blessings of God, but this was not the purpose of the Creator. Christ has said that we shall have the poor always with us. The poor, as well as the rich, are the purchase of His blood; and among His professed followers, in most cases, the former serve Him with singleness of purpose, while the latter are constantly fastening their affections on their earthly treasures, and Christ is forgotten. The cares of this life and the greed for riches eclipse the glory of the eternal world. It would be the greatest misfortune that has ever befallen mankind if all were to be placed upon an equality in worldly possessions.

The NAD sponsored the second urban congress on August 30-September 2, 2009 at the Dallas First Adventist Church in Texas. While it is good to help the poor, the advocates of this congress are headed in the wrong direction. Have they not learned from history what happens when people get involved in social justice with the world?

SDA leaders

Below is a list of SDA institutions and denominational leaders, with their past or present positions, who were or are supportive of spiritual formation. (This is not a complete list.)

- Nikolaus Satelmajer: Associate Secretary, General Conference Ministerial Association; past editor of *Ministry* magazine.

- Jon Dybdahl:
 - Earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Pacific Union College in 1965; earned a master's degree in systematic theology and a master of divinity degree from Andrews University; in 1981, completed a doctorate in Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary.
 - A pastor, evangelist, theology professor, college administrator, and author of *Hunger: Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul*. This book was advertised in the January 2011 *Adventist World* Revival and Reformation resources section, page 21.
 - Past president of Walla Walla College.
 - At Andrews University (AU): a professor of world mission and involved in the training of ministers worldwide, holding the position of a pastoral practitioner in the Doctor of Ministry concentration entitled "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation," teaching "CHMN 705 Theological and Historical Perspectives on Spiritual Growth."
- Martin Feldbush: Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) director, pastor, religion teacher, healthcare chaplain, chaplain with Association of Professional Chaplains.
- O. Jane Thayer: Associate Professor of Religious Education as well as professor and pastoral practitioner of "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation" at AU.
- Roger Dudley: Professor emeritus of Christian Ministry and director of the Institute of Church Ministry, Andrews University; Director, Adventist Information Ministry.
- John Jenson: Pastors the South Bay-Redondo Adventist Church in Torrance, California, which includes traditional and contemporary worship services; beach party/worships; a website that has a link for reviews of new eGames which promote violence, magic gems, other gods, possible ancestor worship, rude humor, sexual themes, strong language, fantasy magic, occult, witches, gambling, and alcohol.
- Jerry Moon: Associate Professor and Chair, Church History Department at AU; Editor, *Andrews University Seminary Studies*; teacher of *Spiritual Formation Practicum* course at AU.
- Susan Zork: Professor of Religion at AU; currently taking course work toward a Ph.D. in Theological Curriculum and Spiritual Formation; attended the Renovaré International Conference "The With-God Life: The Dynamics of Scripture for Christian Transformation"; Denver, Colorado, June 2005.
- Winston Ferris: Adjunct Professor, Religious Education & Spiritual Formation at AU.
- Delcy Kuhlman: Adjunct Professor, Spiritual Formation at AU.
- Derek Morris: Adjunct Professor, Spiritual Formation, Andrews University and Southern Adventist University; pastored at Forest Lake SDA Church in Florida; authored *The Radical Prayer* and *The Radical Teachings of Jesus*; new editor of *Ministry* magazine.
- Steve Case:
 - Taught "CHMN 720 Current Issues in Youth and Young Adult Ministry" at AU.

- An author and international speaker to youth and youth leaders; has been a youth pastor and seminary professor.
- Writes a column for *Insight* magazine.
- President of Involve Youth; spoke at 2009 Youth Leadership Development Summit in which the program schedule included a quote by Lao Tzu, a Chinese Taoist philosopher and the father of Taoism.
- Promotes these youth activities: rap music, skits, familiarity with the opposite sex, sports and competition, tournaments, senseless games, amusement parks, joking, downplaying the health message, prayer walks, and small group solitude.
- Randal Wisbey: President, La Sierra University (first director of Center for Youth Evangelism).
- Monte Sahlin:
 - Ordained pastor having served in small and large congregations.
 - Currently serving as Director of Research & Special Projects at the Ohio Conference of SDAs.
 - Professor and pastoral practitioner for “Discipleship & Spiritual Formation” at AU.
 - A senior consultant at the Center for Creative Ministry.
 - Chairman of the board for the Center for Metropolitan Ministry at Washington Adventist University.
 - Served at the General Conference of SDAs in church ministries, media projects, social needs and issues, research and development, and as a regional vice president.
 - A prolific author of books and articles.
 - Worked as director, board chairman or strategic consultant of more than 100 “innovative, community-based” ministries, church plants and nonprofit organizations.
 - An adjunct faculty member at the Campolo Graduate School at Eastern University in Pennsylvania; on the steering committee of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership.
 - Awarded an Outstanding Public Service Award by the U.S. government; participated in the Presidents’ Summit on Volunteerism as well as the preparatory gathering of 50 representatives of the nonprofit sector at the White House.
- Allan Walshe: Taught “The Personal Practice of Spiritual Formation” and “CHMN 720 Current Issues in Youth and Young Adult Ministry” at AU; past president of New Zealand Pacific Union Conference of SDAs; served as director of family ministries for the South Queensland SDA Conference.
- Bill Knott: Editor and executive publisher of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* and served as associate editor; pastored in both small and large churches; speaks at conventions, conferences, retreats and camp meetings worldwide; professor and pastoral practitioner of “Discipleship & Spiritual Formation” at AU.
- Kenley Hall: Adjunct professor of Research and Writing at AU; listed as a possible speaker on “Discipleship & Spiritual Formation” at AU in 2011.

- A. Allan Martin: An author; professor and pastoral practitioner of "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation" at AU; sponsored participants for the 2010 IMPACT Atlanta; curriculum coach for GODencounters; promotes drama and humorous speakers, the George Barna Group, and other emerging church resources for youth.
- Joseph Kidder: Professor and pastoral practitioner of "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation" at AU.
- In Kidder's class, required reading includes *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard. Full participation is required in a one-day Spiritual Retreat in order to "introduce students to the value of spiritual retreats, discipleships, small groups, and bonding with like-minded spiritual pilgrims." Three hours each week is to be spent in the Practice of Spiritual Disciplines. Kidder travels worldwide to give seminars and train pastors, leaders, and members in spirituality, evangelism, church growth, and leadership.
http://www.inministry.info/site/1/docs/GSEM541_Spiritual_Formation-Andrews-Sum_10-J_Kidder.pdf
- Richard Davidson: Professor and pastoral practitioner of "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation" at AU; authored dozens of articles for theological journals; chaired the Old Testament department at AU; former president of the Adventist Theological Society.
- Heather Crews: Serves as Pastor for Church Life at Keene SDA Church in Texas; currently pursuing Doctorate of Ministry in Leadership and Spiritual Formation through George Fox Evangelical Seminary; served as an Associate Pastor before attending AU for her Master of Divinity; pastored two churches with ministry focus on lifestyle evangelism, worship and spiritual formation; hobbies include reading everything from literature to theological treatises and training in karate; states that her "burning passion is to make Christianity relevant inside the current culture." <http://www.keenechurch.com/index/pastors>
- Duane Covrig: Professor of Leadership and Educational Administration as well as religion and ethics at AU; gathered resources for Partners in Innovation conferences; taught in educational leadership at the University of Akron, Ohio; taught religion at Loma Linda University (LLU); researcher at LLU and the University of California, Riverside.
- Yat Ang: Member of 2005 In-Residence Cohort for Global Mission Leadership (for doctor of ministry at Andrews University); gathered resources for Partners in Innovation conferences while in the leadership program at AU.
- Carol Tasker:
 - While at AU, attended the 2001 North American Professors of Christian Education (NAPCE) Annual Conference, giving a research presentation entitled "Spiritual Formation Class - An Unexpected Journey for Pastors in Training" on Saturday, October 27. The theme for NAPCE 2001 was "Spiritual Journey and our Communities of Faith." "The conference focused on the richness of the spiritual journey found in diverse expressions of the Body of Christ and explored implications for personal and corporate growth." It also "explored the journey to spiritual maturity in four communities. African, Asian, Hispanic and Willow Creek Community Church experiences

were described and explored throughout the conference.” NAPCE is an evangelical, ecumenical organization.

- While at AU in 2001/2002, gave a dissertation entitled “The impact of intentional learning experiences for personal spiritual formation on seminary students.”

<http://www.napce.org/archives/confer01/confer01.html>

<http://www.worldcat.org/title/impact-of-intentional-learning-experiences-for-personal-spiritual-formation-on-seminary-students/oclc/052890672>

- Colin Renfrew:

- Renfrew is director of Discipleship and Spiritual Development for South Queensland Conference of SDAs in Australia. He is the editor of *Spiritually Formed*, a “bi-annual journal exploring Christian discipleship in the context of spiritual formation.”

<http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au/authors/colin-renfrew>

- In an article in the South Pacific Division *Record* entitled, “Connected to the vine,” Renfrew writes: “Posturing toward God involves the time-honoured disciplines of the Christian life. To the Spirit-filled Christian these disciplines are like breathing and are an indispensable part of each day. Prayer, Bible contemplation and study, fasting, solitude, submission, service, worship and celebration are just some of the disciplines practiced in turning toward the life in our great God and Father.” <http://www.record.net.au/assets/270047.pdf>

- Miroslav Pujic:

- Pujic is the director of the Global Mission Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies and of Media Ministry for the Trans-European Division of SDAs. He also works to “increase awareness of emergent culture among members and pastors and offers the LIFEdevelopment discipleship pathway “as a model for reaching postmoderns.” During one seminar church members responded positively, “showing that they are very motivated to adjust the church activities to a postmodern level; that music, lectures, group and club activities, and communication at large may be adjusted also.”

<http://www.global-mission.org/article.php?id=900>

- In the May 17, 2008 issue of the South Pacific Division *Record*, an article entitled “South Qld [Queensland] ‘re:frames’ faith sharing” describes an April 2008 training weekend called *Re:Frame*, which was led by Pujic. More than 150 church members, pastors, and leaders of the SDA Church in South Queensland attended the first-ever event in Australia. Renfrew, who helped to write the article, stated that “At the heart of the Centre’s ministry lies a vision to assist Adventists to understand emergent culture, provide tested and effective discipleship models, and create authentic resources to evangelise in postmodern culture.”

http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2008/rec18-08_05_17.pdf

The following are advisors and readers for projects and dissertations on spiritual formation:

- Victor Figueroa Villareal, Professor of Theology, University of Montemorelos (SDA), Mexico
- Raymond Pichette, Vice President of Pastoral Ministries, Potomac Conference of SDAs, Virginia

http://www.andrews.edu/sem/dmin/project/advisors/advisors_list.pdf

Adventist Review

<http://www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2010-1516&page=6>

In June 2010, Roy Adams, as Associate Editor of the *Adventist Review* (now retired), published an article on the emerging church movement. He begins by stating that he first heard about it in April 2008 and gave it little attention because the idea seemed harmless to him. However, about a year later a retired SDA administrator called Adams because he was alarmed at the “growing negative impact” of the emerging church movement. An alarm should be sounded. Additionally, why was Adams just finding out about it in 2008 when it was already active in the Ohio Conference of SDAs since at least 2005 and was being promoted by the General Conference of SDAs in 2001?

After looking into the emerging church movement, Adams came to the conclusion that an alert should be sounded, but not an alarm, and that it is something to be watched, because it may have some good ideas for churches in this postmodern era. He believes it may just be a passing fad just like the New Age movement. Unfortunately, the emerging church movement is here to stay just like the New Age ideas, as can be seen in the sampling above of SDA emerging churches. It is part of Satan’s plan to bring about a one-world religion, and since he hates the SDA Church more than any other, he has attacked it viciously. Additionally, if it is just a passing fad, then what God has shown us in His Word, especially in *The Great Controversy*, is not true. Adams should know better.

The emerging church movement is still being promoted worldwide and is growing rapidly. How disheartening to know that Satan brought these very practices into the remnant church and most were not and perhaps still are not aware of it. It is interesting that *Newsweek* noticed this almost twenty years ago, while many Christians and SDAs are ignorant to this change.

Newsweek magazine, January 6, 1992, p. 44: “. . . silence, appropriate body posture and, above all, emptying the mind through repetition of prayer—have been the practices of mystics in all the great world religions. And they form the basis on which most modern spiritual directors guide those who want to draw closer to God.”

One only has to walk into a bookstore and look through the self-help, personal growth, health, and New Age sections to notice the numerous books on mysticism. It reveals that it is the main spirituality worldwide and is a concentrated effort to restructure our society.

A popular seminar speaker and transcendental meditation practitioner, John Gray, authored the bestseller, *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* as well as *How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have*. In the latter

book, he wrote how quickly and easily people are "moving into the mystical realm."

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 202

We need not the mysticism that is in this book [*The Living Temple* by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg]. Those who entertain these sophistries will soon find themselves in a position where the enemy can talk with them, and lead them away from God.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 132

The study of God's word should take the place of the study of those books that have led minds into mysticism and away from the truth. Its living principles, woven into our lives, will be our safeguard in trials and temptations; its divine instruction is the only way to success. As the test comes to every soul, there will be apostasies. Some will prove to be traitors, heady, high-minded, and self-sufficient, and will turn away from the truth, making shipwreck of faith. Why? Because they did not live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." They did not dig deep and make their foundation sure.

When the words of the Lord through His chosen messengers are brought to them, they murmur and think the way is made too strait. In the sixth chapter of John we read of some who were thought to be disciples of Christ, but who, when the plain truth was presented to them, were displeased and walked no more with Him. In like manner these superficial students also will turn away from Christ.

Joel 2:1

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=3384>

James Coffin, senior pastor of the Markham Woods SDA Church in Longwood, Florida, also wrote on the emerging church movement in the *Adventist Review* in June 2010. In his conclusion he is asking where the emerging church is headed. He should know where it is headed, and the question should be asked where we as individuals as well as the SDA Church are headed as the majority become more involved in every "wind of doctrine." It does not need to be a "learn-as-we-go venture" as Coffin states. The Lord has already shown enough to SDAs in order that they can be certain how to be Christians and how to run the SDA organization, without using the ideas outside their faith.

<http://secularandpostmodern.com/postmodernpilgrims.html>

At this website, Rey Descalso, Associate Director of the Center for Secular/Postmodern Mission for the General Conference of SDAs and the Youth/Associate Pastor of Markham Woods Church, recommended the book *Postmodern Pilgrims: First century passion for a 21st century world* by Leonard Sweet.

Jim Appel, Associate of the Center for Secular/Postmodern Mission, recommended the book *A New Kind of Christian* by Brian McLaren.

James Coffin has also been a director of the Center for Secular/Postmodern Mission.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=3383>

Fernando Canale also wrote on the emerging church movement in the June 2010 *Adventist Review*. He is a professor of theology and philosophy at Andrews University. He first describes what the emerging church movement is like in the evangelical churches. They suggest adapting worship services for the postmodern culture, in hopes of attracting the secular youth, nonbelievers and even believers. This may include these practices:

- Music from heavy rock to traditional hymns.
- Ancient rituals.
- Spiritual disciplines.
- Contemplative prayer and prayer stations.
- Celebrating the liturgical Christian season, such as Easter.
- Celebrating the Eucharist.
- Partaking of Jewish traditions.
- Sermons optional, minimized or shortened, heavily illustrated with visuals or multiple presenters, and storytelling.

The Review and Herald, December 22, 1904

Weed out storytelling from your discourses, and preach the word. You will then have more sheaves to bring to the Master.

Each item mentioned in the list above has taken place in various SDA churches. Canale states that these all “emerge” from postmodern culture, contemporary charismatic worship, Catholic liturgy, or Eastern spirituality (New Age) and that a major overhaul of theology is under way. He explains how one emergent suggests surrendering all absolutes (philosophical and biblical) to embrace Christian tradition and the postmodern culture. He shows how this movement embraces theological pluralism, relativism, and Roman Catholic ecumenism.

Canale explains that the movement comes from Pentecostalism and Catholic mystical spirituality. He can be commended for stating that if the SDA Church continues to play follow the leader that new generations of SDAs will go back to Rome, that the gospel and the remnant church are at stake, and the SDA leaders should begin a biblical reformation. However, it is dangerous to state as he did that we should assess everything in the emerging church resources in light of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and use only what is good. Two problems to that include the fact that each person may decide differently what they think is good and as they assess the resources, they can be snared into error.

We see the habit of SDA leaders minimizing the dangers that confront the Church and mixing truth with error, saying just enough to try to pacify those who are alarmed. There is also a tendency to allow what it takes to keep the membership figures growing and the money coming in.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2007-1522&page=8>

This is just one example of the Adventist Review promoting emerging churches. An article entitled "The Wausau Church Story" by Bill Bossert, tells what his church did to gain more members. At the time he pastored The Shepherd's House: An Adventist Community of Love, an SDA church in Wausau, Wisconsin. He is now pastor of The Edge Christian Worship Center in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. The article references how they purchased the following two books to help their church grow: Dan Kimball's book, The Emerging Church, for each elder and the book by Brian McLaren, More Ready Than You Realize, for each of the personal ministries committee members. The Edge church also "worships the Lord using many heartfelt contemporary Christian music themes." <http://www.theedgecwc.com/praise-and-worship>

There used to be a time when a person could recognize an SDA church simply by its name. However, it is becoming a trend now to leave the Seventh-day Adventist name out, with more focus on it being a "community" church. Will this make it an easier transition to a Sunday-keeping church?

<http://www.reviewandherald.com/index.php/news/article/20.rhpa>

In an article on reorganization, the Review and Herald Publishing Association mentioned their experiencing "years of mounting financial loss." Could it be due to the errors that are printed and therefore God is not pouring out a blessing? Are they repeating the same mistakes from the past that caused the 1902 fire to totally destroy the publishing house? The following words of Ellen White echo in our ears. These same words apply as well to Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, pp. 91-92

The presses in the Lord's institution have been printing the soul-destroying theories of Romanism and other mysteries of iniquity. The office must be purged of this objectionable matter. I have a testimony from the Lord for those who have placed such matter in the hands of the workers. God holds you accountable for presenting to young men and young women the fruit of the forbidden tree of knowledge. Can it be possible that you have not a knowledge of the warnings given to the Pacific Press on this subject? Can it be possible that with a knowledge of these warnings you are going over the same ground, only doing much worse? It has often been repeated to you that angels of God are passing through every room in the office. What impression has this made on your minds?

You have given matter containing Satan's sentiments into the hands of the workers, bringing his deceptive, polluting principles before their minds. The Lord looks upon this action on your part as helping Satan to prepare his snare to catch souls. God will not hold guiltless those who have done this thing. He has a controversy with the managers of the publishing house. I have been almost afraid to open the Review, fearing to see that God has cleansed the publishing house by fire.

The Lord has instructed me that those who cannot see the wickedness of co-operating with Satan by publishing his falsehoods might better seek some work in which they will not ruin our youth, body and soul. There is

danger that the standard of truth and righteousness will be so lowered that God will bring His judgments upon the wrongdoers.

It is high time that we understood what spirit has for years been controlling matters at the Review and Herald office. I am horrified to think that the most subtle phase of spiritualism should be placed before the workers, and that in a way calculated to confuse and perplex the mind. Be assured that Satan will follow up the advantage thus given him.

Satan truly has followed up the advantage given him, as can be seen today in the spiritualism that has entered our SDA institutions.

Ministry magazine

<http://ministrymagazine.org/archives/2010/MIN2010-03.pdf>

John Markovic wrote on the emerging church movement in the March and May 2010 issues of *Ministry* magazine. He is the associate professor of modern European and church history at Andrews University. His article is paraphrased and condensed as follows: 1) It is hard to define the emerging movement; 2) Emergents should be handled gently; 3) My students read (by choice) the emergents works and some attend emergent workshops; 4) Based on what others tell me, the emerging movement is affecting Protestant churches and the SDA Church, being promoted by the "progressives"; 5) There are others who do not like changes and expect the pastors to defend the "established worship practices and theology"; 6) We need to update our worship, yet keep it biblical; 7) The emerging call to be authentic Christians is able to reach society where traditional Christians do not; 8) Yet the emergents challenge certain doctrines which are not necessarily biblical; 9) Leading emergents teach that we should not be critical, divisive, and judgmental; 10) God asks us to reason together, to correctly handle the truth, and to test the spirits. . . .

While it is good that Markovic defends the Scriptures and mentions the need to overcome sin, he goes into details of what is involved in the emerging church movement and completely ignores the fact that it is going on right in the midst of Andrews University and the rest of the SDA Church. His conclusion is disappointing, because it does not sound an alarm. He is part of the problem, especially in leading students down a dangerous path. Once spiritualism is delved into, it is hard to get out of it, just like any other addiction.

<http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2008/April/developing-an-adventist-concept-of-spirituality.html>

In the April 2008 issue of *Ministry* magazine, Bruce Manners writes about SDA spirituality and quotes Eugene Peterson and Henri Nouwen. The article covers relationships, worship, and communication in the form of the "spiritual disciplines of reading and listening, of journaling and meditation, of shouting (inwardly, if you prefer) and silence. . . ." He also mentions solitude and practicing the "presence of God." Next Manners quotes a Rabbi, strongly emphasizes the spiritual disciplines as a way to obtain an "experiential relationship with God," and ends with a quote by Richard Foster.

<http://ministrymagazine.org/archive/2009/August/making-space-for-God.html>

In August 2009, Bobby Moore (pastor, Highline SDA Church, Burien, Washington) wrote an article in *Ministry* magazine entitled "Making space for

God: Contemplation as praxis.” He mentions the following, which has been paraphrased:

- Benedict of Nursia’s “rule” allows for a “spiritual rhythm” in the daily routine to assist “practicing the presence of God” through different spiritual disciplines such as solitude. [Benedict of Nursia (480–547) founded Western Christian monasticism, was a “rule-giver” for monks, and founded twelve monk communities.]
- Dallas Willard’s book, *Spirit of the Disciplines*, explains how the “rule” helps us to make “space” for the Holy Spirit and to observe the disciplines that Christ used.
- Henry David Thoreau wished to “live deep.” Thoreau was a philosopher who believed that intuition was important.
- In order to be released from the “busyness” of life, “seek to give one’s self to the moment,” as this is the “beginning of contemplativeness” which provides space for God.
- According to author Kees Waaijman, contemplation is entering into a space to “observe the movements of the divine.” As we do this, we will see God move in “ways we have never noticed.” [Waaijman was a friar, a professor of spirituality, and a director of a Catholic institute in the Netherlands, who wrote on the manifestations of spirituality.]
- Living contemplatively “shifts the paradigm radically,” has eternal benefits, and goes against conventional wisdom. It means to ignore the “tyranny of the urgent,” to live “in rhythm with nature,” and to be compassionate. It is a “planned journey” with flexibility. Intrusions are opportunities to glimpse the Divine.
- Pray for others so that “God’s grace will operate in their lives” in order that “Jesus will be continually glorified.” Be aware of Christ’s presence in each person you meet. [Unfortunately, the presence of Christ may not be in every person you meet, since it is up to the individual to choose Christ.]
- “Develop a contemplative lifestyle” with meditation and living in rhythm with God. As you “include space for Him, your passion for an effective ministry will increase—resulting in Christlikeness for yourself, your family, and your parishioners.”
- To help remind himself to pray in the middle of the day, Moore carries five smooth, colorful stones in his right pocket. As he prays, he removes one and rubs it in his fingers. When finished praying, he places it in his left pocket. Does he not realize that this routine can very easily lead to using a rosary?

Signs of the Times (Australia)

For years the Australian *Signs of the Times* has included many articles and front cover photos of celebrities. God’s people were never instructed to glorify the world’s superstars.

Proverbs 17:15

He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

How can the world be taught to be a peculiar people if we feed them with what they already have? How can we remain a peculiar people if we continue to borrow from the world? Below are three examples of *Signs* articles which show the periodical's downward trend that has led to spiritualism. Sadly, this is the case in most SDA periodicals.

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20080531094351/http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au/archives/2004/november/article5.shtml>

A November 2004 article entitled "Stillness is Golden" included the following information:

- We can increase our "creative energy," our sense of purpose and "connection with the Divine," our "focus, contemplation and peace" through "stillness, solitude and silence." "Be still, and know that I am God" from Psalm 46:10 was quoted, along with other verses on quietness and rest.
- Stillness can be helped through the external physical exercises such as walking, swimming, dancing, and visual contemplation of such items as a fireplace, candle flame, water feature, or flower arrangement.
- Our increasing awareness of the character of God reveals "our conscious and unconscious motivation" and "brings about powerful releases within us," which leads to "transformational healing."
- In order to "start living fully," introduce stillness practices, such as the following: 1) While performing daily tasks, be aware of touch, smells, colors, temperatures, rhythm, etc. as modeled by "Brother Lawrence" (1611-1691), who was a Catholic monk; 2) Spend ten minutes of "silent stillness" in a natural setting, focusing on everything sensory in nature around you; 3) With your eyes closed, allow past daily events to "stream past your consciousness," cherishing the "life-giving moments you missed" and remembering the painful moments with forgiveness and tenderness; 4) In a quiet place, spend twenty uninterrupted minutes in wordless contemplation of the Divine and being receptive and hungry to connect and letting distracting thoughts "float past you without following"; 5) Centering prayer is a method that encourages you to "refocus on God" by "internally saying [repeating] one of the names of God that you relate to." [This is an example of taking God's name in vain.]
- A quote from *Silence on Fire: The Prayer of Awareness* by William Shannon, a Roman Catholic priest, in which he describes "wordless prayer" when we experience our dependence on God and "our awareness that we are in God." [In that same book, Shannon wrote that "the goal of all true spirituality is to achieve an awareness of our oneness with God and with all of God's creation." In his book, *Seeds of Peace*, he states that contemplative spirituality has widely replaced the spiritual worldview of many in Catholicism and that "we are in God, but we don't seem to know it" and "we are in paradise, but we don't realize it." He believes that "separate identities disappear in the All Who is God."] "People from many spiritual streams are embracing stillness" and sadly, Christians, in their "flurry to do good works, may be the ones most likely to miss out on these life-giving practices." [However, in trying to stress inner peace and rest, even quoting Bible verses on examples from Jesus, the

article borrows again from another contemplative mystic author, Thomas Kelly.]

Further recommended reading included other contemplative authors. The end of the article promoted "Stillspace," an independent and non-denominational Christian ministry, and the online prayer labyrinth at <http://www.yfc.co.uk/labyrinth/online.html>. If the reader wished further information, he was to write the author of Signs Publishing Company.

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20081120200241/http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au/archives/2004/november/book.shtm>

A Book Review in November 2004 recommended as good reading *A Retreat With Henri Nouwen: Reclaiming Our Humanity* by Robert Durbach. Yet as we have already learned, Henri Nouwen was a Catholic priest and mystic. The book also quotes Thomas Merton, a Catholic monk and mystic.

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20081011064632/http://www.signsofthetimes.org.au/archives/2005/december/article3.shtm>

Another Australian *Signs* article of December 2005 by the editor, Nathan Brown, features his thoughts on the movie version of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Brown also promotes FaithHouse Manhattan. The article concluded with a movie review by Chris Blake, who stated that "compared to typical Hollywood fare, Narnia is bracing entertainment with a fine spiritual message. It's definitely worth a watch."

General Conference of SDAs

<http://www.adventistreview.org/2003-1531/news.html>

SDA theologians and educators met for the Conference on Religious and Theological Education at the General Conference of SDAs in 2003, where a "list of 28 formal recommendations came out of the meetings." One included urging all ministerial training schools to "include a class in experiential spiritual formation in their curricula."

Adventist News Network

<http://news.adventist.org/2004/02/a-feature-church-cogregatios-icrease-focus-o-spiritual-formatio.html>

At the end of a February 2004 Adventist News Network article entitled "Church, Congregations Increase Focus on 'Spiritual Formation,'" it stated that in September 2001, the SDA world church created the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education (IBMTE). It is to give "guidance and standards" in training pastors, theologians, evangelists, chaplains, teachers, and other denominational employees in spiritual formation in all 13 regions of the church worldwide.

How tragic that the Baptist website quoted below finds it necessary to write about SDA leaders who are promoting the emerging church movement. There will be sincere, faithful Christians of other denominations who will join the purified church during the Loud Cry and take the place of those SDAs who have been unfaithful.

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=2136> (December 31, 2009)

In 2007, Lighthouse Trails posted an article titled Church, Congregations Increase Focus on “Spiritual Formation.” [referenced below] The article, released by *Adventist News Network*, showed how the emphasis of contemplative/spiritual formation was moving into the Seventh-day Adventist organization. The article stated that “this subject [spiritual formation] is receiving serious emphasis in Adventist institutions, as well as in local congregations.” The following Lighthouse Trails research reveals that Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan is promoting contemplative spirituality (i.e., spiritual formation) through a new concentration in their Doctor of Ministry degree program. An October 2009 Andrews newsletter, put out by Kenley D. Hall (Andrews DMin Project Coach) explains that “Discipleship & Spiritual Formation” and “Youth and Young Adult Ministry” will begin in February 2010 (see brochure).

According to the syllabus of one of the courses in the Andrews spiritual formation program, contemplative mystic proponents will be used to teach students this coming February. In CHMN 705 Theological and Historical Perspectives on Spiritual Growth, professor Jon Dybdahl is using a number of contemplative authors to “Demonstrate a continuing maturity in Christian formation, personal growth and ministry.” This maturity in Christian formation is typical language by contemplatives, who teach that true maturity can only come through spending time in contemplative silence. Richard Foster has been a pioneer in laying out this “maturity” doctrine. So it is not surprising that Dybdahl is turning to Foster for guidance. Other contemplatives being used in the class are: J.P. Moreland (Kingdom Triangle) and Peter Scazzero. A “short spiritual retreat” will also take place during the course. Scazzero’s book, *Emotionally Healthy Spiritually* (the book being used at Andrews), is a who’s who of contemplative mystics and panentheists; some of those he points readers to are Basil Pennington, Tilden Edwards, Henri Nouwen, Meister Eckhart, Teresa of Avila, and several others.

In J.P. Moreland’s book, *Kingdom Triangle* (also used in Dybdahl’s class at Andrews), Moreland talks about a maturing process that takes place through “spiritual formation.” Moreland tells readers that a “treasure of deep, rich knowledge of the soul” can be found in the writings of the Desert Fathers, Henri Nouwen, and Richard Foster, (p. 153). Of course, all three of these sources ultimately point followers to eastern-style meditation (i.e., mantra-style). A four-part series Moreland did for Focus on the Family ... substantiates that Moreland is embracing contemplative spirituality where he suggests that “Catholic retreat centers are usually ideal for solitude retreats.”

Jon Dybdahl’s contemplative propensities are strongly presented in his 2008 book, *Hunger: Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul*. In *Hunger*, Dybdahl favorably instructs on contemplative practices such as lectio divina, visualization (p. 64), the Jesus Prayer, and breath prayers (p. 52). Dybdahl explains in his book that in his “not-so-secret quest for God,” he turned to Quaker Thomas Kelly’s book *A Testament of Devotion*. It is Kelly, a panentheist, who said that within every human being is a “Divine

Center,” a “secret sanctuary” (from *A Testament of Devotion*). This “secret sanctuary” Kelly is speaking of is what he calls “abiding Light behind all changing [life] forms.” He says: “In that Current we must bathe. In that abiding yet energizing Center we are all made one” (p. 38).” Dybdahl says in *Hunger* that Henri Nouwen “intensified” his “craving” for “God’s presence.” (p.12) But the presence that Nouwen is speaking of is the same as that of mystics, and it is this mysticism that led Nouwen to reject Jesus Christ as the only path to God at the end of his life (*Sabbatical Journey*). Dybdahl’s book is brimming with references to contemplative mystics: David Benner, Morton Kelsey, Adele Alberg Calhoun, Tilden Edwards, Richard Foster, Ken Boa, and Brother Lawrence. (also see this critique on *Hunger*)

[\[http://spiritualformationsda.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/hunger-critique3.pdf\]](http://spiritualformationsda.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/hunger-critique3.pdf)

Another person who will be teaching at Andrews DMin in spiritual formation is Ben Maxson, pastor at Paradise Seventh-day Adventist church in Paradise, California and adjunct professor at Andrews University. Maxson will be teaching Mentoring for Discipleship & Spiritual Formation. In an article by Maxson titled “Renewing our Minds,” he says that the “spiritual disciplines” (the tools of spiritual formation) help one develop “intimacy with God,” and he encouraged practicing “the presence of God.”

One of the other spiritual formation courses in Andrews Theological Seminary’s DMin program on spiritual formation, taught by Allan Walshe, is The Personal Practice of Spiritual Formation. While the course’s syllabus is not currently posted online, we can partly identify Walshe’s contemplative propensities elsewhere. In an article featuring Walshe at a New Zealand conference, Walshe quotes contemplative pioneer Dallas Willard in referring to “intimacy with God.” This intimacy with God to the contemplative can only be obtained through going into the silence through meditation.

The DMin program on spiritual formation isn’t the only avenue through which contemplative is being implemented at Andrews. The youth ministry degree program is also involved with contemplative spirituality and emerging spirituality. In CHMN 720 Current Issues in Youth and Young Adult Ministry, professors Steve Case and Allan Walshe are using Emerging Church figure Shane Claiborne as well as emergent Youth Specialties author Chap Clark’s book, *Deep Justice in a Broken World*. The book is about the emerging kingdom on earth theology and turns to such figures as liberal/emerging theologians Jim Wallis and Tony Campolo.

Thus, as is usually the case, when a college or seminary begins to incorporate contemplative prayer, eventually they begin to open up to Emerging Church ideas – it is virtually inevitable. And this is the vehicle that drives our concerns. Those who practice contemplative prayer will move more and more toward an interspiritual outlook. Contemplative prayer (i.e., mysticism) is not just some obscure subculture – it is exploding across the Western religious spectrum.

There is much talk about “intimacy with God.” However, if you try to obtain it through contemplative prayer, you will eventually gain intimacy with evil spirits.

Proverbs 28:9

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Empower Ministry Conference

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20081205005937/http://progressiveadventism.com/2007/08/14/empower-ministry-conference-to-host-jon-dybdahl-jon-paulien>

In 2007 the Empower Ministry Group's 5th National Leadership Conference was held at La Sierra University Alumni Center, with Jon Dybdahl and Jon Paulien as speakers. This ministry group was organized in 2002 as a group of Korean-American youth and young adult pastors—a “ministry-support organization for next-generation Asian-American Adventist leaders.” The focus of the conference was spiritual formation and Revelation. Dybdahl led the conference with a full-day “retreat.” It was stated that “those who attended Andrews University in the 1990s will recall the powerful impact that Dybdahl's Spiritual Formation class had on their lives. Many will also remember the daylong retreat that was part of that course. On the Sabbath of the weekend, Dybdahl will guide us through that special experience and teach us how to lead such a retreat.” Paulien gave a Revelation Seminar based on his “*Simply Revelation*” DVD and his book *The Deep Things of God*. It was stated that his seminar promised to be “an excellent introduction and overview of a ‘new’ approach to the Bible's most controversial book.” The conference closed with a worship feature by Hyveth Williams. It is a fearful thought to think of all those who are being deceived by these three leaders. The “retreat” they are involved in is “retreating toward Egypt.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 217

The church has turned back from following Christ her leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus.

General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries

<http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org>

This department stated: “Sabbath School is discipleship through religious education—and so much more. In seeking to meet the spiritual formation needs of its members, it features emphases in fellowship, outreach, Bible study, and mission and provides a rich spiritual environment in practical, everyday settings. In Sabbath School, there's something for everyone and everything for you and for people all around you!”

North American Division of SDAs Evangelism Institute (NADEI)

<http://www.nadei.org>

This institute mixes truth with error by using some of the emerging church resources and techniques, such as the book by Bill Hybels, entitled *Courageous Leadership* as well as ChurchSmart resources. Joseph Kidder, among others, is on the teaching staff. Part of the intensive training is “Kingdom Values.” *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren in English and Spanish is

promoted under the Resource Center's "Natural Church Development/Inspiring Worship" section. The irony is that the worship is not inspired by God when it is promoting Rick Warren's ideas. The book *Overcoming Resistance to Change* is under the "Church Growth/General" section. The promoters of these programs must be perplexed at how to win over faithful members. Change is not a problem, unless God's laws or principles are being changed, and that is the case in the emerging church movement.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=873>

The *Adventist Review* featured the NAD's third annual Women Clergy Conference in October 2006 in Indiana, which focused on spiritual leadership, nurturing and mentoring. Ruth Haley Barton, from The Transforming Center in Illinois, provided resources for pastors and began the conference with a presentation. The coordinator of the conference was Dúane Schoonard, associate pastor of the Collegedale Adventist Church in Tennessee, and associate ministerial secretary for the NAD.

Southeastern California Conference

<http://gradworks.umi.com/32/68/3268421.html>

A dissertation by Sandra Roberts at Claremont School of Theology in 2006 was entitled "Postmodern's 'most wanted': Using a spiritual formation process of volunteer youth leadership development in a Seventh-day Adventist conference." The purpose of her study was to "develop, implement and test a spiritual formation process of leadership development among volunteer youth leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist middle judicatory office of Southeastern California Conference in a changing cultural climate of postmodernism." Meetings with leaders included encouraging the practice of spiritual exercises. "The thesis of the project is that implementing a spiritual formation process of leadership development is a necessary shift in . . . training local church volunteer youth leaders to most effectively lead ministries to youth and young adults with an emerging postmodern world view which values authentic spirituality over other qualities and skill sets of leadership."

Andrews University

http://www.andrews.edu/sem/dmin/concentrations/discipling/discipleship_brochure.pdf

The information below is taken from an Andrews University brochure which announced the new Doctor of Ministry concentration entitled "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation" and advertised as "Changing the People Who Change the World."

- It began in February 2010 in Orlando, Florida with a teaching intensive for the first module taught by Jon Dybdahl and Monte Sahlin; at Andrews in May 2011 by Allan Walshe and Bill Knott and/or Kenley Hall; at Loma Linda in February 2012 by Ben Maxson and A. Allan Martin; at Andrews University in February 2013 by Joe Kidder. These intensives include reading the "best literature in discipleship and spiritual formation."
- What is it? A theological and theoretical understanding of discipleship and spiritual formation, integrating the leader's "personal spiritual transformation with the skills involved in one on one spiritual mentoring." Strategies and resources will be developed for pastors to help their congregations to nurture discipleship, spiritual growth, and caring outreach to their communities, as well as teaching "devotional practices

and patterns of life" that "shape and define who we are as disciples of Jesus."

- What will the program enable you to do? 1) Articulate an SDA perspective on this subject; 2) understand and integrate the devotional habits (spiritual disciplines) into your own life and ministry; 3) demonstrate continued growth in spiritual leadership; 4) assist church members who struggle with consistency and depth in their "journey with God"; 5) train "spiritually mature" and "relationally gifted" people as spiritual mentors; 6) Shape the church into an "authentic community" involved in evangelism through "loving and maturing relationships."
- The professors and pastoral practitioners in this course include: Jon Dybdahl, Ben Maxson, Joe Kidder, A. Allan Martin, Allan Walshe, Jane Thayer, Richard Davidson, Bill Knott, Monte Sahlin, and others.
- Carry out a "biblically and theologically faithful" practice of this subject, both corporately and individually.
- Discern truth from counterfeit, due to the "growing number of non-biblical spiritualities."

Why would Andrews University or any other SDA institution bother to teach this course when there are a "growing number of non-biblical spiritualities"? If you expect new pastors to teach "biblically and theologically faithful" practices on this subject in spite of the fact there are so many problems, why bother teaching it to begin with? Why not just produce an SDA-safe course using the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy based on historic beliefs, rather than promote the reading and teaching of so many non-SDA emergents and New Agers? Otherwise, the pastors become confused and deceived, spreading their errors and confusion worldwide.

http://www.andrews.edu/sem/dmin/concentrations/discipling/2010_syllabi/chmn705-syllabus.pdf

This website link is no longer available but showed the course offered for SDA seminary students at Andrews University and taught by Jon Dybdahl: CHMN 705 Theological and Historical Perspectives on Spiritual Growth. The mission statement mentions that the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation Concentration involves understanding discipleship and spiritual formation, including modeling and mentoring. The course aim includes knowledge on "being" and self-reflection. *Hunger: Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul* by Dybdahl and *Streams of Living Water* by Richard Foster were required reading, with *Steps to Christ* as the only Spirit of Prophecy book out of eleven books.

Trans-European Division of SDAs

<http://www.ted-adventist.org/features-and-analysis/revival-and-reformation>

The Trans-European Division encompasses Europe, the Middle East, two northern countries of Africa, and Pakistan. The following information is a result of this division's response to the Revival and Reformation Committee of the General Conference of SDAs as well as the division's 2010-2015 initiative: It was stated that ". . . as we enter a new five-year plan for mission, Tell the World, we commit ourselves . . . to support and promote the following initiatives to encourage our churches and organisations to make spiritual growth in life and godliness our first work. . . ." These initiatives include: 1) Prayer; 2) Bible reading; 3) "Study and apply the biblical disciplines for spiritual growth," stress

management, to enhance relationships, etc.; 4) Being “engaged in at least one outreach or mission project,” which includes small group, church planting projects, etc.; 5) “Participating in spiritual worship, celebration and fellowship” through a small group, church plant, etc.

Additionally, this division’s Media Productions includes Hollywood-style videos.

[http://ted-](http://ted-relay.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=64)

[relay.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=64](http://ted-relay.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=64)

This division also has a training program called “Relay: Institute of Youth Evangelism,” which includes “Foundations of Youth Discipleship & Leadership,” a unit of education worth 30 credits and with “learning outcomes” that cover understanding the “spiritual disciplines included in discipleship. Some of the subjects offered are 1) Psychology; 2) Discipleship and mentoring strategies; 3) “Youth culture and material relevant to leadership in that context”; 4) Youth Innovative Initiatives. Practice includes “making disciples” and “designing discipleship pathways,” as well as “introducing spiritual discipline practices.” Also included is a group project “demonstrating discipleship and mentoring skills working with planning, communication and empowerment.” Two of the recommended books are *Taking Discipleship Seriously: A Radical Biblical Approach* by Tom Sine (encourages churches to become agents of change) and *Mass Culture Eucharist and Mission in a Post-modern World* by Pete Ward. Electives include “Evangelism in a Post Modern Context”; “Creative Youth Ministry”; and “Spiritual Formation.” Newbold College (SDA college in the United Kingdom) was listed as one of the venues out of 12 others that conduct the Relay training.

Singapore Mission of SDAs

<http://www.adventist.org.sg/newsletter/janmar2000.htm>

Adventist Crossroads is a quarterly report of news and information for SDAs done by the Singapore Mission Communication Department. In 2000 Adventist Crossroads posted online information on Natural Church Development as well as cell church and small groups for the Evangelism Institute of the NAD. It ended by making this statement: “The potential this approach has to offer has gotten our pastors all excited. The individual commitment in the cell group allows one to experience the fullness of true community in Christ. It allows Christian ministry to flourish. It empowers and develops individuals. It nurtures friendship, spirituality and healing. If you belong to a church which is getting excited with plans to organise cell-groups you are on track. If you have not heard about this cutting-edge technology of doing church, look out for it. It will be coming your way soon.”

“Cutting-edge technology” is a good way to describe Satan’s modern methods of “doing” church.

Iceland Conference of SDAs

<http://www.adventistworld.org/article.php?id=213&search=aw>

The *Adventist Review* featured an article entitled “Re-Formation in Iceland” written by Gavin Anthony, who is the director of Youth and Discipleship for the Iceland Conference of SDAs. It revealed that this conference is “building its discipleship model” around spiritual formation. To learn more, the article referenced the <http://www.reflectingjesus.org> website. It is filled with promotion for prominent emerging church leaders, ideas, and resources outside of the

SDA Church. In June 2008 Anthony wrote that he was on his way to Andrews University to “start a PhD in spiritual formation and discipleship.”

South Bavarian Conference of SDAs, Germany

http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/MIN/MIN20060801-V79-08_B.pdf

Wolfgang Dorn is a youth pastor for this conference and states that because of our postmodern condition, the future of our Church in the western world “depends highly on our ability to adapt to postmodern thinking” and to respond to the suggestions of Jon Paulien and others. He stated that “this involves changes in many areas” and “moving in this direction” is “for the sake of lost people.”

That direction will cause many to be lost. Common sense tells us that many are using postmodernism as an excuse to bring new theology and new worship practices into the churches. Sinful practices may meet our desires and take care of our feelings, but only truth will meet our needs. To believe that because we are in a postmodern society means we must have postmodern churches compares to believing that since most of the world is breaking God’s laws, the churches might as well do the same, well, maybe just break five of the Ten Commandments and then we will gain more members. Postmodernism is nothing more than evil increasing.

Genesis 6:5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The Review and Herald, June 12, 1888

The natural, selfish mind, if left to follow out its own evil desires, will act without high motives, without reference to the glory of God or the benefit of mankind. The thoughts will be evil, and only evil, continually.

http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/emergingchurch.htm?zoom_highlight=re-emergence+church+history

While Rick Warren, Dan Kimball and Dr. Robert Webber and others may be excited about the “Emerging Church” and the direction it is presently headed, I am concerned the “Emerging Church” may actually be a re-emergence of what has already occurred in church history. If the pattern continues expect to see evangelical Protestants become more and more Roman Catholic.

—Roger Oakland

This conclusion makes sense in light of what is written in the prophecies of Revelation and in the book *The Great Controversy* by Ellen White. It shows how easily evangelical “Protestants” (including backslidden SDAs) will give in to a national Sunday law. It is also a sign that Christ’s return is not far away. God’s faithful need to warn others how to recognize Satan’s subtle deceptions and how to remain faithful to God’s truth in these last days.

Prayer stations

Here are just a few examples of the use of prayer stations in SDA institutions:

- In 2006 Forest Lake Academy featured a 24/7 Prayer Room which was advertised as a “radical call for the next generation to rise up in passionate, persistent and powerful prayer to change lives, families, communities and nations.” Included were candles, cushions, music, art, worship and “interactive prayer stations to help make your prayer time enjoyable. Prepare to experience God!” It was explained that “prayer can come through various forms.” If the art supplies were used, they were instructed to clean up when done, and they could write experiences in the prayer journal. The original 24/7 Prayer Room started in 1999 in England with a student-led prayer vigil and has spread into 100 plus nations. It is an international, interdenominational movement of prayer, justice, and mission. <http://www.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=fla>;
<http://www.24-7prayer.com/about/what>
- Andrews University describes their prayer stations as places around campus where students can pray together at different times during the school day. It is thought of as a “spiritual awakening, a way to connect to God and to fellow students,” a “jump-start” for the day, and a “testimony for those who witness it.” Campus Ministries included an ad for “S.P.A.R.K. (Share, Prayer, Ask, Receive, Know).” It is a ministry that supports “small group prayer” on the Andrews University campus through programs that include “sidewalk prayer stations and prayer tag.”
<http://www.andrews.edu/cm/ministry/ministries/prayerstations.htm>;
http://www.andrews.edu/services/studentlife/orientation/year_at_a_glance.html
- The November 2009 Pacific Union *Recorder* displayed a photo of an ACTS Prayer Path created by the women’s ministries at the Auburn church (Northern California). It included different stations for “adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication” (A.C.T.S.). This is an ancient pattern for prayer.
- In April 2008, the Adventist Health/West corporate office in Roseville, California held a “Walk-through Meditation.” A few tables were set up in a room with items such as pictures, poems, icons, a cross-shaped picture frame, flowers, candles, a finger prayer labyrinth, a radio playing soothing New Age music, and four picture frames that included these words: “God’s loving smile is upon you; God’s gracious smile is upon you; God’s welcoming smile is upon you; God’s tender smile is upon you.” This sounds wonderful, but it is conditional for each individual.

Messages to Young People, p. 75

You have a spotted record in Heaven. The sins you have committed are all registered there. God’s frown is upon you, and yet you appear destitute of feeling; you do not realize your lost and undone condition. At times you do have feelings of remorse; but your proud, independent spirit soon rises above this, and you stifle the voice of conscience.

Also included were handouts with the following type of information:

- A summary on forgiveness from the book *Forgive for Good* by Frederic Luskin. His techniques resemble spiritual practices honored by monks in monastic communities for centuries.
- A description of prayer labyrinths and suggestions for using one.
- Instructions for station 1 and spiritual health self-assessments for stations 2 through 5, based on "Healing the Four Dimensions of Spiritual Pain in the classical Sacred Art of Living and Dying tradition," which included the following:
 - Station 1 – Where is the Hurt?: "The purpose of this self-paced, walk-through meditation is to knock the 'dis' out of 'disease,' and restore to each visitor a sense of ease." [There is nothing sacred about God's people being at ease with mysticism. Forgetting His instructions brings on the disease of sin.]
 - Station 2 – Healing With Meaning and Purpose: "With deep cleansing breaths quiet yourself and take a moment for reflection or prayer."
 - Station 3 – Healing Through Forgiveness: "Inhale deeply, and then breathe out a prayer for self-awareness. Breathe in once more, and once again exhale fully as you open your heart toward healing kindnesses."
 - Station 4 – Healing Through Connectedness/Relatedness: "With more deep cleansing breaths, continue to search your heart, giving yourself time for reflection or prayer."
 - Station 5 – Healing With Hope: "As you prayerfully inhale and exhale, prayerfully contemplate: How am I in the depths of my being?"

Adventist Health/West states that one of their "values" is the "health care heritage" of the SDA Church. Mystical promotion has nothing to do with the heritage of God's remnant Church. Adventist Health worldwide is a long way from God's health plan.

<http://hungryheartministries.com/id447.html>

My Denomination Does Not Promote New Age Spirituality Through Spiritual Formation Programs!

When allowed to run its course, the end result of embracing this spirituality is a complete paradigm shift—not only away from the simplicity found in Christ, but altogether away from the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way, the only truth, and the only life.

To a man, Evangelical contemplatives all profess belief in Christ.

But all prominent, admitted, contemplatives—all—as in every single one—stress that they have finally come to the understanding that God is in all things.

This is an admission, whether they own up to it or not, that, in their refined, revised, contemplative, opinion, Jesus is no longer the only way.

There is no way God can be in everything and only in those who belong to his son at the same time. The two ideas are mutually exclusive—each diabolically opposed to the other.

The end result of contemplative spirituality is Panentheism.

The spiritual formation that has come into Christian organizations, in its many different facets, is nothing more than spiritualism. Ellen White predicted that there would be an omega of apostasy. The alpha of apostasy was based on pantheism. Does it not make sense that the omega is also based on pantheism?

In order to experience complete spiritual formation, we are taught that we must partake in certain disciplines or exercises. Faithful Christians will have nothing to do with paganism.

Jeremiah 2:13

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

The emerging church movement is drinking from the stagnant waters of this world. The SDA Church does not need the world's errors to grow their churches or individually. The emergents believe their source of spiritual water comes from a deep well. However, the deepest spirituality comes from sanctifying obedience to the truth in God's Word. The Lord has already given the remnant church His truth and methods. Borrowing from the world is not teaching pure truth. It is defeating the real purpose of evangelism. Remember, God's laws, principles and standards for worship never change.

Let us also remember that the true messages will not be popular. It is only the minority who will hear and respond. How can the world hear the truth if it is not shared? The SDA Church can use thousands of evangelism programs and preach for another thousand years, but if it is not the whole truth, it is useless. God is waiting for the "loud cry" of the undiluted three angels' messages, not the loud cry of modern praise or rock music.

If the SDA Church blends with Satan's plan, it will lose the respect of true Christians. Already other religions are writing against the Church's borrowed methods. The Church should be embarrassed and ashamed. It owes the world an apology. If there is repentance, the Lord will enable it to quickly finish the work. It is time for those in a Laodicean condition to awake and show the world what the whole truth really is. The messages sent of God through Ellen White have been despised or belittled. God is trying to bring those precious messages back to life. They were given as an advantage and people act as though it is to their disadvantage.

Many are saying that there is a need to modernize spiritual terms for the postmoderns and the unchurched. While the words should be kept simple enough for people to understand, in the process, we cannot throw out the King James Version of the Bible and Ellen White's writings. God expects individuals to study to understand it through the help of the Holy Spirit. Trying to make truth relevant is not an excuse for SDAs to water down doctrines. God has provided those truths just as they are for our happiness, true success, and for our eternal salvation. If we reject that truth, it is our loss. If we join in the emerging church movement to reach the world, the world has reached us.

We are not to cringe, and beg pardon of the world for telling them the truth. We should scorn concealment. Unfurl your true colors to the gaze of men and angels. Let it be understood that Seventh-day Adventists can make no compromise. In our opinions and faith there must not be the least appearance of wavering. The world has a right to expect something of us, and will look upon us as dishonest, as hiding our real sentiments and principles out of policy, if we present even the semblance of being uncommitted.

The majority of SDA Church members are trapped in the falsehoods of new theology, celebration, and the New Age and emerging church movements. Only repentance can give the freedom to escape the trap and truly begin to walk with Christ toward the real kingdom not of this world.

Counsels for the Church, pp. 348-349

We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement.

It is interesting to note that the emergents cover every world faith except true SDAs. May we be found in that number who stand by the Word of God, live it, and "shout it" to the world. When there are a people (144,000) who do this, the real church will emerge—the church triumphant.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The emerging church leads right to Roman Catholicism, helping to fulfill what has been prophesied in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy, which tell us that Protestantism changes, not Rome.

The Signs of the Times, February 19, 1894

It is a backsliding church that lessens the distance between itself and the Papacy.

Last Day Events, p. 179

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan....

Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these can not make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 577

The scene was changed. The company now presented the appearance of a Catholic procession. One bore in his hand a cross, another a reed. And as they approached, the one carrying a reed made a circle around the house, saying three times: "This house is proscribed. The goods must be confiscated. They have spoken against our holy order."

Is the emerging church movement the beginning of this prophecy? It certainly looks that way. The omega is here today. It truly is "of a most startling nature." It reveals how short time is on this planet. The fast-fulfilling prophecy stated below can be seen in the emerging church movement.

The Great Controversy (1888), pp. 588-589

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.

As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.

The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of

spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

Many SDAs are trivializing the importance of personal study of the Bible and Ellen White's writings, of repenting and preparing for Christ's imminent return.

Selected Messages, Book 1, pp. 138-139

In order to increase our spiritual endowment, it is necessary to walk in the light. In view of the event of Christ's soon coming, we must be vigilantly working to prepare our own souls, to keep our own lamps trimmed and burning, and to urge upon others the necessity of getting ready for the coming of the Bridegroom. Watching and working must go together; faith and works must be united, or our characters will not be symmetrical and well-balanced, perfect in Christ Jesus.

Ibid., Book 2, pp. 16-17

The Holy Spirit of God alone can create a healthy enthusiasm. Let God work, and let the human agent walk softly before Him, watching, waiting, praying, looking unto Jesus every moment, led and controlled by the precious Spirit, which is light and life.

The end is near. The children of light are to work with earnest, persevering zeal to lead others to prepare for the great event before us, that they may be able to resist the enemy because they have allowed the Holy Spirit to work upon their hearts. New and strange things will continually arise to lead God's people into false excitement, religious revivals, [charismatic services] and curious developments. Let them keep advancing, with their eyes fixed alone upon the Light and Life of the world. Know that everything that is called light and truth in the Word of God is light and truth, an emanation from divine wisdom, not an imitation of Satan's subtle arts [emerging churches]. The light of God's wisdom will be to every true, steadfast, contrite soul as a lamp to his feet.

Ibid., Book 1, pp. 186-188

Jesus said: "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). All that was done and said had this one object in view--to rivet truth in their minds that they might attain unto everlasting life. Jesus did not come to astonish men with some great announcement of some special time when some great event would occur, but He came to instruct and save the lost. He did not come to arouse and gratify curiosity; for He knew that this would but increase the appetite for the curious and the marvelous. It was His aim to impart knowledge whereby men might increase in spiritual strength, and advance in the way of obedience and true holiness. He gave only such instruction as could be appropriated to the needs of their daily life, only such truth as could be given to others for the same appropriation.

He did not make new revelations to men, but opened to their understanding truths that had long been obscured or misplaced through the false teaching of the priests and teachers. Jesus replaced the gems of divine truth in their proper setting, in the order in which they had been given to patriarchs and prophets. And after giving them this precious instruction, He promised to give them the Holy Spirit whereby all things that He had said unto them should be brought to their remembrance.

We are in continual danger of getting above the simplicity of the gospel. There is an intense desire on the part of many to startle the world with something original, that shall lift the people into a state of spiritual ecstasy, and change the present order of experience. There is certainly great need of a change in the present order of experience; for the sacredness of present truth is not realized as it should be, but the change we need is a change of heart, and can only be obtained by seeking God individually for His blessing, by pleading with Him for His power, by fervently praying that His grace may come upon us, and that our characters may be transformed. This is the change we need today, and for the attainment of this experience we should exercise persevering energy and manifest heartfelt earnestness. We should ask with true sincerity, "What shall I do to be saved?" We should know just what steps we are taking heavenward.

Ibid., Book 1, p. 189

The times and the seasons God has put in His own power. And why has not God given us this knowledge?--Because we would not make a right use of it if He did. A condition of things would result from this knowledge among our people that would greatly retard the work of God in preparing a people to stand in the great day that is to come. We are not to live upon time excitement. We are not to be engrossed with speculations in regard to the times and the seasons which God has not revealed. Jesus has told His disciples to "watch," but not for a definite time. His followers are to be in the position of those who are listening for the orders of their Captain; they are to watch, wait, pray, and work, as they approach the time for the coming of the Lord; but no one will be able to predict just when that time will come; for "of that day and hour knoweth no man." You will not be able to say that He will come in one, two, or five years, neither are you to put off His coming by stating that it may not be for ten or twenty years.

Ibid., Book 3, p. 339

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was ever prophesying the coming of the Lord. This great event had been revealed to him in vision. Abel, though dead, is ever speaking of the blood of Christ which alone can make our offerings and gifts perfect. The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days. There is Moses still speaking, teaching self-renunciation by wishing himself blotted from the Book of Life for his fellow men, that they might be saved. David is

leading the intercession of the church for the salvation of souls to the ends of the earth. The prophets are still testifying of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. There the whole accumulated truths are presented in force to us that we may profit by their teachings. We are under the influence of the whole. What manner of persons ought we to be to whom all this rich light of inheritance has been given. Concentrating all the influence of the past with new and increased light of the present, accrued power is given to all who will follow the light. Their faith will increase, and be brought into exercise at the present time, awakening an energy and an intensely increased earnestness, and through dependence upon God for His power to replenish the world and send the light of the Sun of Righteousness to the ends of the earth.

Ellen White describes exactly the "new organization" that is seen in the SDA institutions which promote New Theology and the New Age and emerging church movements.

Maranatha, p. 203

We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 11, p. 248

It is hard for those who have been charmed by seductive, flattering, soul-destroying theories to see where these theories will lead, or to discern, wherein their spiritual eyesight has been defective.

Ibid., Vol. 8, p. 345

There will be seducing spirits and doctrines of devils in the midst of the church, and these evil influences will increase; but hold fast the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end.

Satan and his angels will appear on this earth as men, and will mingle with those of whom God's Word says, "Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Timothy 4:1).

When these spiritualistic deceptions are revealed to be what they really are--the secret workings of evil spirits--those who have acted a part in them will become as men who have lost their minds.

Selected Messages, Book 1, pp. 204-205

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a

wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.

Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth?

...the errors that have been coming in must be met.

If you are involved in any of the movements that have been mentioned, repentance and returning to biblical truths is your only salvation.

The Desire of Ages, p. 354

God is dishonored and the gospel is betrayed when His servants depend on the counsel of men who are not under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God. Those who rely upon it will surely err.

The Signs of the Times, December 1, 1881

As the men of Israel witnessed the corrupt course of the priests, they thought it safer for their families not to come up to the appointed place of worship. Many went from Shiloh with their peace disturbed, their indignation aroused, until they at last determined to offer their sacrifices themselves, concluding that this would be fully as acceptable to God, as to sanction in any manner the abominations practiced in the sanctuary.

Young Adults/Youth/Children

Maranatha, p. 168

Young men and women will be lifted up, and will regard themselves as wonderfully favored, called to do some great thing. There will be conversions many, after a peculiar order, but they will not bear the divine signature. Immorality will come in, and extravagance, and many will make shipwreck of faith.

Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE)

<http://www.adventistyouth.org/index.php>

Located at Andrews University, this training and resource center was established to claim, train and reclaim youth for Christ. It also serves as a "think tank on how to effectively minister to youth" and provides classroom education for youth professionals to try out creative ministries for post-modern youth. The website included these ministries or resources:

- *180 Symposium* which addresses issues facing youth in the SDA Church and the Christian community. They stated that their desire is to "move forward together in a prayerful, contemplative way," being sure to "think about the things that really matter." <http://www.adventistyouth.org/180>

- *Catalyst*, which is a non-SDA organization for “shaping leaders in the church,” and “equipping them to engage and impact their world.” Their vision states, “*Catalyst* sees a need to ignite and unite the next generation of leaders allowing their passions and gifts to flourish and have maximum impact in our churches and culture.” In referencing their national tour, they state that they have seen “community developed across denominational lines.” This is another ecumenical organization involved in social justice, and the charismatic, contemporary, emerging church movement. Why do SDAs send their youth to this organization when they have the best information already available through the Scriptures and the writings of Ellen White?

<http://www.catalystconference.com>

- Children's ministry resources from non-SDA websites, such as The New Church of Joy which advertised “Faith for Kingdom Advancement” and “Revolution, Reformation, Revival: Jesus is back on the throne of people's hearts.” It also included a video about people being “anointed” by the Holy Spirit. This new church is “multi-cultural,” seeing the “authentic and true power of God” and people “being healed from sickness and disease.” It states to “come experience what God may have in store for you.” The adult congregation is “reaching an intimacy” through their “dynamic, spirited praise and worship” that drives them “closer to Christ.” They advertise that their youth services will have them “on the edge of their seat” as they hear the “truth of God's Word” through media, drama, video, music, etc. The Children's Ministry is “jammed pack with fun and exciting teaching.”
<http://www.thenewchurchofjoy.com>

This type of advertising reveals characteristics of a false revival and the emerging church. Children need to know that life is not all about fun and excitement.

Child Guidance, p. 139

The more quiet and simple the life of the child--the more free from artificial excitement and the more in harmony with nature--the more favorable it is to physical and mental vigor and to spiritual strength.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 415

Novelties in the form of sensational dramas are continually arising to engross the mind, and absurd theories abound which are destructive to moral and spiritual advancement.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 459

Through the drama he [Satan] has worked for ages to excite passion and glorify vice.

- Church of Refuge ministry that included a link to an *Adventist Review* article, which stated that “struggling over petty preferences” such as diet, dress, music, and vocabulary has “shattered relationships” for the youth and that we should not be “judgmental.” The truth is that if those are “petty” issues, then the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy books are petty as well, since they are filled with those issues. Yes, we must not judge, but we still must lovingly teach truth, even if it is not popular.

<http://adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2009-1505&page=16>

- Creative Arts included the art of drama.
- Cruise with a Mission: Beware of these cruises, since the activities have included spiritual formation workshops, Christian comedy, and a prayer chapel with prayer stations.

Website links to non-SDA resources were also included, the worst being Youth Specialties, a non-SDA youth-oriented organization that promotes the New Age and emerging church movements. It hosts the annual National Pastors Convention, where many contemplatives are invited to speak. They also provide a prayer labyrinth, yoga, contemplative prayer sessions, “emerging worship,” “Creating Sacred Spaces,” and “God Encounters: Spiritual Exercises That Transform Students.” It is a tragedy that SDA youth directors have attended the Youth Specialties conferences and model their youth ministries on what they learned. <http://www.youthspecialties.com>

<http://sacredspace.ie>

It is interesting to note that this website called “Sacred Space” is promoting Christian unity, prayer for peace on earth, prayer with the pope, and is run by Irish Jesuits in Ireland.

World Youth Prayer Congress

<http://jci2.adventistyouthministries.org/purpose.htm>

The NAD Youth & Young Adult Ministries advertised combining “4Extremes”: Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, the Just Claim It Prayer Congress, Ignition – God-encounters, and a Children’s Worship Festival (sponsored by Ohio Conference of SDAs) in one location with separate programs. It was entitled “World Youth Prayer Congress” held April 2010 in Columbus, Ohio with the theme being “Just Claim It: Experience the Power of Prayer - Claiming Communities for Christ.” It was stated that the Holy Spirit was being poured out and that this effort combined four “filling stations for spiritual growth, training, motivation and encouragement.” Over 15,000 youth attended this five-day event, which included, among other activities, biblical drama nightly, a Sabbath biblical floats parade and children’s worship festival, sports teams, a prayer journey, daily prayer/devotional walks, prayer rooms, 24 hour prayer chapel, prayer chain, secret prayer pal, prayer drills, prayer tag, 5K prayer run, prayer walls/altars, and experiential prayers.

Some SDA churches now have a “Prayer Garden” or “Garden of Prayer” during their services. It is interesting to note that the Roman Catholics include a charismatic ceremony called the “garden of prayer” which includes walking from person to person during prayer and the laying on of hands. All this praying may seem admirable. However, with all that is involved, it is nothing more than part of the emerging church movement. Other prayer fads include “prayer warriors,” “Jericho marches” or “praise marches,” “prayer offensives,” “prayer anointing services,” and “prayer expeditions.” There are also prayer initiatives, prayer retreats, prayer ministry teams, prayer guides, prayer swaps, prayer evangelism, and even a prayer shop. It is as if prayer and the promotion of the Holy Spirit have become commercialized. There is nothing in the Bible that shows we should be involved in these kinds of activities. It is popular to say that prayer is a spiritual gift, but God’s Word tells us otherwise. Prayer is available to everyone.

Guest speakers at the Prayer Congress included: T. J. Foltz, Tim Elmore, Jeremy Grant, Paula Olivier, Willie Ramos, Jonathan Cobb, Susan Perez, Rashard Burton, and Eddie Hypolite. It was stated that Hypolite is a “pastor, educational consultant, leadership trainer and motivational speaker, who travels internationally, speaking and teaching in the area of urban evangelism and church planting, life development, social education and youth and street culture. His vocational background was originally in the area of social work. He now serves as Associate Youth Director for the South England Conference.”

In his Sabbath sermon, Hypolite warned leaders about not making church doctrines “a yoke and burden,” that they are “teaching the traditions of men” as “commands of God.” He stressed the centrality of Jesus and that He “is not a doctrine.” If church doctrines are a burden to anyone, then the Ten Commandments must also be a burden, and for that matter, the whole Bible would be a burden. If Jesus is not a doctrine then we cannot believe in Him, since a doctrine is a belief. If we followed Hypolite’s instructions, we would throw out the Bible and our belief in Jesus. That path will not lead to eternal life.

http://clubadventist.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/161402/BUC_News_579_March_14_2008.html

This website included the London Live - Special Easter Event on a Friday night in 2008, which included an agape feast with Hypolite as the speaker. Also included were the London Live drama team, media team, and music. It was announced that the Café would open at 6:30 p.m. with the program starting at 7:45 pm. and that there would be a special focus on the Easter message.

<http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/22/16/392>

The June 2010 Pacific Union *Recorder* included an article on the prayer congress. It described the massive prayer wall which was placed in the convention center so that young people could write their “prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication” and mentions the importance of people needing to feel, hear, and touch God before He “becomes real.” Are they being prepared for Satan’s impersonation of Christ on this earth, where they can feel, hear, and touch him, thinking he is really Christ?

As a pre-convention prayer initiative, a “40 Days in the Upper Room” was held. It was stated that, “. . . we are positioning ourselves for the expected outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” “God is preparing His young people for a great Kingdom movement of the 21st century. We firmly believe that during JCI-2, youth and youth adults will see God’s vision and purpose for them and will be Holy Spirit empowered to bring Kingdom change to the world.” One activity was to “participate in the Prayer Torch Relay that will culminate at the opening night of JCI-2 with the lighting of the Prayer Torch (yes! just like the Olympics).” Just like the world. Why?

Since upper rooms are becoming popular for SDAs, we found it interesting that an international and interdenominational ministry called “The Upper Room” includes the following:

- Instruction on worship, prayer, Bible reading, meditation, and journaling.
- Spiritual support groups and in-depth training in the Christian spiritual life.

- Courses in core spiritual practices and spiritual formation.
- A prayer wall.
- The Academy for Spiritual Formation.
- A Pathways center for Congregational Spirituality.
- A Soulfeast yearly conference and SoulFiesta: Leading for Christian Transformation occasional conferences.
- The Upper Room Chapel, Museum, and Bookstore.
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Upper_Room_\(Christianity\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Upper_Room_(Christianity));
<http://www.upperroom.org/academy>

Renovatus

<http://www.atoday.com/atoday-interviews-pastor-danny-chan>

Danny Chan is the founder and lead pastor of the ministry called Renovatus (Latin for “renewal”), a weekly Friday night multi-sensory worship experience held at the Eagle Rock SDA Church in the Los Angeles area of California. Chan is the young adult pastor of the church, where he is “committed to discovering new ways of relating to and connecting with the mystery of God.” He enjoys film and television production and has traveled extensively.

The information below comes from an interview between the AToday online editor and Danny Chan.

- The service is described as “an ongoing journey” . . . to experience God’s mystery through “contemplation, hands on interaction, prayer, silence, multi-media, etc.” to make worship a “multi-sensory encounter.” One example is a “road” that cuts through their worship space as they “meditate on passages of scripture.”
- The AToday editor experienced their agape feast by “sitting on floor cushions in the dark, eating pita bread and hummus and smelling the burning of incense while taking in one of the best modern worship bands in L.A.” which gave him a “sense of inclusiveness and acceptance.”
- Chan responded that for most young people today, worship has become “too stale, too predictable and too theoretical to be experienced.” He described the agape feast service “where we experience what it means to know grace and reconciliation with others in the context of a middle eastern meal. Which is a really long way of saying we had communion.”
- Chan explained that Renovatus is “a new approach to the worship itself that’s responsive to postmodern trends in culture,” which largely came from the United Kingdom but is rooted in the worship approach of Christianity in the first century.
- Renovatus was created mainly for young adults (18-35) who “are seeking a fresh approach to church.”
- Renovatus explores Bible truth “through releasing the depth and insight found in stories and metaphors.” When they experience the stories first hand, they have a “life changing quality that is relevant and applicable to both church and unchurched people.”
- During Chan’s sermons, he uses a lot of graphics and images that are “looped and splashed on two large screens.” Although some have complained that it’s distracting, Chan’s explanation is that it is “to engage

all of the senses as we experience truth, particularly the visual sense. But we are honest about not succeeding at it all the time.”

- Chan produced a short film, entitled “Air Film,” which is “about seeking because that’s the road so many travel on. The film is the first in a series of films about a young man on a quest for a true spiritual experience. The plot takes a life-changing twist when the young man meets a wise figure who gives him more than he bargained for. The film not only helps to draw people to our site called areyouseeking.com, but it’s an insightful story that speaks about our quest for something more.”

The “wise figure” was dressed in what appeared to be a brown jacket with a hood, which resembled the brown cowl which monks wear. Is this a subtle way of desensitizing people to pagan ways?

- When asked how Renovatus informs and reflects SDA beliefs, Chan replied that it is a “new approach to an old message.” It is to help young generations “approach and connect to the same Gospel story and Adventism. . . . And one of our contentions (and I’m paraphrasing Eugene Peterson), is that Revelation doesn’t so much share new information, it simply helps us to experience what we’ve already read throughout the scriptures.”
- Tony Campolo is one of Chan’s spiritual influences and he is currently reading *Stand Against the Wind* by Erwin McManus, *Reversed Thunder* by Eugene Peterson, and anything by Philip Yancey.

<http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/erwinmcmanus.htm>

It is evident from the contents of *The Barbarian Way* [another book by McManus] that McManus has a fascination for old Celtic lore. The ways of the Celts in battle, their commitment to cause and their loyalty to their king seem to be a recurring theme. From the beginning, this book emphasizes the “barbarian way” of doing things and walking through life, hence its name, and declares these ways superior by far to traditional Christianity.... The bottom line is that Jesus Christ doesn’t want barbarians. The barbarian heart is the one from which He has delivered us. That “primal,” sensual, I’ve-got-to-be-me attitude that casts off restraint has no place in the Christian congregation. As romantic as that distant era of warfare and wild living might seem, we can’t go back, and we don’t really want to. There’s nothing back there for us anymore. We need to be satisfied with Christ alone, as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. That is enough, and more than we can possibly live out in this short earthly span. The true barbarian way—brutal, self-serving, violent—needs to remain in the deep past where it belongs, where my own Celtic forbears are buried with their swords and superstitions. —A review of *The Barbarian Way* By Kevin Reeves

Of course, those who read *The Great Controversy* by Ellen White already know that the barbarian way will return to this earth at the end of time and be worse than before.

The Renovatus website included a video with the following:

- Mention of *The Road Less Traveled* book by M. Scott Peck.
- Describes their prayer stations and stations of the cross.
- Shows darkened rooms with candles, cross icons, etc.
- Includes a bedroom setting as a place of solitude, rest, and intimacy with God.

With the Renovatus worship area filled with so many of these items, how much time and expense is put into this type of worship practice? The simple days of pews and songbooks for the youth are quickly passing away. Will they realize too late that all these “things” were not necessary to gain a deeper relationship with Christ, that these were actually leading them away from Him, that it was child’s play on the devil’s playground?

This is the Renovatus website: <http://areyouseeking.org/#/renovatus>. It advertised its music as the “highest quality modern worship music.” On the other hand, the true God believes that modern worship music is an abomination.

With the above information, it can be concluded that Chan is very influenced by the emerging church movement.

Link 2 Uth

http://www.juventudeadventista.pt/ja/Web/recursos/revistas/Link2Uth_January.pdf

The following information comes from the January 2007 Link 2 Uth Adventist Youth Ministries newsletter through the General Conference of SDAs. Activities during a tour to the U.S. by the Euro-Africa Division youth directors included:

- Attendance at the National Youth Workers Convention organized by Youth Specialties, which they “enjoyed tremendously,” thought it was “extremely inspiring,” and profited in the technical and “personal spiritual training.”
- Attendance at an Andrews University seminar entitled “The Youth Leader: Evangelism, Leadership and Spirituality” with lecturer Joe Kidder. The directors spent time talking about their personal leadership and spirituality and thought Kidder “did a great job.”
- On a Sabbath afternoon, visited Willow Creek Community Church. They were “really impressed and inspired” with their Guest Service and Reception Ministry and thought it was a “great example for us all.” Sunday morning they attended the Mars Hill Bible Church in Michigan (non-SDA mega-church with Rob Bell, who promotes contemplative prayer and the emerging church). They stated that it is always fun to talk with those “in our global community.”
- Visited the Mennonite “Sight & Sound Theatre.”
- They stated that they “have to learn from our non-Adventist brother preachers” and that they were able to “grasp a huge amount of ideas by attending different programs and events.”

GODencounters

<http://www.godencounters.org/home/main>

This is an SDA young adult movement (ages 18-35). Notice the “God Encounters” title from the Youth Specialties convention. These SDA youth claim that GODencounters is a “holy movement” among “new generations” who desire to have a 24/7 experience with God, “recklessly living for His renown.” In wishing for deeper experiences with God, these youth focus on seven “discipleship themes” where “practices” of Christian faith are emphasized.

In 2008, their website included instructions on the art of “being still” by first identifying “sacred space” in any place that is free of distraction to spend time with God. Secondly, take deep breaths while imagining Christ breathing life into you and then exhale your worldly cares. Then ask God to speak to you. If you read Scripture, ask what God might be telling you. Learn to listen. If your mind wanders, repeat the names of Jesus over and over. Again, this is part of mystical spiritual formation and contemplative prayer.

A GODencounters website link displayed this information:

- The Atlantic Union Conference GODencounters retreat in 2008 entitled “Transition—It’s Your Choice.”
- A 2007 GODencounters retreat entitled “Here I Am to Worship” in Pennsylvania and sponsored by the New Jersey Young Adult Ministries (with a graphic showing young adults with their hands raised while singing).
- A 2007 GODencounters Conference entitled “Reflecting the Son” and held at the Forest Lake SDA Church in Florida. It began on a Friday night with worship leaders and artists including “Sea of Glass” (rock music) and “Acts of Renewal,” which is a “Christian” comedy act. In one scene it shows someone praying and it was stated in a way to make people laugh. How can the churches recommend artists like these who are disrespectful to God and His truth?

<http://godencounters247.blogspot.com/2008/05/worship-as-way-of-life.html>

This link advertised the “Encounters Café: A time of relaxed worship and fellowship with intentional direction” at the Collegedale Church of SDAs/Southern Adventist University.

http://godencounters247.blogspot.com/2008_04_01_archive.html

This link from 2008 mentioned how “seven years ago a handful of young adults began a journey, returning to the heart of worship,” when GODencounters began. A “40 days of prayer and devotion” was advertised, with information on websites with “devotional entries to aid in your prayers and meditation on the theme--Jubilee.” It was stated that the “40 days” was a time to seek to “follow GOD’s footsteps,” and “joining Him in what He is doing.” They also “aim to give focus to GOD,” “continuing to be morphed into a reflection of Jesus” and that they are “ignited to disciple and be disciplined.”

The brochure for a weekend retreat in Florida that year was entitled “The Kingdom of GOD is a Party.” It was also mentioned that they are “learning to live a life of joyous celebration” because of their Lord and Savior Jesus. These were also advertised: 1) a “GODfest” in San Luis Obispo, California; 2) GODencounters Conferences in Washington State, Pennsylvania, and New

Jersey; 3) Texas would soon reveal the GODencounters weekends slated to occur throughout the state; 4) to pray over the many gatherings and the “desire to pray over the transformation process GOD is working in young adult lives daily.”

It is alarming that the SDA leadership is not only allowing this but promoting it. GODencounters is blasphemous and its name takes God's holy name in vain. How much worse will it get before God intervenes?

On the website home page, a You Tube video was included of youth performing contemporary gospel/praise music while swaying, jumping, clapping, and raising their hands. It was filmed on July 1, 2010 at an Impact Atlanta event held at another location during the SDA General Conference Session.

<http://www.24-seven.org/index.php/vagabondservant/media>

Currently, GODencounters is promoted by the following SDA conferences: Pennsylvania; New Jersey; Florida; Georgia-Cumberland; and Washington State. There are certainly others who are joining the list.

It is interesting that GODencounters mentions “recklessly living,” since reckless means to be careless, headstrong, rash, indifferent or disregarding consequences. This is exactly what they were doing. It is hard to imagine that just down the road from the General Conference Session, the youth were engaged in such disgraceful activities. It is not the God of heaven that they are encountering. It is an insult to the holy and heavenly Father and disgraces the SDA Church for the world to see. The majority in the Church are not witnessing to the world; the world is witnessing to them.

http://www.adventistyouth.org/cye/411/411_02_10.pdf

This website included the monthly e-newsletter for Adventist youth ministry leaders in cooperation with the Center for Youth Evangelism in which it advertised the book GODencounters: Pursuing a 24/7 Experience of Jesus. The authors of the book include Allan Martin (a seminary professor and the curriculum coach for GODencounters); Lynell LaMountain (founder of Life Ignited “to ignite people with life, laughter, and love by sharing God’s pure grace”); Shayna Bailey (relationship columnist for Insight magazine and a medical student), and many other collaborators and was published by Pacific Press Publishing Association. It is endorsed as the 2010 Discipleship Book of the Year and “mirrors a discipleship movement among new generations, seeking a 24/7 experience of the living GOD.” The book states that hopefully it will bring “blessing and deeper intimacy with Jesus.” Unfortunately, this book is available through the ABCs. It is also recommended at the following website by José Rojas, the Director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the NAD. <http://ignitionblog.wordpress.com/2010/01/09/2010-discipleship-book-of-the-year-godencounters>.

Also on the Adventist youth website, there is a video about a GODencounters weekend with contemporary music and speaking presentations. The video projects these words: “Craving something deep and real? We’re taking a risk . . . recklessly seeking an encounter with God.” Youth that were interviewed described the weekend “as a party,” as “diverse and eclectic,” that it was a

“jubilee” with “great vibes,” felt God’s presence in the worship and speakers; and another mentions the term “sacred space.”

http://www.lookingforachurch.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=123567

The New Hope SDA Church in Fulton, Maryland included information on Matthew Gamble as the speaker at a GODencounters event at their church in October 2010. It was stated that the event began Friday night with a worship band, Gamble speaking on “restore: rebuilding relationships through rejuvenating faith,” and ended with a 10:00 p.m. Encounters Café where a band filled with “Jesusness” played Christian rock music. Sabbath afternoon and evening included speaking and a book signing by Gamble. This was also advertised at many other SDA websites. According to God’s instructions, the event was far from restoring and rebuilding relationships through rejuvenating faith. Faith comes because we obey God, not through rebellion.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Isaiah 30:9-11

That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speaking unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

<http://www.impactatlanta.info>

“Empowering God’s Kingdom and beyond”/IMPACT Atlanta 2010 [iATL]

The young delegates to the General Conference Session were to find opportunities for “servant leadership” and to experience “discipleship equipping” which was to “empower” them to “expand God’s Kingdom” in Atlanta and beyond. Baraka Muganda stated that the General Conference Youth Department’s focus in 2010 was to remind the youth on the importance of being involved with evangelism and leadership. Jonatan Tejel shared their goal to help the youth discover leadership roles in the SDA Church and prepare them for those responsibilities by “strengthening their relationship with Christ.”

How can the leadership help the youth to strengthen their relationship with Christ when they are using the world’s methods? Was the leadership aware of what was transpiring at the youth event? If so, did they not see the danger? Do they just not care because they enjoy the music themselves and are concerned with raising the membership count to bring more funds into the treasury?

Jan Paulsen, the past SDA General Conference President, was instrumental in promoting young people to leadership roles in the SDA Church. Another example of why there is such a pitiful situation with SDA youth is partly due to the 1993 General Conference Annual Council in which it was recommended that the youth leaders would implement the following: 1) Encourage youth to become involved as elders, deacons, deaconesses, Sabbath School leaders, and to serve on church boards and as delegates to constituency sessions, and as conference and union committee members. 2) Friday night and Sabbath afternoon programs are to involve the youth in activities such as forums, agape

suppers, drama, mimes, puppets, radio programs, outreach, campouts, and “spiritual” weekends. [Basically, they are to fellowship, party, and have fun.]

These recommendations have only led to the multiplying of emerging churches, in the quest to be innovative, relevant, cultural, and entertaining. Certainly youth need to be involved as well as older adults, but not when they are unsanctified. This simply leads to growing the kingdom of this world. Have the SDA leaders lost their senses? Do they not realize that they will be held accountable for the loss of souls?

<http://ignitionblog.wordpress.com/2010/06/21/adventist-leaders-invited-to-discipleship-and-habitudes-training>

“Adventist Leaders invited to Discipleship and Habitudes Training”:

Tim Elmore, president of Growing Leaders (not an SDA organization), equipped iATL delegates with attitudes and leadership habits, “sharpening their ability to make a positive impact in their church and community.” Elmore has provided resources and nationwide leadership training for the Future Farmers of America, multiple athletic programs such as the University of Texas football team, and a number of government offices (Washington, D.C.) have used the “Habitudes” curriculum. <http://www.habitudes.org>

Ignite

The May 2010 Pacific Union *Recorder* wrote an article about “Ignite”—a one-day “intensive worship” conference for youth in Northern California. It was held on a Friday in February 2010 at the Palo Cedro SDA Church with over 70 students participating. Two of the church worship leaders and the assistant pastor of the Chico SDA Church “dreamed of equipping a new generation of worship leaders” in order to worship God in a “fresh and authentic way,” “to equip and empower students to lead worshipers in their home church,” and “Ignite was born.” The conference included an evening program led by a non-SDA pastor and his Christian rock worship band. One attendee stated that “we need some direction with praise and worship music in the Adventist churches.” It was felt that the “presence of God moved greatly through the music” and that at the end of the night the students had “committed to taking the world back for God.” The article closes by quoting one of the Palo Cedro worship leaders who explained that “this generation is so hungry for meaningful, new ways to worship” and that Ignite was a “catalyst for exploring new territory.”

You Tube advertised Ignite as an “equipping event for high school worship bands” and to come and “be ignited!”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIDxMxdtNC0>

<http://www.pcadventist.org>

The Palo Cedro SDA Church has a Christian rock band, “En Route,” which travels to share their music. They believe it is “an opportunity for students to express worship in unique and varied ways,” that they are on “a journey from some place to another place” and to a “greater level of spiritual maturity.” They strive to be “revolutionary” with “fresh ideas, elements and talents” to lead their peers into the “very presence of God.” It was very disheartening to hear a sample of their version of “How Great Thou Art” played in a blasphemous rock style. On a regular basis, En Route provides the worship for “The Journey Service,” which is for the “progressive” members. “God: Out of the Box” was the title for one of their September 2010 services. The subject for the “Family

Service” was “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” (named after a television show).

Again, we see a church trying to cater to everyone, but in the process they have brought in error. History shows us that if that pattern continues, error will win out. The direction their church is headed is downward. Unless they repent, their journey will not take them where they believe it is headed. We can appreciate the youth and their desire to become involved in the Church. However, just because we want them to feel needed and accepted, does not mean we allow them to do everything they wish even when it is not right. Children can be “spoiled to death”—eternally. Lack of discipline is a crucial issue. On the other hand, we can be too harsh and unloving as well. Satan desires to have us at one extreme or the other, and that includes guiding our children. It is important that we are balanced in every area of our life.

The “presence of God” continues to be stressed. However, the types of events and practices becoming popular today are driving out the presence of God. Satan is being worshiped and the majority do not realize it.

ConneXions99

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=2503>

An April 2009 *Adventist Review* article entitled “ConneXions99 a Decade Later” focused on how “lives changed by this young adult movement.” In April 1999, four hundred youth “stormed” the General Conference of SDAs with “dreams, prayers, worship, and hope.” It was a follow-up to the “eXcite98” grassroots youth gathering at La Sierra University. Andy Nash explained that participants created new ministries and networked with existing ones. An event planner said that “it was a movement of the Spirit amidst a generation wanting to be the change.” The June 98 Columbia Union *Visitor* featured information about “eXcite 98.” Some of the conference events included “powerful workshops,” “enjoying Adventist bands and entertainment,” meeting SDAs from across the country, inspired by keynote speakers, and “focusing on the face of Christ through awesome workshops.”

http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/CUV/CUV19980615-V103-12_C.pdf

Unfortunately, they could not focus on the face of Christ through “bands and entertainment.” Then ten years later, the *Adventist Review* asked some participants what ConneXions99 meant to them and how their lives changed as a result. Here is some of what the comments included.

- From Spain: “My dream as an artist . . . was to transcend postmodernism by locating and standing on timeless and universal multidimensional principles instead of traditions.” This led to his studies of theology, arts, theater, physics, filmmaking, etc. He is now working on several artistic projects, which include some “Christian film feature” projects based on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.
- Marcel Schwantes, Chattanooga, Tennessee: “That event was instrumental to my ‘born again’ experience. The year before, I was divorced and felt hopeless.” He stated that both the ‘98 and ‘99 events ministered to his soul and revived his spirituality. He saw Christ working with 400 “visionary kingdom-builders.” Because of that he believes the Holy Spirit fueled him to carry out two West Coast events: Unite99 and

Unite2000 at La Sierra University. He has a Masters in Organizational Psychology and a Bachelors in Communications and is now in private practice as a certified life and leadership coach. He provides “personal, career, and organizational coaching to help clients shift, take action, and effect changes from a place of Divine strength.” He also provides training and seminars in human resources and leadership development for churches, nonprofits, and small organizations. Schwantes is the online editor for Adventist Today, a “progressive journal reporting on contemporary issues of importance to Adventist church members.” LifeTalk TV, with Steve Gallimore, included segments with Schwantes discussing his coaching, where self-help and psychology were mentioned.

<http://www.marcelcoaching.com>

On Schwantes’ website, one of the coaching questions he included for someone to ask is “What ethnic cultural activity (such as Hanukkah, Swedish Dance of Lights, Kwanza, Cinco de Mayo) will I engage in within the next month?” Also included was a testimonial by Lennox Fleary, a recording artist of contemporary gospel/jazz music, in which he describes Schwantes’ ability to “draw on the blueprint within, to facilitate a person’s innate ability to guide their choices.”

<http://www.lifecoachtraining.com>

Schwantes is a graduate of the Institute for Life Coach Training, which is an accredited training program through the International Coach Federation and known worldwide. This program teaches such practices as “heightening consciousness” and includes a link to a psychosynthesis call that one can listen to. Psychosynthesis is an approach to psychology developed by Roberto Assagioli, a psychologist, humanist, visionary, and a world famous occultist. It uses such techniques as guided imagery, drama therapy, journaling, body work, meditation, self-psychology, individual and group psychotherapy, and self-help groups. Assagioli also wrote the book entitled *Psychosynthesis*. The institute also promotes “transpersonal psychology” which focuses on “higher states of consciousness,” self-realization, personality, and humanistic psychology. Tilden Edwards, a promoter of contemplative spirituality, suggested that those who practice this discipline and have started experiencing “spiritual unfolding” and other unusual experiences should read the book *Psychosynthesis* in order to understand the dynamics at certain stages.

Schwantes is also a certified trainer using the People Map System, and as stated on his website, it is an “incredibly useful and powerful tool for helping individuals and companies understand the various personalities that comprise their company or business.”

- Julene Duerksen-Kapao, New Zealand: “I brought a group from La Sierra University and we had a great time.” Kapao is now part of the North New Zealand Mosaic SDA church plant that is “completely outward-focused” and is the Senior Bible teacher at Longburn Adventist College in New Zealand.

<http://mosaic.adventist.org.nz>

The North New Zealand Mosaic SDA church plant is advertised as “bringing together disconnected, diverse, and broken people and transforming them into a creative community of faith. Regardless of your journey, Mosaic is about second chances and new beginnings.” Is it a coincidence that this church has the same name as the Mosaic Church in Los Angeles, California, pastored by the emerging church pastor, Erwin McManus?

<http://www.lac.school.nz/Student+Development/Academic/Bible.html>

The Longburn Adventist College website, under the Bible/Religious Studies section, mentioned teaching the personal application of “positive self-talk.”

http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2008/rec47-08_12_06.pdf

Kapao wrote a news item for the *Record* (South Pacific Division of SDAs) which stated that each year Longburn Adventist College students enjoy a yearly outing to a play, with the last one being the fairy tale, “Beauty and the Beast.”

<http://www.edgeonweb.org>

Kapao is also a book reviewer for *The Edge*, published by the SDA Signs Publishing Company in Australia, a contemporary magazine for youth, typically versed in the ways of the world.

- Jami Keller, Boise, Idaho: “My wife, Marla, and I presented at both conferences.”

The Kellers are members of Oasis Church, Boise, Idaho (listed on the General Conference of SDAs church directory). “Jami and Marla Keller (interim) is our Spiritual Formation Team Leader.” They minister in the Children's Ministries, Men's Ministry, Family Ministry, Praise and Worship Ministry, Pastoral Coaching, and Collegiate/Sr. High Student Ministries. They have traveled nationwide to present Spiritual and Emotional growth seminars, and have shared with the church community. One daughter is majoring in Theater Arts, the other in Spanish and Philosophy.

http://www.boiseoasis.org/app/w_page.php?id=9&type=section

The Oasis church family provides “uplifting contemporary Christian music.” They are “warm and friendly, non-judgmental, grace-filled people” and “basic biblical truths” are presented in “a way that's relevant to today.” “Come as you are, and everyone is welcome!”

This church recommends the book *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton, which is about spiritual transformation. She is a contemplative speaker who has authored numerous other books, including *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* and was trained at the Shalem Institute. She taught at the Willow Creek church and is now the president of the Transforming Center (Illinois) and teaches spiritual formation to Christian leaders and pastors.

The church also went through a “50-day Jubilee spiritual growth experience” as a time of “spiritual renewal.” This is a typical emerging church.

Have the previously mentioned individuals changed their lives for the better by attending ConneXions99? If so, why are they headed in the direction of the emerging church movement?

Youth Gospel Crusade, Bahamas

<http://emr.interamerica.org/announcements?archives=true>

An "Obsessed with Jesus" Youth Gospel Crusade was held on Friday, August 8, 2008 in the Bahamas. It was advertised that the "Holy Ghost Power" was "moving like a magnet in the hearts of young people in the communities and as a whole the North Bahamas Mission." The youth were instructed to turn their hearts over to Jesus and to stop allowing peer pressure "to build up walls of discourse that seems hopeless to break down or even difficult to get over." It was also stated that many souls would be "turned over to Jesus Christ." To close the crusade, a "Youth Summer Splash" was announced for the following Sunday. It was to be the largest beach picnic ever, with "lots of fun and surprises" and "more competition" so lets get geared up" and "remember to bring your bathing suits."

Is it really the "Holy Ghost Power" when the crusade ends with a beach party and competition? The youth are admonished to stop allowing peer pressure, yet along with truth, their elders are teaching error.

The Review and Herald, October 27, 1896

The gaiety, the foolish nonsense, the lack of sobriety, that are current in pleasure parties and picnic gatherings, lead to grave evils. The youth are pleased with exciting pleasures, as was Herod when the daughter of Herodias danced before him.

Confrontation, p. 67

The numerous socials, festivals, and picnics, to tempt the appetite to overindulgence, and the amusements which lead to levity and forgetfulness of God, can find no sanction in the example of Christ, the world's Redeemer, the only safe pattern for man to copy if he would overcome as Christ overcame.

United Arab Emirates

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ05rEt6atM>

Four youth mime to contemporary music at the 7th Anniversary Celebration of the SDA church in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. April 24, 2010.

Collegiate Sabbath School Quarterly (CQ)

<http://www.cqbiblestudy.org/article.php?id=36>

Each week's lesson and illustrations are done by seven different young adults worldwide, including Australia, Philippines, Jamaica, England, Kenya, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, United States, Ghana, Grenada, Thailand, Sweden, and Bulgaria.

Each month CQ's *World* interviews someone. One interview took place with Thomas Macomber, an attorney who owns a music production company called "Walkin' on the Water Records" at <http://www.wowrec.com> and includes the blues, jazz, rock, and bluegrass music. He has also been an adjunct professor at La Sierra University since 1985. Macomber has now merged his business

knowledge with his love for music and teaching into a class at LSU's School of Business, a course which "turns the classroom into a start-up music company" with students as marketing and promotion executives who are responsible for its success and development. He believes it is important that others in the church "care about what the young adults are doing" and that "resources can be made available for them to act." He hopes to see his class "become a model for other Adventist colleges."

Yes, some of us do care about what the young adults are doing, and we are alarmed because the music they are participating in originates from the ex-heavenly choir director.

One of the resources recommended on the CQ website includes the Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies out of the Global Mission Study Center of the General Conference of SDAs, which "explores the potential for authentic Adventist ministry in today's rapidly evolving postmodern culture." It also seeks to "discern opportunities for mission presented within emergent culture," to create resources, and provide training seminars and tools. At present the leaders are Matthew Gamble and Kleber Gonçalves (Brazil).

Matthew Gamble

<http://www.24-seven.org/index.php/vagabondservant/bio>

Gamble received a Masters of Divinity from Andrews University and in 2008 completed a Doctorate in Ministry with emphasis in Transformational Leadership. He has spoken worldwide through his nonprofit ministry, VagaBondservant International and has appeared on 3ABN. He serves as a Senior Consultant for the Center for Creative Ministry and the Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies. Gamble is also an advisor to the Adventist Christian Fellowship board and the NAD Young Adult Advisory.

<http://reinventingdawheel.blogspot.com/2007/05/rap-session-matthew-gamble.html>

Gamble recommends *The Ragamuffin Gospel* and *The Signature of Jesus* books by Brennan Manning, which both promote contemplative prayer.

In one online posting, Gamble admits his love for secular music, especially the alternative rock band Incubus. His conclusion is that music is "a medium that is more often than not an expression of a person's spiritual journey." He does not think the band is for everyone and that they do not appear to be God-fearing. However, he states that the Bible says that the temple of the Holy Spirit is in you, so "that does not limit the Spirit of God only to followers of Jesus." His conclusion is that "God's Spirit is working inside everyone to save them from themselves." So as he listens to music, he listens for the "spiritual warfare/the great controversy that's going on inside someone" and that "when that is packaged with a genre of music" that he likes then he has "got a win-win." Gamble believes that more people, especially leaders, are "realizing the difference between tradition and gospel-truth" which will result in the progress of our denomination." He feels we need to "continually take our heads out of the sand" and become more serious about the teaching of the Bible and "less concerned about various traditions we came up with 100 years ago (unless they are based on the principles of the Bible)."

These emerging ideas will result in the downward progress of our denomination, not upward. How tragic indeed that the apostasy and spiritualism in the SDA Church has affected the youth like a wide-spreading wildfire that cannot be stopped. In the 1970s, a popular Christian song entitled "Pass It On" begins with these lyrics: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up to its glowing." How ironic that even though its words refer to God's love, that it was songs like this which began the movement toward Christian rock music in the Church. The spark ignited into a roaring blaze of "sing and celebrate," which has led down the smoke-filled path to the emerging movement. Just like the discos of yesteryear, many Church members, especially the youth, sing with lights dimmed or with dramatic lighting. Their words and thoughts are saying, "Let's party. No need to worry. We can sin and be forgiven, sin and be forgiven. God's grace will cover us until Jesus returns."

Adventist Youth Society

<http://gcyyouthministries.org/Ministries/AdventistYouth/tabid/56/Default.aspx>

This is an organization for senior youth in the SDA churches. While some of the program ideas are good, others are not, such as performing drama and puppet shows, and watching movies (including some on You Tube, in which one included profanity). In the 2010 Yearly Programming for AYS is this statement: "Are you allowing pollutants (TV, music, games, idols, etc.) to contaminate your air?" This is ironic, since they are promoting TV, music, games, idols, etc.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 609

Modern Israel are in greater danger of forgetting God and being led into idolatry than were His ancient people. Many idols are worshiped, even by professed Sabbathkeepers.

YouthFirst

<http://www.gcyyouthministries.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=keejt17%2fsCM%3d&tabid=120&mid=627>

Here are some of the points listed as advantages of YouthFirst:

- The youth bring energy and new ideas to "traditional ways of running a church." [This is dangerously in line with the emerging church movement.]
- Pathfinder honors and Adventurer awards are "geared for involving youth," including silver and gold awards. [Here again is seeking after the prizes of the world, honoring and praising self rather than Christ.]

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 81

There are many professing Christians who know not Christ by an experimental knowledge. Oh, how my heart aches for these poor, deceived, unprepared souls! As I stand before congregations, and see the self-sufficient, self-righteous ones, and know that they are not preparing themselves to do acceptable work for Christ, and to meet Him in peace, I am so burdened that I cannot sleep. I ask myself, What can I say to these souls that will arouse them to a sense of their true condition? Self is the all-absorbing theme of their life. I long to reveal Christ so plainly that they will behold Him, and cease to center their attention on self...

The Review and Herald, June 18, 1889

Whatever has been done to attract the attention to self, has detracted from the glory that should have been rendered to God, and has brought leanness to your souls. It is through this avenue of self-esteem and self-sufficiency that Satan will seek to ensnare the people of God.

- When we affirm what the youth do, we send the powerful message to them that “what you think and what you do, matters.” [This only applies if we guide them properly in what they think and do.]
- Both the youth and older adults “will benefit from the energy and creativity.” [This depends on what the energy and creativity produce.]

Many activities which are not approved of by God have come into the SDA Church to “keep the youth in the Church.” When will the lesson be learned that there is never an excuse for watering down God’s truth and His instructions? The youth are still leaving the SDA Church. It is not entertainment that they need. If God’s directions are followed in the church programs and the youth still leave, that is not the fault of the programs. As the end of this world draws near, truth will become less popular. Therefore, less youth and even adults will be interested. That is no reason to change. How does it secure their eternal life when they are given more of what the world has to offer?

The website also included a story about the lives of two altar boys and two priests and how the boys grew up to become Marshall Tito (the abusive head of the communists in Yugoslavia) and Archbishop Fulton Sheen (Roman Catholic bishop who “received an Emmy award for his work on television where he positively affected hundreds of thousands of people”). Why would any faithful SDA wish to promote these types of personalities?

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 565

Every cardinal, archbishop, and bishop in the Catholic Church takes an oath of allegiance to the pope, in which occur the following words: ‘Heretics, schismatics, and rebels to our said lord the pope, or his aforesaid successors, I will to my utmost persecute and oppose.

The Golden Angels, Korea

<http://www.goldenangels.org>

The Golden Angels are a youth singing group from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of SDAs. They have assisted in almost 20 evangelistic meetings in Japan, Taiwan, Mongolia, Korea, and Hong Kong. They also visit churches, camp meetings, schools, patients, orphans, prisoners, and soldiers. In 2010 they performed at the SDA General Conference Session. Their music is similar to the Heritage Singers, who are known for contemporary praise worship and southern gospel.

Amanecer, Argentina

The July 9, 2009 *Adventist Review* had a cover feature on the Amanecer SDA singing quartet in Argentina. Their inspiration has come from such groups as the Gaither Vocal Band, Take 6, Avalon, and the Heritage Singers. The article begins by describing their performance at an event where “you can feel the electrifying excitement . . . the explosion of cheers” as “four young men walk onto the stage” and “harmony envelops the crowd, bringing honor and glory to

God.” How can they bring honor and glory to God when they are singing popular contemporary Christian music and are at an event with non-SDA evangelist, Luis Palau? He had a close relationship with Billy Graham, is popular with young people, and suggests that some individuals are “born with an inclination” towards homosexuality. It is estimated he has shared Christian teachings to 25 million people in 70 countries. He stated that “God has truly blessed the Alpha team and the millions who have attended their courses in over 160 countries. I pray our organizations will continue in partnership and purpose as we strive to reach the world for Jesus Christ.” Palau is referring to the Alpha course, which is mentioned earlier in this chapter.

Why would any SDA wish to be associated with such an event? Amanecer stated that they have “started a new repertoire with secular lyrics to open doors to places” they “couldn’t have dreamed of going with only Christian music.” They wish to uplift Christ with their music, but how is that possible by singing the devil’s music? One member of the group stated that “many of our Adventist churches are losing their young people” and that “at times there are such limitations on the style of music that the positive message never gets delivered in a way the youth will hear it.” Amanecer also “focuses on reaching youth with the true message of Christ’s love,” but their music and the true message do not coincide. What kind of individuals will be brought into the Church through such deception? Amanecer also performed at the 2010 SDA General Conference Session. It is obvious that the Church’s theology is beginning to match up with its musical preferences.

Mongolia

<http://www.nsdadventist.org/Documents/News/2010/NV/NV100304.pdf>

The North Asia-Pacific Division *News & Views* for March/April 2010 included the following on the SDA work in Mongolia:

- Eighty-five percent of the SDA members in Mongolia consist of young people.
- The Youth department held its first interchurch gospel singing “Eternal Sound” contest/festival in August 2009, with eight churches participating. The talent included creative/motion songs. It was planned to make the festival an annual event.
- The first Mongolian AMiCUS festival was held in December 2009. A Christmas theme was presented where they “enjoyed watching our young people’s creative productions.” These included groups singing, reading poetry, presenting dramas, and other fun activities. The article stated that the “most exciting part was the musical drama” presented by each of the eight groups. They “contextualized the Biblical stories into modern lifestyle and culture of Mongolia using the melodies of the country’s popular songs for the conversational parts. . . . It was fun and interesting.” They are hopeful and believe that the AMiCUS programs will help reach many non-SDA Mongolian students. (AMiCUS is the Adventist Ministry to College and University Students, which is under the direction of the General Conference of SDAs. It seeks to meet the needs of the SDA students on non-SDA campuses worldwide and train them to witness.)
- In December 2009, the first Bible Olympiad was held in Mongolia. “People were so excited about this activity” that the various churches began preparations a month ahead of time, and included 88 participants from 14

churches. When the first level started, “participants were tense as they were very serious” about the Olympiad. The end of the competition resulted in “a tie for second place and one first place winner.” They believe that the next Olympiad will be “a tough competition because many who failed this time will prepare wholeheartedly to try to get to the top.”

- Another event included a rented 500-seat amphitheater so that many could watch a musical play about the first missionary to Korea presented by a Korean team named Sullami. The concert hall was “jam-packed with people” and some had to stand. The members of the cast “performed well” as they sang, danced, and acted, and the “musical play was a success.” The following day, the AMiCUS leaders organized games and indoor sports for the students. The purpose of the social activity was for the students to enjoy fellowship. It was stated that they hope God will bless the movement.
- The Youth Department also decided to organize its own Mongolian Golden Angels team in order to dedicate one year to God. Their purpose is to train the young people for service in order to support, empower, and energize the churches.

http://dialogue.adventist.org/articles/07_2_stevenson_e.htm

This website, *College and University Dialogue*, is an international “journal of faith, thought, and action” published by AMiCUS in cooperation with the world divisions of the SDA Church. An article is included by Kris Coffin Stevenson promoting the use of breath prayers, such as “Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.” She stated that it could be “mentally said in rhythm to your breathing pattern,” and that “this method can eventually make prayer a part of your very soul as the prayer expands to fill your subconscious.” She recommended being “assured that God will continue to lead you on if you persevere in understanding the mysteries of communication with Him.” Pacific Press published Stevenson’s book, *Delighting in God: Prayer Is Opening the Heart to a Friend*, and the ABC sells her book, *God’s Mighty Champions*. She is a former assistant editor of *Insight* magazine.

<http://news.adventist.org/2010/11/descendants-singing.html>

Adventist News Network for November 2010 reported that the 7-member Mongolian Golden Angels chose the name Descendants. The group “offers concerts and classes during five-day public evangelism meetings.” The article stated that the group “has aided church growth” and “contributed to the church’s health and cultural outreach.” Also mentioned was the fact that the group “will drive for two days for a gig” and that on one 750-mile trip, their rental van broke down ten times. Perhaps the Lord was trying to tell them something?

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/gig>

Gig: “a job, esp [especially] a single booking for jazz or pop musicians to play at a concert or club.” This describes perfectly what groups like the Descendants do.

How disheartening it is to see worldly practices being taught and accepted even in new frontiers such as Mongolia. This is truly becoming a worldwide epidemic.

Purity Ball

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/photo/2010/01/20/PH2010012003494.html>

The Purity Ball is becoming popular among SDA youth. At the Madison SDA Church in Nashville, Tennessee, teenage boys and girls lined up before being paired off to learn ballroom dancing. The dancing is justified because it “features a vow to abstain from sex until marriage and offers tips on ‘appropriate’ touching between the sexes.” That is to be commended; however, if the Lord has instructed that dancing is not to be a part of a Christian’s lifestyle, why is it being promoted? Purity can be taught much more effectively without the dancing element.

<http://www.insightmagazine.org/cover/index.asp?issueID=20101627>

The Purity Ball was also a cover story in an issue of *Insight magazine* for SDA youth. The article began with these words: “The Revelation Worldwide Purity Ball, jointly sponsored by the Revelation Worldwide organization and the Youth Department of the Northeastern Conference [of SDAs]”

The Adventist Home, p. 498

There are amusements, such as dancing, card playing, chess, checkers, etc., which we cannot approve because Heaven condemns them. These amusements open the door for great evil.

Ibid., p. 517

David’s dancing in reverent joy before God has been cited by pleasure lovers in justification of the fashionable modern dance, but there is no ground for such an argument.

That I May Know Him, Ch. 242

Some regard sin as altogether so light a matter that they have no defense against its indulgence or consequence.... With some...religion is purely a thing of feeling. You will see a fair show of fervor and devotedness for a time, but soon a change comes.... They want a sip of the pleasure of excitement--the ballroom, the dance, and the show....

Ibid., Ch. 312

Let every one, for Christ’s sake and for his own soul’s sake, shun conformity to the world, to its customs, vanities, and fashions. Beware of human commandments that will obscure the holy commandments of God. The pleasure lover is ever unsatisfied, and continually desires to seek again the excitement of the ballroom, the theater, or the party of pleasure.

Insight magazine

<http://www.insightmagazine.org>
Music/Audio section

The author writes: “Here on *Insight*’s Web site, we try to feature some of the most accessible groups from across the genre spectrum: gospel, pop, country, rock, indie/alternative—we’ll even review some hip/hop releases in the coming months.” It goes on to state that “what I stay away from are the ‘extremes’: the heavy metal, the mainstream/Christian crossovers, anything that more than a

small group of people might find offensive," admitting that the music they feature may not be what you are comfortable with. The advice given is to "take the safe route" and that if the music encountered doesn't "speak to or give aid to your relationship with Christ" we should avoid it, but to remember that "a particular style of music might really speak to you but not to your friend." They planned to start including "select music clips to accompany each review to better aid in your music selection."

What the author fails to acknowledge is that it does not matter what we think about music but what God thinks about it, and He is very displeased with the type of music promoted. It is not His music. To say that it is alright to listen to popular music as long as the majority like it, does not make it right. In spiritual matters, the minority are in the right. They always have been and always will be on this sinful earth. Unless we learn to love the "music of heaven" now, we will not be found singing with the heavenly choirs.

Christian Education, p. 42

If you lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then make this increase a cause of rejoicing, you show great blindness. If numbers were evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for, in this world, his followers are largely in the majority.

Writing Contest

"Every year, *Insight's* Writing Contest makes teens famous--well, maybe not famous, but a little richer. Next year it could be you!" Here we have in one sentence, not just one issue but three: competition, fame, and fortune. This magazine is not even close to preparing young people for what is ahead of them.

Guide magazine

<http://www.guidemagazine.org>

ScreenSmart/"Get the Facts to Make Wise Media Choices" (Hollywood movie reviews)

Regarding a certain movie, an adult reviewer stated: "What I liked about this movie. . ." and "What concerned me about this movie. . ." then "While I'm not making recommendations for whether or not you should see this movie (that's for you and your parents to decide!), here are some 'thinking' questions. . . ." Concerns about the movie included: taking God's name in vain, inappropriate gestures, hint at the theory of evolution, white lies, etc.

The Adventist Home, p. 330

By beholding we become changed.

Other features included: "Cartoon of the day," "Caption the Cartoon" by *Guide* editor, and "Rich's Cheezy Jokes."

The Publishing Ministry, p. 217

The illustrations I could not possibly accept under any consideration. Some of them look as if prepared for a comic almanac....

Our High Calling, p.292

Jesting and joking may please a class of cheap minds, and yet the influence of this kind of conduct is destructive to spirituality. I speak to you as a class and also as individuals: Guard your words. Let sobriety and sound common sense characterize your conversation. Do not trifle with the purity and nobility of your souls by condescending to indulgence in stale jokes, and in cultivating habits of trifling conversation.

Ecclesiastes 10:12-13

The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.

The following were promoted: *JellyTelly and Adventures in Odyssey* (non-SDA programs through *Focus on the Family*) and *Sabbath Hangout* (contemporary music).

<http://www.guidemagazine.org/extrapages/viewblog.asp?bid=686>

The *Guide Blog* for April 1, 2010 included the following information in an article entitled "Meet the Lads!" by the editor, Randy Fishell: He met a group of "wonderful young men known as 'The Lads.'" (This is a Christian Rock/pop band, writing both songs of praise and worship as well as contemporary music and originally from New Zealand but now in Nashville, Tennessee.) Fishell writes, "(you know, 'Music City,' and all of that). These fun-loving guys play energetic, God-honoring music. . . . Now, the music may be a little TOO energetic for some of you and/or your parents. But before you leave the Lads behind, check out their funny 'Lads TV' sketches, or listen to their goofy radio antics. (But no matter what, always put your parents' desires first!)"

The Lads' music is far from being "God-honoring." How are the youth being prepared for heaven when not only the world's music but Music City, "funny TV sketches" and "goofy radio antics" are being endorsed? Since the parents may enjoy the world's music and the "funny" stuff as well, instead of suggesting that parents' desires come first, why not point them to God's desires?

The Adventist Home, p. 515

All want to be thought brilliant, and give themselves up to hilarity, foolish jesting, cheap, coarse flattery, and uproarious laughter. The eyes sparkle, the cheek is flushed, conscience sleeps. With eating and drinking and merrymaking, they do their best to forget God. The scene of pleasure is their paradise. And Heaven is looking on, seeing and hearing all.

Ibid., p. 524

There is mirth and carousing, hilarity and glee. In all this the youth follow the example of the authors of the books [or media] placed in their hands for study. The greatest evil of it all is the permanent effect that these things have upon the character.

Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, pp. 156-157

In the broad road all are occupied with their persons, their dress, and the pleasures in the way. They indulge freely in hilarity and glee, and think not of their journey's end, of the certain destruction at the end of the

path. Every day they approach nearer their destruction; yet they madly rush on faster and faster. Oh, how dreadful this looked to me!

Pathfinders

<http://www.pathfindersonline.org>

Vocational honors were first introduced in 1928. These foster pride, a focus on self, and a love for competition, such as the drill team. It was stated that it will teach order, morale, enjoyment, fellowship, leadership, self-control, and respect. There are other more honorable ways to learn those attributes. What message do the badges that are displayed on the sashes send to others? "Look what I did!" Additionally, some of the honors are not conducive to the children's spirituality, such as Parade floats; Christian drama; Puppetry, etc.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLoFS7q7gg0>

This video shows the Mt. Rubidoux Pathfinders drill team in senseless marching and tap dancing with much cheering and applause. It is as if they are being prepared to join the world's army instead of God's, not to mention the pride that is being fostered.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pQhaP_51-M

This video is of the Northeastern Conference Pathfinders drill team and drum corps with a hypnotic syncopated beat that is used at popular parades instead of the steady march beat.

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book

Puppet and clown ministry is included in the Personal Evangelism honor. The Basketball and Soccer honors involve writing about famous players.

The Adventurers (four years to fourth grade) honors include Gymnast; Media Critic (time spent each day with a variety of media, whether Christ-centered or secular); Olympic; Prayer Warrior(new in 2005; includes a prayer walk); and Troubadour (includes acting and entertainment).

In 1996 the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) and the Pathfinder Instructor Award (PIA) curriculum were developed, bringing in more honor to self.

<http://pathfinders.adventistconnect.org/pathfinder-leadership-award>

This website discusses how the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) was introduced as the entry level training package for Pathfinder leaders and staff members in the South Pacific Division on January 1, 2009. Among other areas, it provides "comprehensive and quality training in various aspects of spiritual formation." The Pathfinder Specialist Award (PSA) is the highest level of Pathfinder leadership training and was introduced in the South Pacific Division in April 2010.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/index.php?issue=2009-1524>

The August 27, 2009 *Adventist Review* focused on the Pathfinder Camporee and an article was included on the honors. It stated that these are "proudly displayed on Pathfinder sashes." "The proud sense of achievement and accomplishment . . . was all part of the fun." "They are now challenged not just to wear the Honor patches proudly, but take what they have learned and go serve proudly." An article on "off-site fun" mentioned sumo wrestling (a Japanese national sport) where children could put on inflatable suits.

<http://www.under-oath.net.au/home.html>

Australian Union Conference Pathfinder Camporee (January 2011): It was announced that there would be exciting activities, top speakers, outstanding night programs with awesome music and drama.

<http://www.pathfinderradio.com>

Pathfinder Radio includes miscellaneous contemporary, country-style musicians, etc.

<http://www.bible-bowl.org>; <http://www.pathfinderbibleachievement.org>

Pathfinder Bible Achievement/Bible Bowl (PBA) was developed in 1987. This is a program for Pathfinders (grades 5 through 10) in which groups of up to seven team up to answer specific questions from the Bible or portions of a designated book. The article stated that this is a "fun way to encourage Pathfinders to study the Bible, while they also learn team work and excellent study skills."

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 133

The time is altogether too full of tokens of the coming conflict to be educating the youth in fun and games.

PBA most likely fosters a lifetime commitment to "fun and games" rather than studying God's Word. On the day of the event, each Pathfinder must wear their full dress uniform, including the sash, etc. so that they will "look sharp." Again, the sash brings attention to self. Part of the rules state that "if the team members believe that they should have received more points than the judge gave them, they may have a runner send their paper up to the panel of judges at the front of the church." This type of program is not conducive to keeping the sanctuary holy and reverent. It was stated that "there is no need for the negative side of competition that sometimes occurs in other team activities. Every team can be a first place team." However, it is also stated that "As you get closer to the Area level date, you will need to select the six (6) best qualified Pathfinders plus one (1) alternate, in case of illness." This is competition. There is also the pride that goes with winning. How are the others feeling because they did not win? Certificates, pins and trophies (from small to very large) are handed out as well as an engraved bar for each level. First place is gold, second place is silver, and third place is bronze—just like the Olympic games.

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 182

We should not seek to imitate Sunday schools, nor keep up the interest by offering prizes. The offering of rewards will create rivalry, envy, and jealousy; and some who are the most diligent and worthy will receive little credit. Scholars should not try to see how many verses they can learn and repeat; for this brings too great a strain upon the ambitious child, while the rest become discouraged.

Child Guidance, p. 294

In God's plan there is no place for selfish rivalry. Those who measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Corinthians 10:12.) Whatever we do is to be done "as of the ability which God giveth." 1 Peter 4:11. It is to be done "heartily, as

to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23, 24. Precious the service done and the education gained in carrying out these principles. But how widely different is much of the education now given! From the child's earliest years it is an appeal to emulation [ambition to equal or surpass another] and rivalry [The act of competing]; it fosters selfishness, the root of all evil.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 101

The word of God is to have a sanctifying effect on our association with every member of the human family. The heaven of truth will not produce the spirit of rivalry, the love of ambition, the desire to be first. True, heaven-born love is not selfish and changeable. It is not dependent on human praise. The heart of him who receives the grace of God overflows with love for God and for those for whom Christ died. Self is not struggling for recognition. He does not love others because they love and please him, because they appreciate his merits, but because they are Christ's purchased possession.... He is kind and thoughtful, humble in his opinion of himself, yet full of hope, always trusting in the mercy and love of God.

The motive for reading and studying the Bible should not be to learn trivia so that you can win at a competition. It should be to learn truth so that you can learn to love God and become like Christ in preparation for His return.

Adventist Youth Ministries, South Pacific Division

<http://youth.adventistconnect.org/mwtp3-workshops> - Spiritual Formation

This division encompasses Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and islands near the Equator, which comprise the Australian, and New Zealand Pacific Union Conferences; and the Papua New Guinea, and Trans Pacific Union Missions.

Move With The Power III is a Youth Ministry Summit to provide training and development for Youth Ministry leaders, including Pathfinders, Adventurers, chaplains, church pastors, and elders. It was stated that training would be provided "by experts in various areas of youth leadership," such as discipleship and leadership development in order to be "equipped in the best possible way for kingdom-building ministry with the young people in your area of influence." Pastor Brendan Pratt, Director of Personal Ministries and Sabbath School, Greater Sydney Conference of SDAs, focuses on discipleship and "healthy" churches. His workshop was on how to "put together a spiritual formation plan that is just for you. . . to grow in connection with God and how you've been shaped with a unique connection with God." While discipleship, leadership, spiritual formation, and a connection with God sound like wonderful areas of development, when they are combined with Satanic ideas, they are of no use to God's people.

A "focus on mission" comes from the July 1, 2010 *Adventist Review*. In 2009 delegates from the South Pacific attended the first Festival of Mission in Australia to discuss "ideas and concerns including a possible strategic direction for the church." Delegates stated that the "praise and worship modeled a new way forward, and keynote speakers, Hyveth Williams and José Rojas, set the

tone for deeper spirituality." The article concluded by saying that in the South Pacific "we are involved in innovative mission for our Lord."

General Conference of SDAs Children's Ministries

<http://www.gcchildmin.org/organize/index.html>

The General Conference handbook, *The Children's Ministries Coordinator*, includes these ideas:

- Children's Music Festival with the purpose of providing children the chance to use their talents, including musical mimes, with the festival referred to as a "music extravaganza."
- Puppet ministry.
- Easter dramas.
- Christmas plays.
- A recommendation of George Barna, along with other non-SDA authors. Barna has held roles in advertising, politics, research, media, ministry, and marketing research on faith and culture, and has served hundreds of parachurch ministries, thousands of Christian churches nationwide, corporations, organizations, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. He has authored 41 books on such topics as trends, leadership, church health, and spiritual development. Examples include best-sellers such as *Revolution*, *Revolutionary Parenting*, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. His book entitled *The Power of Vision* states that "tradition can snare us." Some of Barna's books have received national awards. More than 100 of his articles are published in periodicals, and more than a million people yearly access his bi-weekly research report on his website at <http://www.barna.org>. The media cites him as an authoritative source and "one of the nation's most influential Christian leaders." He has been referred to as "the most quoted person in the Christian Church today." Barna is a "popular speaker at ministry conferences" worldwide and has taught at Pepperdine and Biola universities and several seminaries. He served as pastor of a large church and has been involved in church start-ups. He also received a doctorate from Dallas Baptist University, and was awarded the Eagleton Fellowship (politics and government) at Rutgers University. Two of his hobbies are watching movies and reading novels. We cannot rely on someone of this background and with that much influence and popularity in the Christian world today.

The Review and Herald, November 21, 1878

Wrecks of character have been made by these fashionable church festivals and theatrical performances, and thousands more will be destroyed; yet people will not be aware of the danger, nor of the fearful influences exerted. Many young men and women have lost their souls through these corrupting influences.

The Signs of the Times, April 21, 1890

The words of Jesus addressed to this generation may well be regarded with sorrow and awe. He asks, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Christ looked down the ages, and with prophetic eye marked the conflict between the antagonistic principles of truth and

error. He saw how real Christianity would become almost extinct in the world, so that at his second advent he would find a state of society similar to that which existed before the flood. The world would be engaged in festivity and amusement, in theatrical shows, in the indulgence of base passions. Intemperance of every grade would exist, and even the churches would be demoralized, and the Bible would be neglected and desecrated. He saw that the desperate revelries of the last days would only be interrupted by the judgments of God.

<http://www.gcchildmin.org/pdf/issues/drama.pdf>

This link shows a letter dated May 18, 2000 from the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department. It states that it has moved to an "interactive teaching mode in which students and teachers participate in the lesson with the use of dramatic presentations, skits," etc. following the formats in *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, which say that Sabbath School exercises should be as interesting as possible and that children should be involved in the activities. It is "common practice" worldwide, in youth groups, and the *GraceLink* curriculum for Sabbath School and other church activities. It also states that the Bible books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel used these kinds of activities to illustrate biblical truths. This is amazing. What Bible version was used to come to that conclusion? It would also prove that Ellen White contradicted herself, since she made many statements to the contrary. Tragically, the Church leadership stoops very low in order to cater to entertainment desires. The letter ends by stating that the SDA Church does not change its theology but the methodology must always be "updated and meet the minds of the people with whom we are working." In the process of changing the methodology, the theology is changed. It is an emerging church idea that worship and theology needs changing to meet the needs of a postmodern culture. However, we are not to change God's truth just to meet people's "needs" or to cater to their feelings. God's truth stands forever. It is the lack of straight truth that has led to the pathetic state the SDA Church is in today.

North American Division of SDAs Children's Ministries

A "Go Fish Conference" was advertised as a "fun packed, hands-on, opportunity to learn how to work with children. Each day is fast-paced, interactive, and practical. With over 70 workshops there will be plenty of time to learn and be encouraged by those who have worked in children's ministries." Attendees can include pastors, parents, leaders, teachers, and "anyone who works with children birth to age 12 will find practical ways to improve their ministry. Churches that are involved in or would like to start creative ministries such as puppetry, clown, and drama are encouraged to bring their teams. Children's ministry resources are available with the 40 or more exhibitors from a variety of publishers and companies."

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20090101114352/http://gofishconference.net/article.php?id=7>

The Georgia Conference of SDAs "Go Fish Conference" was held on the weekend of February 11-13, 2011 at Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, Georgia. A keynote speaker included Craig Jutila, founder and president of Empowering Kids, and who served as Children's Pastor at Saddleback Church for 13 years. He received his Christian Education degree from Biola University. He is the author of many books and articles and was

recently identified by ministry experts nationwide as “one of Children’s Ministry Magazine’s Pioneers of the Decade.” Here again we see the SDA Church supporting someone in the Purpose Driven and emerging church movements. Biola University includes the Talbot School of Theology, which teaches spiritual formation, spiritual direction, spiritual renewal, spiritual disciplines, and promotes Dallas Willard, Ignatius of Loyola, etc. It is almost unbelievable that our SDA leadership would stoop so low as to invite this type of promoter of unbiblical methods. José Rojas and Wintley Phipps (SDA pastors) were among the keynote speakers.

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20090101114357/http://gofishconference.net/article.php?id=8>

Following are some of the topics included in teacher certification: The Post Modern Child; Kids in Discipleship; Leadership Styles; Temperaments; History of Clowns/Clown Ethics; History of Puppetry; Making Simple Puppets; Puppet Manipulation; Puppetizing Songs; Starting a Puppet Ministry; Street Ministry; Stages, Lighting, Special Effects; Writing Skits; Basic Ballooning; Silent Comedy; Face Paint Lab; Gospel Illusions; Improvisation; History of Drama/Use of Drama in the Church; Children’s Drama Ministry Basics; Costuming; Cultural Shifts; Elements of Pantomime; Sketches, Monologues, One Acts; A.C.T.S.; Hearing God; and Prayer Styles.

<http://circle.adventist.org/browse/resource.phtml?leaf=10767>

This SDA educators website discusses “Oz & Wilde,” who were included as presenters for the conference. It states: “Filled with Biblical truths, witty comedy and colorful apparatus, Oz and Wilde tell kids (& their adult friends) about Jesus through ‘Christian magic.’”

<http://ncc.adventist.org/article.php?id=982>

A “Go Fish--Putting Families First” was a Pacific Union Leadership Convention held at Leoni Meadows November 11-14, 2010 for Family Ministry and Children’s Ministry Leaders. “Inspirational General Session speakers” included David Hall, Nevada Utah Conference Family Ministry; Debra Brill, NAD Vice President; Manny and Melanie Cruz, NAD Youth and Church Ministries; and Randy Fishell, Editor of Guide Magazine. Vendors selling the latest Family and Children’s Ministry resources included the ABC and Advent Source. Presentations included: The Postmodern Child; Diversity in Children’s Ministries; Kids in Discipleship; Storytelling with Cartoon Characters; Basic Face Painting; Basic Ballooning; Developing your Clown Character; History of Clown Ministry & Clown Ethics; History of Drama - Children’s Drama Basics; Sketch Writing; Street Ministry; History of Puppetry & Start-Up; Backgrounds, Staging, Music & Sound Effects; Hand Puppets; Shadow Puppets; Creating a F.U.N. Church; Temperaments, etc.

<http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=254>

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20090101114402/http://gofishconference.net/article.php?id=9>

The “Go Fish Convention” in Loma Linda, California, November 8-11, 2007 provided training and the “most current research and information on the 21st century child. Children’s Ministries’ goal is to reach across cultural, socioeconomic boundaries and replace the secular worldview with a biblical worldview.” One can only imagine where the “current research and information”

came from to help the “21st century child,” since this convention included the world’s view on ministering to children. Part of the convention included a tour of the Saddleback Church.

<http://media.floridaconference.com/PDF/floridafocus/ff-v25n3.pdf>

The Florida Conference of SDAs “Go Fish Convention” in Orlando, Florida was held September 11-13, 2009. Here is what one participant stated: “The staff was a perfect blend of fun-filled story tellers and message-sharing gospel workers. One never knew when, out of the laughter of a clown act, an inspirational message would follow. . . . Among balloon animal classes, magic tricks, puppetry, health tips, nature walks, and meeting new friends, the main purpose was not lost.” It can be agreed that if the main purpose was about entertainment, then the purpose was not lost. Another stated, “Even the music class turned out to be a fun, praise-the-Lord-with-all-you’ve-got experience.”

The link above also included information on an SDA Singles’ Ministries Annual New Year’s Retreat held December 30, 2009 to Jan. 3, 2010 at Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Florida. The entertainment featured “Professor Doodad,” who is Darren Casteel, the CEO of the Creative Arts Store in Cleveland, Georgia. He has been a children’s pastor for 15 years and created Quakeville, a “high energy, exciting and fun filled drama relating Scriptures and Bible truths to the children.” He uses “mascots, puppets, original music and special effects during services each week” and is a “professional puppet designer and performer as well as a superb talent in magic, storytelling, and gifted lecturer.” He has worked “across denominational lines to provide quality children’s programs across 24 states.” According to God’s instructions, those programs are not providing quality and should never be used by intelligent-thinking leaders.

The Ohio Conference of SDAs has a “Go Fish Convention” planned for October 7-9, 2011 at The Conference Center at NorthPointe, Lewis Center, Ohio.

It is heart-breaking to realize that the emerging church movement is snaring in even SDA children at a very young age. God’s faithful must cry out, “Lord, can you at least spare the children?” They cannot save themselves, because they are too young to know the difference. Truly this will bring God’s wrath upon those who are responsible for this travesty.

Mark 1:17-18

And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

When Jesus commissioned Simon and Andrew to be “fishers of men,” He did not have this type of spiritual formation in mind. The two disciples “forsook their nets.” The SDA leaders have not forsaken their “nets.” In fact, they are using the devil’s nets to snare the unaware.

Vacation Bible School

<http://www.kgcnvbs.com>

A 2010 Vacation Bible School program entitled “Kids’ and God’s Communication Network” (KCGN) and produced by the Review and Herald included skits and a drama/puppet show with puppeteers “Oz and Wilde” as a

“different genre for your Bible story time.” The “History Mystery station” used storytelling, drama, interactive activities, and “sleuthing to share the day’s Bible story.” It was stated that there was an effort to keep the drama “light” but still keep the truth of the Bible stories. Drama is drama whether it is light or not. “Play-by-Play” was an “opportunity for some fun and games,” with some “more rambunctious than others.”

The October 2009 Pacific Union *Recorder* included an article on the Antioch Church Vacation Bible School. The third night began with a song service led by the United in Christ house band, in which the “gym resonated with kids and staff clapping, jumping and singing lively songs.”

Adventist Review KidsView

<http://www.kidsviewmag.org>

Any faithful SDA will be dismayed with the *KidsView* section of the *Adventist Review*. Here are just a few examples that do not encourage children to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

- March and April 2009: The monthly calendar featured items such as “Michael Jordan played his last NB [national basketball] game in 2003”; “National Heroes Day in Barbados”; “Daffy Duck debuted in 1937”; “Dr. Seuss was born in 1904”; “Barbie debuted in 1959.”
- March 2009: “If I Could Live in the White House. . .” article with the following question and children’s answers.
- Question – “If you were moving to the White House, what would be the first thing you would do on your first night there?”
- Answers – “I would get every video game in the world. . . . I would also get 30 cats. I think I’d also get a 500-foot TV with ultra surround sound and I’d get lots of cars too.” Another wrote about having a party and if no one came he would just play games. One girl said she would have a slumber party with popcorn, pizza, and drinks, invite friends to watch Alicia Keys sing (R&B/Hip Hop), stay up all night, have a pillow fight and watch a movie.
- May 2009: A “Student Work” section with SDA schoolchildren’s responses to a writing assignment on a time when they were “proud and happy about something they had done”
- “When I got my report card, I started counting all my A’s: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. . . . I got on the . . . Principal’s List for the very first time! . . . That was the best day I ever had and I was very, very proud.” One boy told about winning a poster contest and how he was so proud. Another boy talked about the fun of playing basketball and how one day he helped his team to win and they celebrated and he was so proud. Another describes playing football with his friends and his teacher and how at one point when he caught the ball, his team was “cheering and chanting” and he “felt really proud.”

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

The Signs of the Times, February 5, 1894

Can anyone think it possible that pride can exist in the heart and yet that heart have a place in the kingdom of God? It was pride that caused the fall of Satan. His heart was lifted up because of his beauty. All his wisdom and glory were the gift of God; but the very gift bestowed by the generous love of God was perverted to wrong use in exalting himself, as if his glorious endowments were something that he himself had originated.

Not only is self the hero, but there are the “world’s heroes,” whether real or make-believe. The true Hero, Jesus Christ, is forgotten. It’s all about fame, fun, and fortune, and eternal realities are forgotten. Self takes the throne and forgets that God is on His judgment throne. Let us pray that not one of us will be found guilty of leading any youth astray.

Matthew 18:6; 25:40

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. [25:40] And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 190

All around us are the young, the impenitent, the unconverted, and what are we doing for them?

Schools

Recreational activities at SDA colleges

<http://www.adventistcolleges.org/CMSPages.asp?PageID=9>

This website included a list of possible recreational activities available to students at SDA colleges in the U.S. Some of the activities that do not contribute to spirituality included film studio tours; ballet and opera; indoor and outdoor theaters; auto racing; arcades; professional sports teams; and Civil War reenactments.

When SDAs attend non-denominational schools, if they are not well grounded in SDA doctrine, they will give in to doctrinal error. It is sad to realize that this happens even in SDA institutions. Let God’s people be warned that SDA schools and churches as well need to be scrutinized before attending. If not, their chance of eternal life may be in danger.

Selected Messages, Book 3, pp. 231-233

It would be perfectly safe for our youth to enter the colleges of our land if they were converted every day; but if they feel at liberty to be off guard one day, that very day Satan is ready with his snares, and they are overcome and led to walk in false paths--forbidden paths, paths that the Lord has not cast up.

Now, shall professed Christians refuse to associate with the unconverted, and seek to have no communication with them? No, they are to be with them, in the world and not of the world, but not to partake

of their ways, not to be impressed by them, not to have a heart open to their customs and practices. Their associations are to be for the purpose of drawing others to Christ.

Here is the danger of our youth. The attractions in these institutions are such, and the teaching so intermixed with error and sophistry, that they cannot discern the poison of sentiment mingled with the useful and precious. There is such an undercurrent, and it works in such a manner that many do not perceive it, but it is constantly at work. Certain ideas are constantly advanced by the professors, and repeated over and over, and at last the mind begins to assimilate and conform to these ideas....

To many of our youth there is great danger in listening to the discourses that are given by those who in the world are called great men. These discourses are often of a highly intellectual nature, and prevailing errors of science falsely so-called and of popular religious doctrine are mingled with wise sayings and observations, but they undermine the statements of the Bible and give the impression that there is reason for questioning the truth of the inspired Word. In this way the seeds of skepticism are sown by great and professedly wise men, but their names are registered in the books of record in heaven as fools, and they are an offense to God. They repeat the falsehoods that Satan put into the mouth of the serpent, and educate the youth in delusions.

This is the kind of education the enemy delights in. It is sorcery. The great apostle inquired, "Who hath bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth?" Those who receive and admire the sentiments of these so-called great men are in danger, for through the subtlety of the enemy the sophistical reasoning of these false teachers takes root in the heart of our youth, and almost imperceptibly they are converted from truth to error. But the conversion should be just the other way. Our young men who have seen the evidences of the verity of truth should be firmly established and able to win souls to Christ from the darkness of error.

The Desire of Ages, p. 464

In these days we hear much about "higher education." The true "higher education" is that imparted by Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." Colossians 2:3; John 1:4.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 174

We hear a great deal about the higher education. The highest education is to follow in the footsteps of Christ, patterning after the example He gave when He was in the world. We cannot gain an education higher than this, for this class of training will make men laborers together with God.

The Review and Herald, March 31, 1910

The baleful spirit of unbelief is found in every land and is permeating all ranks of society. It is taught freely in many of the universities, colleges, and high schools, and it comes even into the lessons taught in the common schools and the nurseries. Thousands who profess to be

Christians give heed to lying spirits. Everywhere the spirit of darkness in the garb of religion confronts the seeker after truth.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, pp. 535-536

Those who seek the education that the world esteems so highly, are gradually led further and further from the principles of truth until they become educated worldlings. At what a price have they gained their education! They have parted with the Holy Spirit of God. They have chosen to accept what the world calls knowledge in the place of the truths which God has committed to men through His ministers and prophets and apostles. And there are some who, having secured this worldly education, think that they can introduce it into our schools. But let me tell you that you must not take what the world calls the higher education and bring it into our schools and sanitariums and churches. We need to understand these things. I speak to you definitely. This must not be done.

Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1, p. 194

When the heart and mind is submitted to God, when man is willing to be instructed as a little child, the science of education will be found in the Word of God. Higher education of the world has proved itself a farce. When teachers and students come down from their stilts and enter Christ's school to learn of Him, they will talk intelligently of higher education because they will understand that it is that knowledge which enables men to understand the essence of science.

Conflict and Courage, p. 210

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3.

Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists--the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions--is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.

When Battle Creek College failed to follow all of God's instructions through Ellen White, she encouraged the establishment of a self-supporting institution, Madison College. She became a member of their board, the only position like this that she held. The denominational leaders were not happy that she had done this, because they saw this as a challenge to their authority and control.

History is repeating with the modern-day SDA Church leaders. The majority of SDA schools are not what they should be. While Andrews University includes a horticultural program, most SDA schools no longer do. Instead an emphasis is placed on amusements and sports.

Amusements and sports

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 23

It would be well could there be connected with our college, land for cultivation and also workshops under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation. The leisure hours

of the students are often occupied with frivolous pleasures, which weaken physical, mental, and moral powers.

The Signs of the Times, August 26, 1886

Young persons are naturally active, and if they find no legitimate scope for their pent-up energies after the confinement of the schoolroom, they become restless and impatient of control; they are thus led to engage in the rude, unmanly sports that disgrace so many schools and colleges, and even to plunge into scenes of dissipation. And many who leave their homes innocent, are corrupted by their associations at school.

The Adventist Home, pp. 499-500

I do not condemn the simple exercise of playing ball; but this, even in its simplicity, may be overdone.

I shrink always from the almost sure result which follows in the wake of these amusements. It leads to an outlay of means that should be expended in bringing the light of truth to souls that are perishing out of Christ. The amusements and expenditures of means for self-pleasing, which lead on step by step to self-glorifying, and the educating in these games for pleasure produce a love and passion for such things that is not favorable to the perfection of Christian character.

The way that they have been conducted at the college does not bear the impress of heaven. It does not strengthen the intellect. It does not refine and purify the character. There are threads leading out through the habits and customs and worldly practices, and the actors become so engrossed and infatuated that they are pronounced in heaven lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. In the place of the intellect becoming strengthened to do better work as students, to be better qualified as Christians to perform the Christian duties, the exercise in these games is filling their brains with thoughts that distract the mind from their studies....

Is the eye single to the glory of God in these games? I know that this is not so. There is a losing sight of God's way and His purpose. The employment of intelligent beings, in probationary time, is superseding God's revealed will and substituting for it the speculations and inventions of the human agent, with Satan by his side to imbue with his spirit.... The Lord God of heaven protests against the burning passion cultivated for supremacy in the games that are so engrossing.

Today we can find Church periodicals such as the *Adventist Review* using sports analogies, and we even hear pastors using sports illustrations in their sermons.

One example comes from the Knoxville First SDA Church in Tennessee on February 3, 2007, in which a pastor referred to his favorite sports team for analogies during his sermon and wore a sports team jacket for an illustration. He frequently asked, "Where is your allegiance?" Where is the allegiance of pastors who focus on the popular, competitive games of today? In addition, an announcement was made about a Super Bowl party fundraiser to be held the next day in the Knoxville Adventist School gym. A bulletin insert gave further details, such as snacks, drinks, and desserts that would be sold by the 8th

grade class, "Guess the final score and win a prize," and "Bring your comfy chairs and relax in front of the big screen."

Colossians 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 20, p. 24

He who accepts God as his Sovereign must take the oath of allegiance to Him. He must put on the Christian uniform, and bear aloft the banner that shows to whose army he belongs.

The Review and Herald, June 14, 1892

Be true to your allegiance to Christ; for it is in half-heartedness in the Christian life that you become feeble in purpose, changeable in desire, and find no rest for your soul. This seeking to serve Christ and the world makes you a stony-ground hearer, and you will not endure when the test comes upon you. The religion of Christ permits no compromise, no yielding to the influences of the world.

Creeping Compromise, Joe Crews, Homeward Publishing, Yorba Linda, CA, 2008, pp. 109-110

With shouts and uncontrolled excitement he [a church leader] sits for hours, completely absorbed in an activity that is the very antithesis of everything Jesus stood for and taught. [He] knows all the batting averages and league records, but he'll sit next Sabbath half asleep in church and will not know a single answer in the Sabbath School class.... Like Mrs. Lot he is bound to the things of the world, and all his stereotyped, platform-religious functions will not change the sentence of death against him. Until that man becomes more vocal about soul winning than he is about a ball game there can be no hope for his salvation.

Sports games foster competition, pride, strife, aggression, can involve physical injuries or become addicting, and destroy a love for useful labor.

Philippians 2:3

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 101-102

The heaven of truth will not produce the spirit of rivalry, the love of ambition, the desire to be first. True, heaven-born love is not selfish and changeable. It is not dependent on human praise. The heart of him who receives the grace of God overflows with love for God and for those for whom Christ died. Self is not struggling for recognition.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 6, p. 127

Among the youth the passion for football games and other kindred selfish gratifications have been misleading in their influence. Watchfulness and prayer and daily consecration to God have not been maintained. Converse, communion with God, is life to the soul. The light

has been beclouded, and it was well pleasing to Satan to have the impression go forth that notwithstanding the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit in behalf of our institutions of learning, and the office of publication and the church, they fell back to be overcome by temptation. Satan and evil workers cast reflection upon God, and His name has been dishonored....

The Adventist Home, pp. 513-514

The welfare of the soul should not be endangered by the gratification of any selfish desire, and we should shun any amusement which so fascinates the mind that the ordinary duties of life seem tame and uninteresting. By indulgence in such pleasure the mind becomes confirmed in a wrong direction, and Satan so perverts the thoughts that wrong is made to appear as right. Then restraint and submission to parents, such as Christ rendered to His parents, seem unbearable.

True Recreation

Good Health, July 1, 1880

True recreation is obtaining fresh vigor of mental, moral, and physical power. This can never be gained by selfish gratification or indulgence. Life was given these youth for nobler purposes. By their habits they are placing themselves among those whom the apostle names as being lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.

The Adventist Home, p. 496

There are modes of recreation which are highly beneficial to both mind and body. An enlightened, discriminating mind will find abundant means for entertainment and diversion, from sources not only innocent, but instructive. Recreation in the open air, the contemplation of the works of God in nature, will be of the highest benefit.

Ibid., p. 499

Gymnastic exercises fill a useful place in many schools, but without careful supervision they are often carried to excess. In the gymnasium many youth, by their attempted feats of strength, have done themselves lifelong injury.

Exercise in a gymnasium, however well conducted, cannot supply the place of recreation in the open air, and for this our schools should afford better opportunity.

Ibid., p. 512

There is a distinction between recreation and amusement. Recreation, when true to its name, re-creation, tends to strengthen and build up. Calling us aside from our ordinary cares and occupations, it affords refreshment for mind and body and thus enables us to return with new vigor to the earnest work of life.

Amusement, on the other hand, is sought for the sake of pleasure and is often carried to excess; it absorbs the energies that are required for useful work and thus proves a hindrance to life's true success.

Between the associations of the followers of Christ for Christian recreation and worldly gatherings for pleasure and amusement will exist a marked contrast. Instead of prayer and the mentioning of Christ and sacred things will be heard from the lips of worldlings the silly laugh and the trifling conversation. Their idea is to have a general high time. Their amusements commence in folly and end in vanity.

There is great need of temperance in amusements, as in every other pursuit. And the character of these amusements should be carefully and thoroughly considered. Every youth should ask himself, What influence will these amusements have on physical, mental, and moral health? Will my mind become so infatuated as to forget God? Shall I cease to have His glory before me?

The best recreation the students can receive is growing gardens and orchards, but so few today know anything about it. Notice below what God stated on this subject.

Education, p. 20

The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime. As an illustration of its principles a model school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents. The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students.

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 312

Families and institutions should learn to do more in the cultivation and improvement of land. If people only knew the value of the products of the ground, which the earth brings forth in their season, more diligent efforts would be made to cultivate the soil. All should be acquainted with the special value of fruits and vegetables fresh from the orchard and garden.

The Review and Herald, September 1, 1904

Wise plans are to be laid for the cultivation of the land. The students are to be given a practical education in agriculture. This education will be of inestimable value to them in their future work. Thorough work is to be done in cultivating the land, and from this the students are to learn how necessary it is to do thorough work in cultivating the garden of the heart.

Australasian Union Conference Record, July 31, 1899

The youth that shall attend our school...are to plant it with ornamental trees and fruit trees, and to cultivate garden produce. The school farm is to be regarded as a lesson book in nature, from which the teachers may draw their object lessons. Our students are to be taught that Christ, who created the world and all things that are therein, is the life and light of every living thing. The life of every child and youth who is willing to grasp the opportunities for receiving a proper education will be made thankful and happy while at school by the things which his eyes shall rest upon.

Genesis 2:15

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Below is a partial listing of SDA colleges and universities worldwide with some of their activities.

Andrews University and SDA Theological Seminary (AU), Michigan

<http://www.andrews.edu>

These events have been held at the AU campus:

- Easter Passion Play held annually since 2003. The play was inspired by Ron Whitehead, assistant to the president for spiritual life and director of the Center for Youth Evangelism at Andrews. The university leaders unanimously supported the idea.
- Creative Arts Festival held annually for the last 15 years and “created with the purpose of relieving the lull of winter” on campus and in the community. Features crafts, fine arts, poetry, drama performances, workshops, faculty/staff awards, and concerts, including jazz, reggae, and Christian rock.
- Worship services include:
 - Mosaic – This is a Friday “late night option” conceived four years ago as an “atmospheric post-vespers experience.” It is termed as a “revolutionary spiritual encounter,” challenging students to “break free from convention” to participate in “interactive cafés, concerts by independent Christian artists, gallery exhibits, and creative prayer experiences.” It “elevates the spirit and opens the door to an enriching Sabbath.” Hors d’oeuvres and hot drinks are served for a “capacity crowd.” Actually, this type of service opens the door to the enemy.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 13, pp. 257

Your health depends upon the right use of your physical organism. Do not misuse or abuse any portion of your God-given powers--physical, mental, or moral. All your habits are to be brought under the control of a mind that is itself under the control of God. Unhealthful habits of every order, late habits of night, late hours in bed in the morning...are to be overcome.

- Impact – A Friday night service advertised as a place to be “on your feet all night long.” This “power-packed” vespers is hosted by the Black Student Christian Forum and is known for lasting three to four hours. However, they stated that you will not “find anyone glancing at the clock” due to the “astonishing musicianship and electrifying atmosphere.”
- Fusion – A monthly vespers that is a combination of all their Friday vespers and late-night options to “represent the unique cultural diversity” at Andrews and includes “different styles, types, and versions of worship.” It claims to be the “most powerful worship experience” at Andrews that “combines the ambiance and artistry of Mosaic with the vitality and spirit of Impact and includes shades of other Friday evening worship experiences.” God’s Word reveals that

His truth and the Holy Spirit will not be found in these types of charismatic services.

- New Life – Known as a dynamic church service. They “bet you won’t go just once,” since they have an “energetic” gospel choir and praise band and “power-packed” preaching that will have you “hooked, on fire, and on your feet in no time.” It is stated that you will find “Spirit and Truth”, in the truest sense.
- Pioneer Memorial – The campus church with Dwight Nelson as the senior pastor. Their worship is advertised as coming in several forms, “from traditional to contemporary.”
- On April 7, 2008, “The Dean’s List” for the Andrews Seminary included an announcement that for the April 14 chapel there would be two guest speakers, Dr. Roger Schroeder and Dr. Stephen Bevans (a Roman Catholic priest). Both have attended the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and are missiology professors at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.
- Campus activities 2010/2011—Sports and talent competitions, including all-night volleyball and half-time shows and the Fourth International Music Competition; February Super Bowl party; an opera production; drama ministries, etc.

<http://www.andrews.edu/~baumgart/resources.html#cp>

This Andrews leadership website suggests these authors: Jon Dybdahl, Steve Daily, C. S. Lewis, Tony Campolo, Richard Foster, Henri Nouwen, Eugene Peterson, Dallas Willard, and many others as well as books on Buddhism and Islam. The excuse is made that if we do not know the details of other religions then we cannot convert the people as effectively. God’s Word says otherwise.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 379

As a preparation for Christian work many think it essential to acquire an extensive knowledge of historical and theological writings. They suppose that this knowledge will be an aid to them in teaching the gospel. But their laborious study of the opinions of men tends to the enfeebling of their ministry rather than to its strengthening. As I see libraries filled with ponderous volumes of historical and theological lore, I think, Why spend money for that which is not bread? The sixth chapter of John tells us more than can be found in such works. Christ says: “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.” “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever.” “He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.” “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:35, 51, 47, 63.

Fundamentals of Christ Education, p. 167

The light shining upon those who have eyes to see, cannot be mingled with the darkness of heresy and error found in many of the textbooks recommended to the students in our colleges.

Gospel Workers (1892), pp. 414-415

The presidents of our conferences have become weak and inefficient by making flesh their arm. Trust in the wisdom of man does not facilitate growth in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

Why do SDAs continue to glean from the world's ideas to reach people? They are to be sharing the special messages given to the Church, not watered-down theology. They have more to offer, so why give less? The enemy certainly twisted things around. "Come now, and let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18. When we know all the details of our religion, we can effectively answer others' questions. When we continue to delve into books written by infidels, we will become confused and end up as infidels ourselves.

http://waybackmachine.org/*http://www.andrews.edu/sed/lead_ed_admin/lead_ership/resources/andrews.pdf (select May 30)

The same Andrews leadership website includes a jazz impact PowerPoint presentation from a 2009 Roundtable with photos of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and the Hot Five, Count Basie and Benny Goodman, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, etc.; construction of a jazz tune; rhythmic words about needing a cup of coffee; and the terms innovation and transformation.

In another section, there is a painting of fragmented human body parts with lewd depictions. It can only be described as something a demon would paint. The link has not been included because it is better not seen.

http://www.andrews.edu/news/2010/08/howard_opener.html

The Howard Performing Arts Center is located on the Andrews campus and is also a venue for Southwest Michigan's performing arts. It is advertised as a "brand new, state-of-the-art performance facility" that has "attracted world-class performers from the international classical circuit," as well as "top Contemporary Christian artists." Because of the center's "acoustic perfection and astonishing design" it is referred to as the "architectural gem" of Andrews that "provides an invaluable resource" and an "ideal environment" for vespers, recitals, and awards banquets.

The "Opening Night 2010" concert series began with a graduate of Andrews and his friends performing "well-known Broadway tunes." The second half included the Lake Effect Jazz Big Band.

One can only imagine how much their "architectural gem" must have cost to build. Can true Christians honestly say that with all that is heard and seen at this arts center, that it is an "invaluable resource" and an "ideal environment"? Certainly not. The following message from the Lord applies to AU and other SDA institutions today.

Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 12, p. 9

I have sent warnings to many physicians and ministers, and now I must warn all our churches to beware of men who are being sent out to do the work of spies in our conferences and churches,--a work instigated by the father of falsehood and deception. Let every church-member stand true to principle. We have been told what would come, and it has come. The enemy has been working under a species of scientific devising, even as he worked in Eden. I can not specify all now, but I say to our churches,

Beware of the representations coming from Battle Creek that would lead you to disregard the warnings given by the Lord about the effort to make that a great educational center. Let **not your sons and daughters** be gathered there to receive their education. Powerful agencies have been stealthily working there to sow the seeds of evil.

Still Waters retreat house

<http://www.stillwaters.org/overview/staff>;

<http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/books/called/benton-09.htm>

These websites give information on Tom and Delcy Kuhlman who “felt called to establish a spiritual retreat facility” to be located on 70 acres near AU “in order to allow easy access to ministers, students, and others wishing to enrich their spiritual development.” Still Waters was established in 1989, and in 2009 the Kuhlman’s transitioned to Founding Directors. Delcy continues to “journey with people through the gift of spiritual companionship.” It was stated that she spent 25 years “mothering her own and other people’s children” which “contributed insights concerning unmet needs for pastoral services to help people surmount everyday stresses.” She attended the AU Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity degree and receiving clinical pastoral education.

Robert & Sarah Fusté have been living and working at Still Waters as co-directors since 2009 and have been a part of the “extended family” since 2001. While taking a course on discipleship at AU, they were invited “to join a group at Still Waters that was looking at the gift of spiritual direction. Participation in this group along with experiencing their first silent retreats and engaging in an ongoing practice of spiritual companionship” led the Fustés to join the board in 2003. It was “a growing call toward some kind of spiritual formation ministry that led them to leave Michigan in 2007 and spend nine months at the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, partly to discern whether Still Waters might be a part of this calling.”

http://www.cacradicalgrace.org/aboutus/aboutus_index.html

The Center for Action and Contemplation was founded in 1987 by Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, “who saw the need for a training/formation center.” It claims to “serve as a place of discernment and growth for activists and those interested in social service ministries—a place to be still, and learn how to integrate a contemplative lifestyle with compassionate service. The Center’s purpose would be to serve not only as a forum for peaceful, non-violent social change but also as a radical voice for renewal and encouragement.” It is also “envisioned as a faith alternative to the dominant consciousness, offering hope, inspiration and challenge to a despairing world,” and “attracts people from around the world—those who seek peaceful, positive alternatives and solutions to the difficult challenges of our often materialistic, irrational and violent world.” They also share the vision and “understand the constructive message of the Gospel that crosses boundaries of religion, ethnicity, social class and gender.”

“Rooted in its Christian identity, Still Waters welcomes anyone desiring to deepen their journey with God. Our guests and friends come from a variety of denominations and faith backgrounds.” The facility “exists for the purpose of providing a place of silence, solitude and spiritual companionship to help one hear the Shepherd’s voice and live prayerfully in their world.”

Those who practice these methods make it all sound so wonderful on the outside, but “inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15). It is not the true Shepherd’s voice they are hearing. Still Waters invites its guests “into the presence of the Lord.” Yet it is really inviting individuals into methods that lead to the presence of demons. One method is their outdoor walking prayer labyrinth.

http://www.stillwaters.org/uploads/pdf/sw_newsletter_december_09_color.pdf
The Fall/Winter 2009 Still Waters newsletter stated, “We have the opportunity to share about spiritual direction with the folks at Storyline in St. Joseph and then a few days later on taking retreat with the theology department at Andrews University in Berrien Springs.”

One of their FAQs states: “Is Still Waters a Seventh-day Adventist retreat center?”

Even though the founders and the current co-directors both live out their Christianity through the Seventh-day Adventist faith tradition, we don’t have any official affiliation with the Seventh-day Adventist church. We believe that the timeliness need for silence, solitude and spiritual companionship can help heal, nurture and refresh the soul longings of Adventists and non-Adventists, of Christians and non-Christians alike.”

Included in their website “Spiritual Companionship” section, are links to the Shalem Institute and Spiritual Directors International (SDI). Dallas Willard, Gerald May, Eugene Peterson, and Thomas Merton are referenced.

Once a quarter, Still Waters offers a Taizé Evensong service. Worship is held the last Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They believe that “*knowing* God” is more than “*knowing about* God,” and that “Scripture provides a venue for both.” The worship time “focuses on The Word, provides silence to ponder and listen for God’s personal invitation,” and “group sharing to offer a setting where you may experience God’s love.” However, God is not there for them to “experience,” and anyone who visits Still Waters, including from AU, is not drinking from the fountain of life.

<http://www.andrews.edu/sem>
<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/5006882/Teaching%20Spiritual%20Formation%202011-01-26.pdf>

The first link above takes you to the second link, which shows the most recent information from Denis Fortin, the dean at AU, as a rebuttal, because AU has been under scrutiny for the last few years due to their teaching of “spiritual formation.” Fortin states the following: “We are diligent to select good academic books on this subject and the choice of books we adopt for our classes does not mean we accept all of these authors’ points of view. . . . It is unfair and false to state that spiritual formation is evil because it is associated with the writings of Church Fathers, some strands of more recent Roman Catholic thoughts, and some devotional practices of other religions. . . . Yet, to avoid any further confusion, we have decided to change the name of our courses to refer instead to biblical spirituality. We hope this will help alleviate some genuine concerns people have had.”

Somehow that clarification is not comforting. Changing the course name is not enough. AU is still in trouble.

Avondale College, Australia

<http://www.avondale.edu.au>

The information below comes from the SDA college in New South Wales, Australia.

- The college's Lake Macquarie Crows football team was established in 1997 and belongs to the Lake Macquarie-based Australian Rules Football club. Several players were selected for the first-grade team—the highest level of competition in that region.
- Australia's famous cricket athlete visited the campus during a “festive forum.” One of the students dressed in a cricket outfit “to face a delivery” as the athlete “bowled down the centre isle of Avondale College Seventh-day Adventist Church.” The college president presented a plaque to the athlete, which described him as “a role model for young Australians.” The article concluded by describing how he won an award and a medal. This is certainly a perfect example of desecrating a church sanctuary.
- In August 2010 the college presented the Broadway fable and hit show, “Guys and Dolls.”
<http://www.nz-tourism.com/event/574/new-zealand/23/musicals/69442/avondale-college-presents-guys-and-dolls.html>
- Students studying drama at Avondale College have produced scenes from Shakespeare's plays. The college's news article stated that each scene succeeded in “drawing members of the audience in” as they become “part of the play.” Hamlet's Three Witches “added continuity and perspective.” The play also “included moments of silliness,” “didn't lack humour or seriousness,” and viewing it was “bliss.”

Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 172-173

I was greatly pained to see on the first page of a recent issue of the Signs a picture of the birthplace of Shakespeare, accompanied by an article on Shakespeare. May the Lord pity our discernment if we have no better food than this to give the flock of God. It greatly distresses me to see those in positions of trust, who should daily be gaining a rich experience, placing such matter before the people.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He graciously condescends to dwell among them. Let those who are representing the truth for this time pray earnestly for clear spiritual discernment. Let them be sincerely jealous for the honor of the Lord God of hosts. Let them see the sinfulness of exalting such men as Shakespeare, calling the attention of people to those who did not in their lives honor God or represent Christ.

The men in responsible positions in God's work need to be renewed in the spirit of their mind. Let them lift their voices against the worship of human beings, giving honor to whom honor is due. The men who edit our papers need the divine touch. They need the unction of the Holy Spirit.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 19, pp. 42-43

Brethren, let us come to our senses. In more ways than one are we departing from God. Oh, how ashamed I was of a recent number of the Signs of the Times! On the first page is an article on Shakespeare, a man who died a few days after a drunken carousal, losing his life through indulgence of perverted appetite. In this article it is stated that he did many good works. Man is extolled. The good and the evil are placed on the same level and published in a paper that our people use to give the third angel's message to many of those who cannot be reached by the preached word.

The publication of this article robbed me of my rest last night. I was thrown into an agony of distress. If our brethren have not discernment enough to see the evil of these things, when will they have? Why can they not understand the tenor of such things? We are to stand on the elevated platform of eternal truth. The edge of the sword of truth is not to be dulled. We must take a straightforward course, using the truth as a mighty cleaver to separate from the world men and women who will stand as God's peculiar people.

When we give the message in its purity, we shall have no time for pictures illustrating the birthplace of Shakespeare, or for pictures similar to the illustration of heathen goddesses that was used to fill the space on the first page of a recent number of the Review and Herald. We are not to educate others along these lines. God pronounces against [OR, "PASSES JUDGMENT ON."] such articles and illustrations.

I have a straightforward testimony to bear in regard to them. We are to extol neither idolatry nor men who did not choose to serve God. Years ago reproof was given our editors in regard to advocating the reading of even such books as Uncle Tom's Cabin, Aesop's Fables, and Robinson Crusoe. Those who begin to read such works usually desire to continue to read novels. Through the reading of enticing stories they rapidly lose their spirituality. This is one of the principal causes of the weak, uncertain spirituality of many of our youth.

If Ellen White were here today, she would say the same about what is seen on television and in theaters.

- "The Promise" of Avondale College is a vocal group with music ranging from classical to contemporary gospel.
- "Spice Girls" at Avondale College Talent Night 2008: This video showed five young men dancing to rock music and dressed in skimpy female outfits while the audience shouted, laughed, whistled, and cheered.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ny9pZ04kek&feature=related
- "Back Dorm Boys" at Avondale College Talent Night 2007: This video showed five young men being "remotely-controlled" by a young woman as they dance to rock music and perform sexually provocative moves. These are certainly events that heavenly angels would weep over.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN37x-RD9hU&NR=1&feature=fwp>

The October 30, 2010 South Pacific Division *Record* magazine included a news feature on two Avondale College lecturers who wrote a chapter for a book on Australia's first Catholic saint. Their chapter states that Ellen White and the Catholic saint both "reveal a bond of commonality and this insight provides a lens through which Seventh-day Adventists can appreciate the heroes of the many faith traditions throughout the world."

This college boasts about "quality education," yet with its lowered standards, music, drama, and sports, it is no longer about quality but about having a good time. Unless repented of, it will not be fun on judgment day.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 348-349

Recent experiences in our colleges and sanitariums lead me to present again instruction that the Lord gave me for the teachers and students in our school at Cooranbong, Australia.

In April, 1900, a holiday was appointed at the Avondale school for Christian workers. The program for the day provided for a meeting in the chapel in the morning, at which I and others addressed the students, calling their attention to what God had wrought in the building up of this school, and to their privilege and opportunities as students.

After the meeting, the remainder of the day was spent by the students in various games and sports, some of which were frivolous, rude, and grotesque.

During the following night I seemed to be witnessing the performances of the afternoon. The scene was clearly laid out before me, and I was given a message for the manager and teachers of the school.

I was shown that in the amusements carried on at the school that afternoon the enemy gained a victory, and teachers were weighed in the balances and found wanting. I was greatly distressed and burdened to think that those standing in responsible positions should open the door and, as it were, invite the enemy in; for this they did in permitting the exhibitions that took place. As teachers, they should have stood firm against giving place to the enemy in any such line. By what they permitted they marred their record and grieved the Spirit of God. The students were encouraged in a course the effects of which were not easily effaced. There is no end to the path of vain amusements, and every step taken in it is a step in a path which Christ has not traveled.

In an email, the For My People Ministry learned about a man in Australia who was raised as an SDA. However, when he attended Avondale College during the time Desmond Ford was there teaching the New Theology, everything seemed to fall apart spiritually for him. He is now a strong believer in evolution and does not believe in God at all. He had gone to Avondale to study theology but dropped out and later studied science elsewhere. He and many others have gone astray due to the apostasy at Avondale College. What a weight of lost souls these false educators must carry.

Canadian University College (CaUC), Canada

<http://www.cauc.ca>

This SDA College in Alberta, Canada promotes the following:

- Contemporary Christian music.
- Staying up late on Friday night.
- Drama ministries.
- Sports varsity teams, club teams or intramurals, including rugby, men's basketball and ice hockey, men's and women's soccer and volleyball, and the Acronaires tumbling/acrobatic team that performs in Central Alberta and went on tour to Jamaica.
- The Campus Connections newsletter advertised the following in the classified section:
 - A Harry Potter Levitating Challenge game for sale.
 - A Sabbath morning discussion by Drs. Loren Agrey and Joy Fehr of the book, *The Furious Longing of God*, by Brennan Manning.
 - A concert by a group called "Eclectrip," playing folk and jazz music with dramatic lighting, sound effects, and foot work. The advertisement said to "grab a seat for a great show" and to "get ready for an explosion of musical styles" as the concert series "finishes the season with a bang."
 - A presentation by Bruce Boyd on the topic of Ellen White and drums. It stated that "worship music is often a flashpoint for conflict" in SDA churches and that an Ellen White quote about playing drums and the end of time is "often quoted by those who think that much contemporary Christian music should be excluded" from SDA worship. It then included a question on what Ellen White actually says about drums.

It is obvious that the faculty of this college does not agree with Ellen White's statements on proper worship music. This subject is a point of conflict, because Satan has fooled SDAs into believing his music is alright. Yes, much contemporary Christian music should be excluded, since it is not approved of by the Great Musician in the heavenly courts.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 92

How little we know of the bearing our acts will have upon the future history of ourselves and others. Many think it is of little importance what they do. It will do no harm for them to attend this concert, or unite with the world in that amusement, if they wish to do so. Thus Satan leads and controls their desires, and they do not consider that the results may be most momentous. It may be the link in the chain of events which binds a soul in the snare of Satan and determines his eternal ruin.

Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica

http://news.ncu.edu.jm/news_item.aspx?NewsID=1201

This SDA university included the following news item in July 2010:

A call was made during a keynote address by the field secretary of the Inter-American Division as delegates and members of the East Jamaica Conference of SDAs began the Third Quadrennial Session at the Kencot SDA Church in Kingston, Jamaica. He stated that if we live a life of grace "we cannot be in the Church of God and clutch the things of the world. We must deny the dirt of worldliness. God's Grace should give us self control."

The above sounds convincing and exemplary until the next statement: “The congregation was refreshed with inspirational singing from the Kencot Male Chorale, Carey Sales, One Voice, among others.” One Voice is comparable to contemporary music.

The Mayor of Kingston “lauded the work of Adventists in the city.” He explained, “I have always maintained and I say it without fear of contradiction that the role of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jamaica in creating a path of righteousness and creating a path for our young people, has done more to the benefit of Jamaica than any other Christian denomination in Jamaica.” This was met with a loud applause from the congregation.

While that may be true, the churches still have a great need to come up to a higher calling. The For My People Ministry received emails from two SDAs in Jamaica, who mentioned the following:

- The country is permeated with Satanic music, drug abuse, materialism, a culture of violence, and the people are difficult to reason with.
- Another described the problems encountered in the SDA churches in Jamaica, and of the high apostasy rate after a campaign. It was shared how individuals were invited to church but did not come back, because the churches are low in spirituality.
- The SDA Church has boasted about the large Jamaican membership yet has failed in its mission and become more focused on numbers. The country’s deplorable condition is because the servants of God have been asleep at their posts.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 337

Men and women are in the last hours of probation, and yet are careless and stupid, and ministers have no power to arouse them; they are asleep themselves. Sleeping preachers preaching to a sleeping people!

La Sierra University (LSU), California

<http://www.lasierra.edu>

Sports: LSU currently competes on ten different sports based on the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s regulations. Included are men’s basketball, soccer, tennis, baseball, and golf as well as women’s basketball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and softball. The Golden Eagles (LSU’s men’s and women’s basketball teams) included the following information on their website:

- A list of their games against non-SDA schools.
- Boasting about their fitness center, six-lane swimming pool, and six “state-of-the-art” tennis courts.
- Mention of how the upgrading of their facilities is a “major priority,” because the athletes “deserve to showcase their abilities on fields and courts that match.” They are also installing new turf for the men’s soccer team, which will make it “one of the premier collegiate fields in the area” and will help bring new athletes to them. In the past, the condition of the field kept the students from being able to use it. Even though they do not realize it, that is a blessing, considering all the competition they are

involved in. It was stated that the fields have been made to “look and play at the level we now desire.” The gym was renovated by redoing the logo and sealing the floor “in preparation for what will be an exciting season.” Also the grass field was replaced inside the running track with new artificial turf. It was done in order to “provide a safer, more attractive space that can be used more regularly for classes, intramurals, athletic events, and general recreation” for the students. <http://www.lsu.goldeneagles.com>

Drama: The “News and Events” section for November 2009 was entitled “LSUDrama raises curtain on popular holiday comedy” where “all comic chaos breaks loose” and “delightfully eccentric characters attempt to cope with seasonal traumas.” It suggested bringing the whole family to join in the “holiday mayhem” of the “hilarious sequel to the hit comedy, ‘Greater Tuna,’” Additionally, a Hollywood film producer, writer and director showed one of his award-winning PG-rated films at LSU in order to share his movie-making knowledge. The announcement went on to describe more Hollywood details. <http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=1972>
<http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=2164>

Another LSU event included a reading and signing by a world-famous award-winning poet, playwright, and screenwriter. His poetry is known as “arresting and distinctive,” witty, and authoritative. <http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=1743>

Logo: It is interesting to note that the previous LSU school logo included the words “From Diversity, Community” and displayed a Maltese/iron cross. The current logo expresses the same motto. A description by Fritz Guy, the professor in LSU’s School of Religion, described the circle made by the eight figures (individuals with raised hands) as expressing the “underlying unity enriched by our diversity” through values, attitudes, and activities. He also stated that the figures display an “attitude of joyful worship.” The sun in the center “expresses the overall role” of LSU: to “enhance the light of God’s truth and the warmth of His love in all of its people, in its sponsoring church, and in the surrounding world.” One can only wonder how LSU can enhance God’s truth and love through its unbiblical practices.

New Age and Spiritualism: In April 2009, LSU held a weekend conference entitled “Adventist Women and the Earth: A Response to Ecofeminism,” which took place at the LSU Church. The conference featured talks, workshops, panels, a film screening of “Earth” at a local theater, a prayer labyrinth, and community outreach activities. On Sabbath morning, Somer Penington, Redlands Adventist Academy chaplain, discussed the Global Issues Experience prayer labyrinth and gave a talk entitled “I Came For the Wildflowers, and All I Got was a Snake.” Yes, indeed. When you utilize prayer labyrinths, you are inviting the serpent who beguiled Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sabbath afternoon featured Claremont Graduate University theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether who spoke on “Ecofeminism and Theology: A Comparative Perspective.” Sabbath afternoon workshops and panels included Sheryll Prinz-McMillan, the executive director of the Christian Counseling Center in Redlands and a pioneer of SDA women’s writings on ecofeminism; Warren Trenchard, LSU provost and professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature; and Ginger Hanks-Harwood, LSU Associate Professor of

Religious and Theological Studies. The Art and Ecology workshop breakout session included Frances White, a Roman Catholic nun, artist, teacher, and peace educator. The former president of LSU's Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) as well as current members of SIFE's Environmental Sustainability Team, discussed their environmentally friendly project, which included on-campus construction of demonstration eco-domes. They also talked about "simple solutions to a brighter, greener future." There is no bright future for those involved in the ecumenical ecology movement, which teaches there will be a millennium of peace on this earth, thus we must preserve it. There is no room in that idea for a Savior who is about to return to take His people to heaven and one thousand years later return to this desolate earth to recreate it. That is the solution to a brighter, greener future.

<http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=1603>

Competition: The Pacific Union *Recorder* for July 2010 featured the LSU SIFE team delivering "topnotch presentations during recent national competitions, ultimately placing among the top teams in the country during the 2010 US SIFE National Exposition at Minneapolis in May." The team is the winner of more national titles than any team in the world, with six U.S. trophies and two World Cups.

Evolution: According to David Asscherick, evangelist and Director of ARISE, LSU teaches evolution. In a letter sent to the then General Conference President, Jan Paulsen, and others, Asscherick writes:

Dear Pastors Paulsen, Schneider, and Graham,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Like each of you, I am an ordained pastor of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. I write these words with my heart on full display--from pastor to pastor. This letter concerns the teaching of evolution at La Sierra University. While I am not a formally trained scientist, I am, however, familiar with many of the apologetic, philosophical, and theological issues surrounding the theories of naturalistic evolution. I have made this an area of special study in my life and ministry. So, I feel both comfortable and qualified to speak to the issue, especially in its ecclesiastical ramifications.

It is a matter of incontestable fact that naturalistic evolution is being taught at La Sierra University. This is not in and of itself a bad thing. Evolution should be taught at our denominational universities. But it should be taught as a competing and inimical worldview to the biblical worldview. We need our young people to know what it is they are up against, yes, but when naturalistic evolution is taught as fact or as the preferred and normative worldview, then we can be sure that the enemy has breached our lines.

There is no point in equivocating. I have seen the class materials with my own eyes. Frankly, I think every Seventh-day Adventist deserves to see them. Our people need to know what is happening. Many of them have heard various rumblings, but being the conscientious, confiding, and hopeful people they are, they have generally assumed the very best. We are making capital of their trust.

<http://www.detectingdesign.com/PDF%20Files/Lecture%202.pdf>

<http://www.detectingdesign.com/PDF%20Files/Lecture%203.pdf>

Former chair of the biology department at LSU, Larry McCloskey, states in his Biology 112 syllabus from 2009 exactly the kind of material David Asscherick was referring to. On Slide 12 he states, "Evolution is supported by an overwhelming and constantly growing amount of scientific evidence." Further he states on slide 35 of lecture 3, that "There is nothing 'theoretical' about the evidence supporting evolution." The syllabus continues by stating, "The research about evolution is ongoing and continues to support and refine Darwin's original ideas." Unashamedly, McCloskey boasts that "No data have been found to refute the idea" of evolution and that "It is the single unifying explanation of the living world, and nothing makes much, if any, sense outside of this unifying theory." The next slide continues to indoctrinate students into believing evolution is the only logical and scientific explanation for life on earth by stating that it has "stood up to intense, thorough, continual observation and criticism."

McCloskey is just one professor from LSU that has helped to destroy the faith of those who were seeking an SDA education. You can find more information about this subject at:

<http://www.detectingdesign.com/EvolutionofLaSierraUniversity.html>

<http://www.educatetruth.com>

A testimony: To show that the apostasy had already entered the SDA Church decades ago, the following information is included from an individual who attended LSU in the late 1960's to the early 70's:

- I recall being in a room where two LSU professors talked about viewing a movie that included violence and pornography.
- Rock & roll was the music that most students listened to. I remember one student listening to the Woodstock album and stating that he wished that he had been there. Held in New York, it was a three-day orgy of rock & roll, drugs, and sex. Of course at the time, SDAs had their own music stars—the Wedgwood Trio, which was widely known as the "Adventist Beatles," to copy the name of "The Beatles" rock band formed in England in 1960.
- Two Buddhist students received a full scholarship to attend Loma Linda University from undergraduate to medical school by the SDA mission where they lived. They shared with me how they worshipped Buddha in their dorm room where they had setup a shrine to Buddha.
- In my first year of Bible class, instead of holding up the truth of Ellen White's statements against the idea that the "wine" provided by Jesus at the marriage in Cana was grape juice, the professor agreed with my suggestion that it did not matter, that it was the miracle that was important. Being a liberal professor, she believed it was real wine. Today I realize that I was wrong on that matter and that it was the Jewish culture to not drink wine.

Temperance, p. 97

The Bible nowhere sanctions the use of intoxicating wine. The wine that Christ made from water at the marriage feast of Cana was the pure juice of the grape. This is the "new wine . . . found in the cluster," of

which the Scripture says, "Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it." Isaiah 65:8.

It was Christ who, in the Old Testament, gave the warning to Israel, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 20:1. He Himself provided no such beverage. Satan tempts men to indulgence that will becloud reason and numb the spiritual perceptions, but Christ teaches us to bring the lower nature into subjection. He never places before men that which would be a temptation. His whole life was an example of self-denial. It was to break the power of appetite that in the forty days' fast in the wilderness He suffered in our behalf the severest test that humanity could endure. It was Christ who directed that John the Baptist should drink neither wine nor strong drink. It was He who enjoined similar abstinence upon the wife of Manoah. Christ did not contradict His own teaching. The unfermented wine that He provided for the wedding guests was a wholesome and refreshing drink. This is the wine that was used by our Saviour and His disciples in the first Communion. It is the wine that should always be used on the Communion table as a symbol of the Saviour's blood. The sacramental service is designed to be soul-refreshing and life-giving. There is to be connected with it nothing that could minister to evil.

The attitude of many of the students was far from being like Christ. I know; I was one of them.

Loma Linda University (LLU), California

<http://www.llu.edu>

Drama: In January 2008, the LLU School of Religion, the Center for Spiritual Life and Wholeness, and Campus Ministries started a program called "Faith & Film" to connect faith with the arts. Two or three times each month during the lunch hour, faculty and students meet to watch a film and talk about its implications for modern Christians. The films include Hollywood drama, crime, and making "heroes" out of humans rather than Christ. Because of this, the implication of watching these films for modern Christians is that it is detrimental to their spiritual life.

Psychology: LLU's Wholeness Portal website includes a section entitled "Jung Typology (Myers-Briggs)" in which it is promoted and offers a link to take a test. <http://www.explorewholeness.com/assessments.html>

Spiritualistic book: The For My People Ministry received the following experience as shared in an email:

Six years ago, I found a book at the Loma Linda University campus store on quantum (vibrational) energy. At the time, I did not realize that the book was on New Age spiritualism. I read the entire book, which included a section on how your body supposedly has extra intuition. It stated that you can close your eyes and ask a question, and if you lean forward it is a "yes" answer. If you lean back it is a "no" answer, and if your body keeps rotating that means you are "unsure." It was so deceptive because the book used scientific names and because it was sold in an SDA bookstore. Because of the book, I began to dig deeper into

such practices as “dowsing” and bought “alpha wave” equipment as well as crystals and amulets. Those led me into visual meditation and the false prophet Edgar Cayce, who was hypnotized at a young age. He also went into vision during trances and would have supernatural insight, which enabled him to teach doctrines opposed to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. When I realized I must quit what I was into, I sincerely prayed and repented. I threw my “idols” away, and in God’s mercy I was delivered. Then God led me to Ernie Knoll’s ministry, and I kept searching for truth. Once I broke free from spiritualism and read about it in the Spirit of Prophecy, God opened my eyes about the pervasiveness of spiritualism in the world today.

This person was under the opinion that all the books at the LLU campus store are trustworthy. That should be the case, but tragically it is not.

<http://www.llu.edu/public-health/cpe/healthypeople/2011/program.page?>

The LLU School of Public Health announced a “Healthy People Lifestyle Conference and Expo” for March 8-9, 2011. The first day’s program included a time for yoga. Is LLU aware of the fact that yoga will not produce spiritually healthy people? It is a serious offense how this influential school is leading people astray through New Age and spiritualism.

Newbold College, United Kingdom

<http://www.newbold.ac.uk>

The Newbold College website stated that its students “like a good night out” and also “enjoy extra-curricular activities like sport, music and drama.”

Sports: May 2010 featured the 15th Annual International Football Tournament on Newbold’s campus, which was “bustling with visiting footballers from all over the world” who were “excited to play for their home teams.” Large crowds supported and cheered for their favorite country’s team. Eleven teams “played their hearts out.” As the games continued, the cheering and matches “became more intense.” After the winner was announced, the “much-anticipated trophies and awards were distributed.”

Art: An art festival was advertised as a “celebration of creativity” with the “many genres of art” done by students.

Music: The students’ musical talent consists of a wide range of music, including contemporary styles. April 2010 included an “evening outing to London” to enjoy *Oliver*, a musical production based on a novel.

Entertainment: In March 2010, the college and community “celebrated” International Night. “Excitement filled the room” as representatives from 15 countries “took the stage.” Two “noble Newboldians” were the Masters of Ceremonies. With “hilarity and wit,” they “shared jokes between numbers, changed costumes with each appearance and announced the upcoming acts with great enthusiasm.” The night included national dances, comical skits, musical acts, as well as trivia questions with prizes. Newbold has the “uniqueness of celebrating diversity while coming together as one.” One participant stated, “I’ve learned more about the world at Newbold than

anywhere else." Yes, and much of the world that is taught should not be learned.

Fellowship: "ACTS 2010/A Day of Renewal" was Newbold's "long-anticipated" Youth Day of Fellowship on a Sabbath, which became an "exciting reality" in February with 835 youth in attendance. One workshop involved a theology student who presented "Bridging the Gap: Creating Authentic Community." He chose the topic because he is "passionate about doing church in new ways and trying to reach people in the culture around us." A Newbold theology graduate and Christian politician held a workshop on "Christians Running for Public Office? Get Real!" (A statement under the "Arts and Humanities" section of Newbold's website states that their graduates "have found success in a wide range of fields, including law, international development, events coordination, politics, academics and teaching.") The workshops were followed by a baptism "celebration," and the evening was "full of festivities and treats," concluding with a concert of the "best sounds from around the UK." One of the attendees claimed that the concert was better than X-Factor and that the group "4 Christ" could have "beaten JLS hands down!" JLS is a music group from the UK who do pop, R&B, and dance-pop. X-Factor is a British television singing competition to find new talent. The coordinator for the event stated that "to see people smile and be happy is well worth the effort." It is sad to say, but when people smile and are "happy" because of learning how to "do church in new ways," how to get into politics, and how to celebrate with festivities and foolishness, it is not worth the effort.

The Gospel Herald, August 1, 1899

God has warned his people not to become absorbed in politics. We cannot bear the sign of God as his commandment-keeping people, if we mingle with the strife of the world. We are not to give our minds to political issues.

The Review and Herald, June 21, 1898

In regard to the world, Christians will say, We will not dabble in politics. They will say, decidedly. We are pilgrims and strangers; our citizenship is above....

The Lord has been greatly dishonored by his people catching up the issues that arise in this time of test and trial. His people are to keep free from politics. They are to stand as a separate and peculiar people; the name of God, our Ruler, is to be in their foreheads, showing to all that he is their Sovereign.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 3, pp. 40-41

God's people have been called out of the world, that they may be separated from the world. It is not safe for them to take sides in politics, whatever preference they may have. They are ever to remember that they are one in Christ. God calls upon them to enter their names as under His theocracy. He cannot approve of those who link up with worldlings. We are entirely out of our place when we identify ourselves with party interests. Let us not forget that we are citizens of the kingdom of heaven. We are soldiers of the cross of Christ, and our work is to advance the interests of His kingdom.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 334

Here we should reserve all our influence to act in upholding the truth. The sentiments brought to the front by politicians will be voiced by some who claim to be Sabbath keepers. What angels attend these in the pulpit as they stand up to give the flock poison instead of pure wheat, thoroughly winnowed? Here is the working of satanic agencies to bring in confusion, to bewitch the minds of old and young. Those who have been walking humbly with God will not be engrossed in advocating either side of this question. They will place themselves under His guardianship, and reveal that they are learning lessons from the Great Teacher, who has said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

Miscellaneous: A diversity seminar included a lecture entitled "The God Delusion" by a Jewish rabbi, who is a broadcaster, writer, and a minister of a synagogue.

A devotional on the college's website quoted Morris Venden from his book, *Faith That Works*. As stated earlier in this chapter, he is a promoter of the New Theology, specifically the unbiblical idea that we are born sinners.

The Media Arts course includes "Shakespeare on Film" as an approved elective.

Newbold College began in 1901 as Duncombe Hall College. It educated ministers and church workers for the SDA Church. Its name has changed many times since it was a missionary training school. It is now advertised as a "fully-fledged international college of higher education offering degrees and diplomas in a wide range of subjects." Yet it is stated that "in the hearts of many staff and students, there is real commitment to the Christian gospel." Any faithful SDA today will acknowledge that Newbold would have been better staying as a missionary training school. Its "Christian gospel" of today is not the same as it was in 1901.

Oakwood University (OU), Alabama

<http://www.oakwood.edu>

Sports: Oakwood includes intercollegiate athletics and intramural sports. The intramurals are the most popular activity on the campus, offering "team competition in the men's and women's divisions." Every year over 2,000 students, faculty, and staff "participate in one or many of the competitive and/or recreational sports activities offered." The following sports are offered on campus: Men's and women's basketball; men's and women's soccer; volleyball; and track & field.

Guest speakers: Speakers at Oakwood have included such guests as non-SDA university presidents and professors, Baptist ministers, and film and television celebrities. It has become a habit for SDA colleges to invite non-SDAs to give lectures. We can only imagine what kind of ideas are being put into the minds of these students.

Competition:

- A “Miss Oakwood University” pageant is held yearly, with the 16th pageant held in 2009 at a United Methodist Church where six young ladies competed. After an invocation, the six contestants began with a praise dance. The young women “prepared for the pageant through etiquette seminars, community service activities, and other training.” Resembling Hollywood’s “Miss America” pageant, each contestant competed in a talent and evening gown segment and was given a question to answer. There was a first and second runner-up and final walks. The finalist will be “featured along with campus queens from other historically Black colleges and universities in an upcoming issue of Ebony magazine.”

Child Guidance, p. 139

Vanity should not be encouraged by praising their looks, their words, or their actions.

- The *Adventist Review* of April 23, 2009 wrote about OU competing in the three-day Honda Campus All-Star Challenge. It stated the following:
 - “While college basketball teams were competing for March Madness bragging rights, other highly gifted students were doing the same—just not on the basketball court.”
 - OU “emerged victorious as the 2009 National Champions.”
 - OU “beat second-place finisher North Carolina Central University to claim the championship and take home grant money for its school.”
 - OU was allowed “to complete its rounds outside of the hours of the Sabbath.”

Being able to keep the Sabbath hours does not justify the competition and time wasted learning trivial knowledge. To receive grant money by competing is to receive ill-gotten gain.

The Signs of the Times, August 1, 1892

If your associates are worldlings who flatter you, telling you how smart you are, and what great things you can do, and you love this unhallowed nonsense, you may well feel that you are in peril; for your moral taste is perverted, your perceptions are blunted.

Music: An a cappella singing group from Oakwood competed on NBC’s “The Sing-off” and won the national singing championship title. They sang one of Michael Jackson’s songs as well as other popular music. First prize was \$100,000 and a Sony Music recording contract. How tragic that our young people today are being encouraged to join with the world in its fame and fortune, rather than seeking the humble life of Jesus and heavenly treasures.

The university’s radio station plays a blend of “Inspirational Christian, Lite Urban Gospel, and Adult Contemporary music.”

Student activities: Oakwood’s United Student Movement includes these activities: Back to School Block Party; Intramural Sport Competitions; Oak Awards; and Academic Bowl Competitions.

Pacific Union College (PUC), California

<http://www.puc.edu>

PUC's diversity statement says "to welcome students of other faith traditions into our community and conversation, valuing their perspectives while respectfully sharing our own." While it is biblical to respect mankind, it is not biblical to value their perspectives if they are unbiblical.

Many SDA colleges, including PUC, have recently added a film and television major, including drama.

Worship at PUC involves the following:

- "Sunset Med" on Friday night after Vespers to "celebrate" with "modern praise and worship," singing with friends and a "wide variety of bands."
- "Virtuous Dudes" is a "group of extraordinary men" who meets on Monday nights to "worship God in the Newton sauna." They are "digging deeper into spiritual views" or hearing special guests speak. It is "where inspiration meets perspiration."
- In Dauphinee Chapel, you can "stumble upon several dozen girls in PJs and slippers, singing at the top of their lungs." It is called "Virtuous Women," which meets once a month with "powerful speakers, fun giveaways like fuzzy slippers and jelly beans, and all-girl praise bands to help the girls get their jam on and sing the stress away."
- The collegiate Sabbath School includes not only lesson studies but "lots of contemporary Christian music."
- "The Gathering" is a contemporary worship service held at the PUC Church at 12:10 p.m. for people who prefer "modern and popular genres of music."
- Each Sabbath from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the PUC Church families "host tables with drinks, food, and conversation to get you connected and nourished."

Sports and athletics includes the gymnasium where students play sports in "formal and informal groups," the fitness center and weight room, climbing wall, pool, track, tennis courts, and "popular intramurals to league sport teams." The Pioneers teams include men's and women's basketball and cross country, men's soccer, women's volleyball, in which they play in the California Pacific Conference, a division of the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics. PUC's Winter 2010 *Viewpoint* magazine included a photo of PUC students with the caption stating "Midnight Madness: At a late night pep rally, students met the Pioneers teams, held contests, and won t-shirts." The school's Intramural Program involves "playing everything from ultimate Frisbee to floor hockey" and "offers team schedules, sports-talk podcasts, and photo galleries." Mountain bike aces are held twice a year.

The Pacific Union *Recorder* for July 2010 included information on 16 PUC psychology majors and 4 professors attending the Western Psychological Association convention in Cancun, Mexico. The convention was sponsored by Psi Chi, which is the National Honor Society in Psychology. Besides being Greek letters, psi and chi are also used as psychology terms. "Psi" is a term

from parapsychology and related to extrasensory perception (ESP), mental telepathy, and “energy transfer.” In modern times, it is known as “psychic.” “Chi” in Chinese philosophy is the “circulating life energy” or “universal life force” that is believed to be in all things. It is also thought to be an “internal energy” that flows through the acupuncture meridians to bring “life-giving force” to the body’s organs. Does this sound like a society that a Christian should be involved in?

PUC’s Winter 2009 *Viewpoint* magazine included the following:

- The cover graphic displayed a prayer labyrinth.
- Professor Greg Schneider, who started PUC’s Chapter of Amnesty International, stated that “finding spiritual balance is like finding this core balance in the physical sense — finding ‘your Zen center’ even though sometimes it takes floundering around to get there.”
- Robert Kurtz, who is the dean of men in Newton Hall, emphasized the importance of “being still as part of developing spiritual discipline.”

The radio station at PUC, known as “The Candle,” plays Christian rock. Below are some advertisements from its website.

- A “West Coast Women of the Word” non-SDA retreat with a statement from their website that their “goal and prayer is for this circle of sisters in Christ to become a connection to other sisters so that all Women of the Word from all denominations, serve and worship GOD together.” As wonderful as it sounds, true SDA women of the Word cannot go to worship with other denominations without the risk of becoming “women of the world.”
- Audio Adrenaline Unplugged (Christian rock and alternative rock group) concert held on Saturday to benefit the Rock of Ages Festival (Christian hard rock). It was an “intimate evening with a catered dinner & private concert in the Napa Valley vineyards!”
- “David Crowder Band” playing “progressive electronic rock.” Their latest album “Church Music” was advertised as a “reminder of the continual evolvement of music within the Church.” Regrettably, Christian music has evolved into Satanic music. On one David Crowder video it is interesting to note that video graphics displayed a unicorn, a leprechaun, an owl, and fairy dust. Notice the following descriptions.

<http://www.gotessays.com/essays/26/index.php>

Paganism and its adherents believe the Unicorn is a symbol of the coming World Teacher, The Christ, who will eventually appear to lead mankind to collectively higher consciousness level and to a thousand year period of peace and safety.

“The Christ” will actually be Satan when he comes to impersonate the true Christ before His Second Coming.

(continued from above)

...owls in the occult are associated with death, sorcery, and the dark side of life.

http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/holidays/st_patricks_day.htm

Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny creatures who could use their magical powers for good or evil. In Celtic folklore, the lobaircin were cranky fairies who mended the shoes of the other fairies. They were also mischievous and delighted in trickery, which they used to guard their fabled treasure.

- Sabbath announcements have included such non-SDA Saturday events as holiday craft bazaars; dropping off and unloading of mission fundraiser items; listening to a bishop at an apostolic church; a Peace & Unity Prayer Walk at a Church of God in Christ; and a Christian rock concert to “honor the troops” on Armed Forces Day.

Why does the faculty of PUC allow such advertising on the school's radio station? Do they not realize what kind of messages it sends to those who listen to it or what it does to the students and community who may be involved in such activities? The station's music and ads leave its “candle” unlit.

The Rasmussen Art Gallery is located in the PUC campus mall and “offers students and community a stimulating and enriching cultural dimension in the visual arts. The gallery's exhibitions provide exposure to contemporary work as well as to historically significant art.” It is open 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday during exhibitions. One campus poster displayed artwork at the gallery featuring a collage with parts of faces which can only be described as defacing the image of God.

A poster about donating blood included a photo of a young woman in a martial arts pose and outfit with the words “Find the hero in you.”

The Grind coffee shop is located in the PUC Campus Center. The center's nightly schedule is as follows:

- Monday: Neighborhood Night, where clubs and groups are encouraged to be active in the community.
- Tuesday: Tournament/Game Night, which includes multiple games or group games like bingo.
- Wednesday: Open Mic Night, which is a mini talent show.
- Thursday: Movie Night, where everything is shown from old classics to new releases.
- Friday: Interactions, an after vespers time of “fun” for students to “hang out and socialize.”
- Always at the Campus Center: 24/7 CNN and daily New York Times, billiards, cinema room to “play your own movies,” etc.

A plaque has been inlaid into the sidewalk at PUC that reads, “Adventist Education: A Journey to Excellence.” Also inlaid is an individual star shape for each SDA college with its name's initials, along with students' hands and names imprinted around each star, like Hollywood's Walk of Fame. With what has been described in this section, PUC's education is not a picture of

excellence. On God's records, it is flunking. What would Ellen White say today about this school on the hill not far from her last home, known as Elmshaven? PUC is no longer preparing its students for the heavenly world.

Southern Adventist University (SAU), Tennessee

<https://www.southern.edu>

Columns, the SAU magazine, featured the following information:

- Four graphic design majors were awarded two Silver ADDY awards and one Best of Show; an associate professor won two Gold and two Silver ADDY awards. One student “felt very honored to receive such a prestigious recognition.”
- A student wins the Southern 6 Trail Race held on campus. He “swept past 129 other racers to take home the first place prize.” After the winners received their trophies, the racers were encouraged by the reminder that “everybody who won first place just set a course record.”
- The intramural sports program is to “enhance the educational, recreational, and cultural experiences for students and employees.” “We are going to strive to make God, our Creator, proud by recognizing that we are ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ (Psalm 139:14).” The program fosters a “social, moral, healthy, and safe environment. Sports are not an end, but rather a means to an end: a healthy, balanced life.” Where in God’s Word does it mention that intramural sports will do all those wonderful things?
- SAU has nine performing groups that travel worldwide, “showcasing Southern’s talented students. Whether you’re into music, gymnastics, drama, or simply enjoying the show, Southern’s performing groups are sure to please.”
- Destiny Drama Company is SAU’s “theatrical ministry, performing sketches and plays with an uplifting message.” They are “committed to communicating these stories [from Scripture] in ways that are culturally relevant, artistically engaging, and excellently performed.”
- Gym-Masters, SAU’s anti-drug acrobatic team, has “wowed crowds of school children, NBA [National Basketball Association] fans, and Southern students for more than 25 years. Gym-Masters promotes a positive, healthy lifestyle through its roof-raising performances.”
- “From cool jazz to heavenly choral arias . . . musical groups at Southern run the gamut. The campus is also home to numerous independent bands from almost every genre.”
- Student organizations include the Film and Animation Research Society (FARS), a juggling club, and a Psi Chi club.

SAU’s radio station plays classical music during the week and some opera on Sundays. Below are some advertisements from its website.

- Hamilton Community Theatre presenting “The Belle of Amherst,” a play based on the poet Emily Dickinson, with performances staged at Trinity Presbyterian Church.
- Chattanooga Theatre Centre presenting the comedy “The Book of Liz.”

- Fundraiser: 5K Mud Run by Habitat for Humanity, featuring a military-style obstacle course race in the mud. (This event took place on Saturday, August 28.) <http://www.chattanoogaogamudrun.com>
- A free concert (at a non-SDA college) featuring classical and jazz music. (This performance was held on Friday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.—after sundown.) <http://www.bryan.edu/arts>
- The Girls Preparatory School (non-SDA) hosted “Barrage,” a string group eclectic show of music, song, and dance.
- Lee University (non-SDA) hosting the puppetry company Wood and Strings Theatre in the stage productions “Out of the Mist a Dragon” and “Ananse! Early in the Day.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKzXPwT3avQ&mode=related&search>

This link shows SAU students in September 2006 on the campus lawn playing their guitars, drums, singing, swaying, clapping, and cheering to a Christian rock song—all approved of by the faculty.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=3930>

The November 18, 2010 *Adventist Review* proudly featured an article about the SAU student who appeared on the Jeopardy College Championship and stated that he is the first to represent the school on the popular national television quiz show. The student said that “to have the opportunity to put my college in the national spotlight is truly an honor.” He also stated that he appreciates the fact that SAU provides the college bowl competitions and that these were a major factor in keeping his interest in trivia alive.

Why do our Church papers and websites bring attention to those who compete in game shows, music shows, and so on? They should be ashamed and instead be warning against it, explaining why it is not something Jesus would do. Not only is the attention on self and the competition destructive to spirituality, most of the trivia that must be learned is not conducive to eternal salvation.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 456

We must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention. There are matters that consume time and arouse inquiry, but end in nothing. The highest interests demand the close attention and energy that are so often given to comparatively insignificant things.

...Even an acquaintance with facts and theories important in themselves is of little value unless put to a practical use. We need to feel our responsibility to give our souls food that will nourish and stimulate spiritual life...

The question for us to study is, “What is truth--the truth that is to be cherished, loved, honored, and obeyed?”...What they need to inquire at this time is, “What is the truth that will enable us to win the salvation of our souls?”

The information below comes from a theology student who attended SAU.

- Student socials including Karaoke with rock music and entertainment; a “fall festival” and dressing up in costumes at Halloween time; SAU’s president walking around campus in a Santa Claus suit at Christmas time.
- Worship involving contemporary Christian songs with no hymnals.
- “Connect” is a contemporary worship service held at the Collegedale SDA Church. “After Glow” is a late night Friday program after Vespers.
- Non-SDAs invited to speak, such as a New Age pastor, with those types of books promoted in the school library.
- Jewelry allowed to be worn, in spite of the school code to the contrary.
- Majority of the students dressing immodestly, even the young men.
- Not a lot of practical teaching, mostly book work.
- Evolution taught as an option.
- Teaching modern psychology ideas, which are not from the Bible.
- More focus on being successful rather than on missionary work.
- Joking about the health message.
- Intramurals for all sports, separated by competitive leagues.
- Immersing the theology students in New Theology books and those that show the Bible as just another book subject to the speculations of men. The student acknowledged the importance of receiving a brief introduction into the thoughts and ideas around us, but that SAU expects the ministerial students to immerse themselves in darkness and still come out filled with light. The student concluded with, “God help the future of Adventism.”
- Beliefs and actions of certain religion teachers: Society should be the rule on women’s ordination, not the Bible; we are not seeing signs of Christ’s soon return; teaching of spiritual formation, New Age, etc. and leaving the conclusion to the students; discussing political preferences, such as who should be voted for as president of the U.S.; discussing movies watched, such as “Training Day” (drama/thriller/crime); and downplaying Ellen White.

Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 107-108

By many, man’s wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God’s lesson book is looked upon as old-fashioned, stale, and uninteresting. But by those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it. Instead of books containing the suppositions of reputedly great authors, they choose the word of Him who is the greatest author and the greatest teacher the world has ever known, who gave His life for us, that through Him we might have everlasting life.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 477

Those teachers in the church or in the school who distinguish themselves by their zeal in politics, should be relieved of their work and responsibilities without delay; for the Lord will not co-operate with them. The tithe should not be used to pay any one for speechifying on political

questions. Every teacher, minister, or leader in our ranks who is stirred with a desire to ventilate his opinions on political questions, should be converted by a belief in the truth, or give up his work. His influence must tell as a laborer together with God in winning souls to Christ, or his credentials must be taken from him. If he does not change, he will do harm, and only harm.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 48

There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 217

The church has turned back from following Christ her leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus.

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 172

I would warn all my ministering brethren, and especially the young, never to touch an infidel book, never to present infidel cavils. Some have thought it essential to understand these, that they might know how to meet objectors. In our college, debaters have been educated by considering objections to the Bible. This has sometimes been done by our students for the purpose of bringing the light of truth in contrast with infidel arguments. In times when the soul is under temptation, Satan causes the seeds of doubt that are thus sown to germinate, and they blossom into fruit. Discipline of this order is a dangerous discipline for our students. Never give the least sanction to the presentation of infidel arguments. Turn from them as you would from a serpent, for there is concealed in them a sting that would wound the soul.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 532-533

God has revealed to me that we are in positive danger of bringing into our educational work the customs and fashions that prevail in the schools of the world. If teachers are not guarded, they will place on the necks of their students worldly yokes instead of the yoke of Christ. The plan of the schools we shall establish in these closing years of the message is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted.

For this reason, God bids us establish schools away from the cities, where, without let or hindrance, we can carry on the education of students upon plans that are in harmony with the solemn message committed to us for the world. Such an education as this can best be worked out where there is land to cultivate and where the physical exercise taken by the students can be of such a nature as to act a valuable part in their character building and fit them for usefulness in the fields to which they shall go.

God will bless those schools that are conducted according to His design.

Matthew 24:48-51

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU), Texas

<http://www.swau.edu>

Sports: SWAU's sports include men's and women's soccer and basketball, and women's volleyball. Intramural sports include softball, volleyball, flag football, basketball, futsal, and hockey. There is also a gymnastics team, S.W.A.T. (Southwestern Acrobatic Team). The following SDA colleges and universities are involved with Acrofest: Andrews University, Washington Adventist University, Southern Adventist University, Southwestern Adventist University, and Union College. Here are sample videos and what is shown:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXU5RtWhpjik>: Acrofest 2010 Gym-Master Promo
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa9gvod8ORo&feature=related>: SWAU Acrofest 2009
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n1yPowg7IU&feature=related>: Ozark Adventist Academy Acrofest 2009 Routine at SWAU
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_aMD_CbviQ: Sports Report on the SWAU Knights Flag Football League for KGSW Channel 31

Humanities competition: On March 24-26, 2011 SWAU hosted its seventh "Brain Games" weekend with an Intelligence Quotient Humanities competition held on Saturday night. The theme, called "Code JFK," will be based on the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy. The competition is an endeavor to "foster students' appreciation of the humanities" (literature, art, history, communication, economics, etc.) and is hosted by five different departments at SWAU. Participants come from high schools around the U.S. Each school is encouraged to bring their top three humanities students, as well as a sponsor. There are first, second, and third place Team Knowledge Competition winners. Friday included sniper training and paintball sniping with the best team getting a head start on the code breaking. Why would an SDA university want to glorify shooting and dwell on an assassination?

Drama:

<http://www.guitarsolos.com/videos-tartuffe-part-%5BBrCaYBkHnOHs%5D.cfm>

In 2008, SWAU students performed a French comedy entitled *Tartuffe* in which a hypocrite attempts to destroy the domestic happiness of a citizen who is charmed by his seeming piety. The play includes theft and lust.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM4dtm2QnVo>

The Resurrection Pageant is held yearly at SWAU on a Saturday during Easter time. In 2009 (the fourth year of performance), there were six showings held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. which took the crowd through stages of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It was sponsored by SWAU and Keene SDA churches, along with the assistance of the community and local businesses. In 2008 about 200 community members, SWAU students, and members from the Keene SDA Church volunteered to be actors, actresses, or support staff. There were eight performances (six in English and two in Spanish).

Music and entertainment:

In 2008, *The Southwesterner* (published by the SWAU Department of Communication) included information about SWAU's 2008 formal banquet (Mimosa), which was held at a modern art museum, with fun, food, "great modern art" and "great entertainment," including a live jazz band. A photograph was included of four student couples with the ladies in provocative evening gowns. The same year, two SWAU student musical groups (Sernsations and Elevant) performed contemporary music at a concert for a local Dallas band (Tonite Tonite). These two groups met during a Music Fest and decided to join together.

The university's radio station plays contemporary Christian rock music. Below is a sample of advertised events.

- An ecumenical women's conference held annually.
- "Coffee Talk": Held at a Presbyterian church on a Saturday morning as a time for women to share their "faith journey" and "come together in a simple comfortable fashion to enjoy breakfast and conversation."
- "InsideOut": A Christian conference for teen girls held on Friday and all day Saturday at a conference center to learn "issues such as self-esteem, self-respect, relationships, etiquette, and style." Features include a Christian speaker and author and a contemporary Christian rock group. Friday featured "an amazing VIP after-party." Saturday featured a luncheon, style-show, and lots of drawings for great give-aways!"
- "Nurturing of Women's Hearts –Solitude, Silence and Prayer": Held at a Church of Christ on Saturday morning and afternoon for women to "explore ways in which Jesus balanced rest, renewal, mission and ministry in His life and how solitude, silence and prayer provide a foundation addressing the demands of work and daily living." The guest speaker was the Senior Advisor to the President of Abilene Christian University. She also leads the StillPoint ministry for faculty and staff that helps them "learn and experience the spiritual disciplines of solitude, silence and prayer."

Union College (UC), Nebraska

<http://www.ucollege.edu>

Music and drama:

- Those in the Music Club attend various musicals each year, such as *Wicked* (based on a novel about witches), *Camelot* (comedy/drama/fantasy), and *WestSide Story* (based on a modern-day version of *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare).

- UC's drama department presented a Shakespeare play entitled *The Tempest*, which includes revenge, hurt, loss, and betrayal. The director of the play shared that she was "honored and excited to be directing it" and that they have "hard-working and talented actors and a passionate and enthusiastic creative team." It is a shame that all that hard work, talent, passion, enthusiasm, and creativity is not used for something worthwhile.
- An annual Talent Show was held on the UC campus with a request to "see your fellow students showing off their amazing abilities." The "most outstanding performances" were rewarded with cash prizes. The musical acts ranged from traditional to modern and entertainment that "may score some laughs or even bring a tear to your eye." True SDAs are shedding tears of sadness to see their young people entertaining, playing modern music, and being rewarded for "showing off."

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 286

In our institutions of learning there was to be exerted an influence that would counteract the influence of the world, and give no encouragement to indulgence in appetite, in selfish gratification of the senses, in pride, ambition, love of dress and display, love of praise and flattery, and strife for high rewards and honors as a recompense for good scholarship. All this was to be discouraged in our schools.

- A musical comedy entitled *That's What Makes Them Pirates!* was premiered on the UC campus. It was written and composed by Mike Mennard, an English professor at UC. *Campus Conversations* included an announcement that after opening night, the musical "sold out every performance," which inspired an encore show. Attendees were also encouraged to "don their piratey best for a costume contest at each performance." A UC student, who plays the part of a parrot, believed that the children would be their best audience. She stated that "children tend to get intensely involved in a story until it becomes real to them." It was stated that "throughout the dancing, avenging, and romancing of the pirates, the audience will be asked to participate in this musical comedy for all ages," that it would be "one of the most special events Union College has ever put on" and that "there is a magic in this play that is contagious." If this type of event is "one of the most special" that has been held on this campus, it is in deep trouble, because the "magic" comes from beneath not above.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aX6BEqeUJA>

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 367-368

Those who take the lead in these frivolities bring upon the cause a stain not easily effaced. They wound their own souls, and will carry the scars through their lifetime. The evildoer may see his sins and repent, and God may pardon the transgressor; but the power of discernment which ought ever to be kept keen and sensitive to distinguish between the sacred and the common, is in a great measure destroyed.

Mennard performed contemporary gospel music throughout the U.S. in the 1990s. His music has been incorporated into children's or family music, known

as “fun, zany songs.” In 2004, he recorded his first “family project—Something’s Rotting in the Fridge, a collection of utter weirdness,” and a “constant parade of laughs.” He teaches college students “about the values of poetry, yet he believes that one is never too young to learn to appreciate rhythm and rhyme (and wacky humor!).” He has also performed at local public schools and libraries and for Parks and Recreation as well as other cities in Nebraska. Mennard states that he loves children’s audiences because he feels the “freedom to be me—which means to be wacky—and to play with all styles of music,” such as “bluegrass next to rock and roll next to opera.”

The following was held by the UC Associated Student Body (ASB):

- A holiday Madrigal feast hosted by “Lord and Lady Mennard,” (the English professor and his wife). (A madrigal is 16th century, secular, vocal music without instruments.) The show included music, a “splendid feast,” and “even a dueling of swords.” Renaissance attire was recommended.
- An Indian “adventure” at ASB’s fall banquet. The theme was Indian formal attire including a costume contest with cash prizes. There was Indian cuisine and entertainment, henna painting (temporary skin tattoos), and Bhangra dancing. Bhangra is a type of music and dance known for its lively rhythms and drum beats and is becoming popular worldwide.
- An ASB mafia-style video, introducing the new ASB officers. It was stated that “it was a lot of fun to shoot,” and “so enjoyable to see the end-result.” Unfortunately, these students are involved in activities that one day they may regret. If continued, the “end result” will not be enjoyable. Why are teachers allowing these types of videos?

<http://asb.ucollege.edu/node?page=6>

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 127

Whatever is crooked, whatever is twisted out of the right line, is to be plainly pointed out and avoided; for it is iniquity not to be perpetuated. It is important that every teacher should love and cherish sound principles and doctrines, for this is the light to be reflected upon the pathway of all students.

- A video was made for a 2010/2011 literacy fundraising project for Hope for Humanity (formerly called Ingathering). The video was not representative of SDA Christian young people. It was difficult to tell if they were students from an SDA college. <http://asb.ucollege.edu/node?page=1>

Sports included the following:

- UC advertised the University of Nebraska-Lincoln hosting the “Shaolin Warriors,” an acrobatic martial arts team.
- Sports at UC include men’s and women’s basketball, men’s golf, women’s volleyball, the Gymnares acrobatics, as well as flag football, softball, floor hockey, and Ultimate Disc.
- An annual World Cup Soccer Tournament was hosted by the ASB and the International Club. It was announced to come to the 49ers field (on campus) for “great food and sports entertainment.”

- The Thunderdome (UC's gymnasium) "rocked again" at the annual ASB Dodgeball Tournament. Cash prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place winners of the tournament and the "parade of teams" costume contest. It was announced that they hoped "to see all your game faces at The Dome."
- "Moodle" is UC's website for intramural sports leagues. It stated that athletic performance groups visit churches in the Mid-America Union Conference of SDAs.
- UC's competition includes games against non-SDA colleges.

Walla Walla University (WWU), Washington

<http://www.wallawalla.edu>

Drama:

The WWU Drama Department is a Theatre Arts program on campus that is "dedicated to creating uplifting, creative and professional theatre for the community." It has performed shows since 1961 with everything from *Alice in Wonderland*, Shakespeare, Hamlet, Mark Twain, *The Pirates of Penzance*, to *Mystery College Theatre 5000: Plan 9 From Outer Space* in 2005, which is a 1958 horror and science fiction movie. Those types of shows most assuredly do not uplift Christ. <http://www.wallawalla.edu/life-at-wwu/wwudrama/history>

A Midsummer Night's Dream by Shakespeare, which was directed by WWU students, was included in the 2009-2010 season. It is a "classic tale" that involves four lovers in an enchanted forest who are helped by a mischievous trickster, fairy royalty, and a magic flower in order to learn that love is still a hope worth having. This show "won six awards, including the rarely received ensemble award." The 2010-2011 season includes an adaptation from C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It was given four awards and two nominations by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The cast and crew "put in around 100 hours of rehearsal time," not including time spent "building sets, costuming, finding props, learning lines, and other miscellaneous activities." All the hours, energy, and money could have been put toward something that brought glory to God rather than to "lovers of pleasure."

The WWU Spanish class was required to create a 30-minute television show mini-drama for the final project in Spring 2008. A two-minute "commercial" for the video was entitled "Viva La Fanta!" and was filmed on campus. It portrayed a male student skateboarding to rock music in shorts and no shirt, with fake tattoos. Next he is seen speaking in Spanish with evil facial grimacing and appears portrayed as a gang member. The next scene shows another male student pouring a bottle of Fanta drink over this "gang member's" head, then a pie thrown in his face and more drink poured over his body while he rubs his chest and gyrates his body. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7wcnTcbcEY>

A2009 WWU Amateur Hour video entitled "I'm in a Church" featured the students doing a rap song while acting in the sanctuary of a Walla Walla SDA church. It was a parody of a worldly and vulgar video entitled "I'm on a Boat," and surely offended the heavenly Father in many ways. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Hsm912iStM>

This video featured WWU students at an October 2010 “barn party,” one of the largest school events of the year. Many students were dressed in silly, provocative, or Satanic costumes. Pumpkin smashing and line dancing were included in the events. <http://vimeo.com/18452564>

Are the minds of the students dwelling on Jesus while involved in the above activities? What is the school administration thinking when they allow such foolishness?

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 126

Could the curtain that separates us from the invisible world be rolled back, you would behold the Saviour grieved to see men absorbed in the pleasures of the table, in hilarity and witticism, that put Christ, the center of the world's hope, out of their thoughts.

Music:

In April 2007, WWU debuted the first jazz band the university has ever had. Mike Agidius, the university's jazz ensemble director, shared with a *Union Bulletin* reporter that it was “an honor to have been chosen to lead Walla Walla College students into uncharted territory” and that many had never played jazz before and some had never been exposed to that style. He added that he has tried to have the students “understand the elements of swing, rock, funk, ballad and Latin music.” For 17 years, Agidius has taught jazz and the saxophone from sixth-graders to a jazz band that has “consistently brought home trophies.” As a lifelong SDA, he believes that the Church “threw the baby out with the bathwater by dismissing jazz in the past” and that it was the “associations that went with the music, not the music” that was bad. He is “thrilled” that there is a jazz band at WWU, that it is a “valuable part of the college.” Agidius goes on to explain that jazz concerts “are more likely to appeal to different audiences, bringing in those from outside the religion,” that it is something “to get us out of our bubble,” and that it would come from the young people. He concludes by saying that he expects WWU to be “one of the top college jazz bands anywhere.” One student who is a newcomer to jazz shared that playing it on his trumpet is “very exciting” and that it “gets your pulse going.” He believes it will “make him more marketable as a high school music instructor.” One can certainly see an underlying theme of wanting the world's success and popular music. Is that what SDAs are to crave? If so, then they will never have the joy of making “heaven's arches ring.”

http://union-bulletin.com/articles/2007/04/08/local_news/local02.txt

At WWU you can hear anything from “praise songs, classical piano, a steel drum band, a gospel choir or even a full orchestra.” Or you could “enjoy a rockin' early morning worship service at the Awakening.”

WWU's radio station, Positive Life Radio (KGTS), plays Christian contemporary music. It advertises that it “brings the glory of God to its listeners through the beauty of his words and music.” As stated before, this kind of music is not from God.

The following announcement comes from Facebook online by the Associated Students of WWU (ASWWU): “Want to spend a semester away in Nashville learning the music biz? Study Rock n' Roll? Record in a professional studio?

Learn songwriting from the pros? Design lighting for a rock show? and get 16 credits toward your degree at WWU?? It can happen at The Contemporary Music Center... apply for spring 2011 now!" Much more absurdity can be viewed on ASWWU's Facebook, such as the ad for "Tribal Feast": "Feed the appetite. Come enjoy some screaming, pizza, kebobs, and fire. It will be screamin' delicious!"

<http://www.facebook.com/posted.php?id=140887781482&start=10#!/posted.php?id=140887781482&start=20>

Sports: The WWU sports include men's soccer and basketball and women's volleyball, basketball, and softball. Floor hockey and Ultimate Disc are also included. Teams compete against non-SDA schools.

Guest speakers:

The North Pacific Union *Gleaner* featured an article announcing Tony Campolo as a guest speaker at WWU in February 2008. What was the school thinking when it decided to invite someone like Campolo who promotes contemplative spirituality? The opening remarks of this article stated that the mission of the SDA educational system is to "prepare young people for success in the 21st century and beyond." By promoting those such as Campolo, the young people are being prepared for worldly success.

One January 2008 seminar was entitled "What On Earth Are We Doing: Christians and the Environment." A more appropriate seminar would have been "What On Earth Are We Doing: Adventists and the Ecumenical Movement." <http://www.gleaneronline.org/103/1/34188.html>

An email sent to the For My People Ministry told of an individual who had attended a couple of SDA schools and, particularly, that when he left WWU, he did not know what he believed and left the SDA faith for a period of time. It is only by God's grace that he has come back. Many will not.

The leadership at this school is doing as Aaron did when he allowed the dancing around the golden calf. He made the excuse that it was the people's fault, not his. The WWU administration has used the same excuse. Leaders should lead others to Christ, not follow the world's ways.

Washington Adventist University (WAU), Maryland

<http://www.wau.edu>

Sports:

WAU is proud of their 13 sports programs, where students "compete around the country," while "putting Christ first." How can students put Christ first when they are not even following Christ's words or His example? WAU sports consists of baseball, men's and women's basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, track & field, volleyball, as well as "a renown gymnastics performance squad" named the Acro-Airs. Each squad "has its own bragging rights and looks to continue to improve." The team also performs half-time shows for NBA games (National Basketball Association). Competition is held with non-SDAs and the new name for the teams is "The Shock." SDAs should be in shock by the competition that occurs on this and other SDA campuses as well as by the honor given to "exceptional" players and mention of defeating their opponents. Instead of defeating other teams, they should defeat Satan's temptations and give honor to God.

Other competition:

WAU history and political studies majors are involved in mock trial competitions with non-SDA universities by receiving “Best Lawyer” and “Best Witness” awards. One of the WAU winners stated that she was “confident from this point on that we will do nothing less than build on our success.” Those students may be receiving “Best Witness” awards now, but when Christ returns, will He be able to say they were the best witnesses for Him?

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 64

There is an education which is essentially worldly. Its aim is success in the world, the gratification of selfish ambition. To secure this education many students spend time and money in crowding their minds with unnecessary knowledge. The world accounts them learned; but God is not in their thoughts. They eat of the tree of worldly knowledge, which nourishes and strengthens pride. In their hearts they become disobedient and estranged from God; and their entrusted gifts are placed on the enemy's side. Much of the education at the present time is of this character. The world may regard it as highly desirable; but it increases the peril of the student.

Child Guidance, p. 141

The parent or teacher who keeps in view the true ideal of character and the possibilities of achievement cannot cherish or encourage self-sufficiency. He will not encourage in the youth the desire or effort to display their ability or proficiency. He who looks higher than himself will be humble, yet he will possess a dignity that is not abashed or disconcerted by outward display or human greatness.

Radio station:

WAU's station is advertised as a “family friendly contemporary Christian music station.”

Its mission is to “introduce and nurture a relationship with Jesus Christ, through music consistent with God's Word and today's adult music tastes.” In order to do this, they will “provide an entertaining family friendly safe haven; provide hope and encouragement for the Washington D.C. area; and provide resources to grow in Christ.” The radio staff will accomplish that mission by being a people of “prayer, integrity, compassion and self-sacrifice, while at all times giving their best for His glory.” Can we honestly say that the station's mission will be accomplished by the following?

- Playing Christian rock music.
- Advertising concerts by the world's music idols of Christian rock music and calling it “a powerful praise experience.”
- Sponsoring Gateway Fellowship as a Christian gathering every Saturday night, with the goal “to show the importance of loving God and loving people,” a place to hear short inspirational messages and sing favorite songs from the radio (including Christian rock).
- Including the following on their morning show: Ads for movies and movie reviews; a story from Oprah Winfrey's website; discussion of Oprah

(again) and the fall television season; “Dance with Cinderella” Walt Disney World ad; and plenty of other nonsense.

We wonder why our college radio stations cannot play traditional hymns and soft gospel songs all week with Bible readings and discard movie, television, celebrity talk, and so forth. Some radio stations worldwide follow that plan with no problem. That is the only way to carry out the mission of providing a family friendly station that gives their best for God's glory.

Music and Drama:

Each fall, WAU hosts a writers' conference for academy students. After arriving on campus and “settling in,” the group took a WAU coach ride to Baltimore's Center Stage to “take in a production of *The Wiz*.” It is a 1970s musical play based on the *The Wizard of Oz*. It was announced as a “big hit,” and many of the students “had their pictures taken with the cast after the program.”

WAU advertised a “family friendly concert series” “for all ages” to benefit a food bank. It featured “D.O.G.S. of Pray,” a Christian metal (hard rock) group. The “soft” rock is bad enough. How can an SDA university approve of even more Satanic music as alright for children? Because the event is for a “good cause” does not justify this type of music. An online description of the rock group stated that they are “far from your grandmother's Christianity of clean cut brow beating self righteousness,” and that they “seek to bring Christianity back to the meek, the lost, and the oppressed.” It went on to say that “for far too many people, the word ‘Christian’ has come to mean bigot, and hypocrite,” but that D.O.G.S. of Pray “are working to redefine it into what it should mean: Love and service to God.” More than likely this group does not realize that their service is not to God. However, the SDA administration at this school should certainly know better.

WAU students have performed or watched musical plays such as *My Fair Lady*, *Cinderella*, *South Pacific*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. The director stated that “these fun performances will offer good singing” and feels that this is a “great opportunity to showcase” WAU's talent to the community. She explained that the music department “does so much in the areas of sacred and choral works” that the musical plays will allow students to “be well-rounded in their liberal arts education.” The education may be well-rounded as far as the world is concerned, but it is not well-grounded as far as God is concerned.

Friday evenings include “Singspiration” where students “testify, sing and seek the power of the Holy Spirit.” The power of the Holy Spirit will never come to WAU or any other SDA college as long as there continues to be the kind of activities that have been mentioned and that have been made worse through accreditation. The State can and has represented the academic freedom of the schools' instructors. In God's eyes, those teachers will be held accountable for leading students astray.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 98

In what consists the superior excellence of our systems of education? Is it in the classical literature which is crowded into our sons? Is it in the ornamental accomplishments which our daughters obtain at the sacrifice of health or mental strength? Is it in the fact that modern instruction is so

generally separated from the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation? Does the chief excellence of popular education consist in treating the individual branches of study, apart from that deeper investigation which involves the searching of the Scriptures, and a knowledge of God and the future life? Does it consist in imbuing the minds of the young with heathenish conceptions of liberty, morality, and justice? Is it safe to trust our youth to the guidance of those blind leaders who study the sacred oracles with far less interest than they manifest in the classical authors of ancient Greece and Rome?

The Review and Herald, October 30, 1900

How can our youth be shielded from these contaminating influences? There must be schools established upon the principles, and controlled by the precepts, of God's word. Another spirit must be in our schools, to animate and sanctify every branch of education. Divine co-operation must be fervently sought. And we shall not seek in vain. The promises of God's word are ours. We may expect the presence of the heavenly Teacher. We may see the Spirit of the Lord diffused as in the schools of the prophets, and every object partake of a divine consecration.

The SDA academies and elementary schools are just as much in trouble morally as the colleges. It is up to parents to know what their children are being taught. The educational leaders should be appalled at what they have allowed in SDA schools. If they do not repent of this apostasy, God will hold them accountable for the eternal loss of the majority of the students. They are far from realizing the seriousness of the current situation.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 108

Teachers who mingle the sentiments of infidel authors with the education they are giving, plant in the minds of youth thoughts that will lead to distrust of God and transgression of His law. Little do they know what they are doing. Little do they realize what will be the result of their work.

Christian Education, p. 247

Shall the powers of mind and soul be misapplied? Shall opportunities be lost? Shall a form and routine be gone through day after day, with nothing gained? O, awake, awake, teachers and pupils, before it is too late! Awake before you hear from pale and agonized lips the terrible wail, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!" [Jeremiah 8:20]

The Review and Herald, January 10, 1899

The Lord would have the education in our schools such as will advance every pupil in the knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. A great mistake is made by teachers when they give their students the impression that in order to reach perfection in literary attainments, they must sip at the impure fountain where customs and traditions and errors that are hoary with age continue to flow. This is the greatest dishonor that can be done to God.

Christian Education, p. 71

Shall the sentiments of unbelievers, the expressions of dissolute men, be advocated as worthy of the student's attention, because they are the productions of men whom the world admires as great thinkers? Shall men professing to believe in God, gather from these unsanctified authors their expressions and sentiments, and treasure them up as precious jewels to be stored away among the riches of the mind?--God forbid.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 402

I am instructed to say to students, In your search for knowledge climb higher than the standard set by the world; follow where Jesus has led the way. And to teachers I would say, Beware how you sow the seeds of unbelief in human hearts and minds. Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The crowning glory of Christ's attributes is His holiness. The angels bow before Him in adoration, exclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." Revelation 4:8. He is declared to be glorious in His holiness. Study the character of God. By beholding Christ, by seeking Him in faith and prayer, you may become like Him.

There is hope for the SDA educational system, if they follow the instructions as penned below.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 145

Though in many respects our institutions of learning have swung into worldly conformity, though step by step they have advanced toward the world, they are prisoners of hope. Fate has not so woven its meshes about their workings that they need to remain helpless and in uncertainty. If they will listen to His voice and follow in His ways, God will correct and enlighten them, and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world.

Media

Artwork

Many charismatic illustrations can be found in SDA artwork, such as individuals with uplifted hands, a dove, and flames. The three angels disappeared from the SDA Church logo and now even the current logo is disappearing from SDA church websites. If church members are ashamed of the SDA name and the three angels' messages, they are not true SDAs. It is also interesting to note that emergents tend to use the same type of artwork, particularly the swirl pattern (resembling the pagan spirituality symbol), spirals, a compass, rainbow colors, and modern sketchy-type font.

By the 1960s, illustrations of people began to change into what does not even resemble the image of God, such as the comic style, which we see so often now in SDA artwork. Animals are also made to look unrealistic, and worst of all, the depictions of heavenly things and Jesus Himself.

<http://www.gracelink.net/article.php?id=16>

Here is a question and answer from the GraceLink website regarding their children's Sabbath School curriculum.

Question: "Why don't the new materials use the traditional style of art that we're used to from the old Sabbath School lessons?"

Answer:

1. Traditional SDA art is "not known for being culturally inclusive." Since the lessons are used worldwide, "it is not appropriate for them to depict only Caucasian children. The non-realistic style of artwork allows race/ethnicity to be ambiguous."
2. Another issue is "time-sensitivity." The traditional style looks "dated to the current generation. Clothes, hairstyles, etc. have changed." "A non-realistic style is a lot less subject to fashion detail."
3. Illustrations have been selected "that will appeal to children."

These are poor excuses for using cheap artwork that is condemned by the Master Artist. Comic-style illustrations have degraded over the years. What we see used today is far removed from illustrating God's image in mankind. Why would children have a problem relating to normal pictures of people, since that is what they see in real life? As far as cultural or time-sensitive artwork, there is no reason why a good artist could not depict those qualities. Furthermore, with the availability of much online artwork, there is no excuse. If availability is a problem, why not use fewer illustrations but those of higher quality, rather than using much inferior artwork?

Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 167-168

Pictures to represent Bible scenes must be no cheap designs.... With these cheap, common productions, the sacred lessons of the Bible disdain comparison.... God forbid that we should please the devil by lowering the standard of eternal truth by using illustrations that men, women, and children will make sport of.

Ibid., p. 172

I hope our publications will not come to resemble a comic almanac. I would not altogether condemn the use of pictures, but let fewer be used, and only such as are good illustrations of the subject. ... If you choose to have a few pictures and good ones, I do not object. Let illustrations be choice rather than numerous.

Books

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 204

Books of a new order would be written.

Buying books from "Christian" bookstores can be very dangerous. An example is the *Harry Potter* series, based on witchcraft. These are popular by not only the world but with some SDAs. Unfortunately, we also must be cautious when purchasing books from the ABCs. These stores are now in the habit of selling books by non-SDA authors. Even books by SDAs must be examined first before purchasing.

<http://www.ministrymagazine.org/books-worth-reading.html>

Ministry magazine has a "Books Worth Reading" section that at one point listed 34 non-SDA books. It was stated that the Society of Biblical Literature meets each year, so they asked one of their colleagues to visit the book displays in order to make a list of books he thought were "worth looking at." It was then stated that *Ministry* is "not necessarily endorsing these books" but rather that these "may be worth looking at to see if they might be of help to you in your ministry." When SDAs continue to read books from authors who do not have the same belief system, they will gradually come to believe what they are reading.

Why do individuals waste precious time and money with writings by infidel authors when there is so much in the Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy? God's truth is full of treasures unfathomable that we need today to keep us on the path leading to eternal life. The arch-deceiver will deceive the most through what are called "spiritual" books. Yet these are filled with light as well as darkness. The following from God's books will help in making the right choice on proper reading material.

Christ Triumphant, p. 342

The Lord will not lead minds now to set aside the truth that the Holy Spirit has moved upon His servants in the past to proclaim. Many will honestly search the Word for light as those in the past have searched it; and they see light in the Word. But they did not pass over the ground, in their experience, when these messages of warning were first proclaimed. Not having had this experience, some do not appreciate the value of the truths that have been to us as waymarks, and that have made us as a peculiar people what we are. They do not make a right application of the Scriptures, and thus they frame theories that are not correct. It is true that they quote an abundance of Scripture, and teach much that is true; but truth is so mixed with error as to lead to wrong conclusions....

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 2, pp. 166-167

Where do you get your mental food? Do you get it from the newspapers of today, which are filled with the most disgusting and horrible representations? We have something better than this, and we are to show to the world that we know the Source of power and efficiency and hope and comfort. The grace of God which passes knowledge is imparted to us and to all who will believe His Word.

The Adventist Home, pp. 412-415

What shall our children read? This is a serious question and one that demands a serious answer. It troubles me to see in Sabbathkeeping families periodicals and newspapers containing continued stories which leave no impressions for good on the minds of children and youth. I have watched those whose taste for fiction was thus cultivated. They have had the privilege of listening to the truth, of becoming acquainted with the reasons of our faith; but they have grown to maturer years destitute of true piety and practical godliness.

The readers of fiction are indulging an evil that destroys spirituality, eclipsing the beauty of the sacred page.

The world is deluged with books that might better be consumed than circulated. Books on sensational topics, published and circulated as a money-making scheme, might better never be read by the youth. There is a satanic fascination in such books....

The practice of story reading is one of the means employed by Satan to destroy souls. It produces a false, unhealthy excitement, fevers the imagination, unfits the mind for usefulness, and disqualifies it for any spiritual exercise. It weans the soul from prayer and from the love of spiritual things.

Works of romance, frivolous, exciting tales, are, in hardly less degree, a curse to the reader. The author may profess to teach a moral lesson; throughout his work he may interweave religious sentiments, but often these serve only to veil the folly and worthlessness beneath.

Another source of danger against which we should be constantly on guard is the reading of infidel authors. Such works are inspired by the enemy of truth, and no one can read them without imperiling the soul. It is true that some who are affected by them may finally recover; but all who tamper with their evil influence place themselves on Satan's ground, and he makes the most of his advantage. As they invite his temptations, they have not wisdom to discern or strength to resist them. With a fascinating, bewitching power unbelief and infidelity fasten themselves upon the mind.

In the education of children and youth fairy tales, myths, and fictitious stories are now given a large place. Books of this character are used in schools, and they are to be found in many homes. How can Christian parents permit their children to use books so filled with falsehood? When the children ask the meaning of stories so contrary to the teaching of their parents, the answer is that the stories are not true; but this does not do away with the evil results of their use. The ideas presented in these books mislead the children. They impart false views of life and beget and foster a desire for the unreal....

Never should books containing a perversion of truth be placed in the hands of children or youth. Let not our children, in the very process of obtaining an education, receive ideas that will prove to be seeds of sin.

There are few well-balanced minds because parents are wickedly negligent of their duty to stimulate weak traits and repress wrong ones. They do not remember that they are under the most solemn obligation to watch the tendencies of each child, that it is their duty to train their children to right habits and right ways of thinking.

Cultivate the moral and intellectual powers. Let not these noble powers become enfeebled and perverted by much reading of even storybooks. I know of strong minds that have been unbalanced and partially benumbed, or paralyzed, by intemperance in reading.

Readers of frivolous, exciting tales become unfitted for the duties of practical life. They live in an unreal world. I have watched children who have been allowed to make a practice of reading such stories. Whether at home or abroad, they were restless, dreamy, unable to converse except

upon the most commonplace subjects. Religious thought and conversation was entirely foreign to their minds. With the cultivation of an appetite for sensational stories the mental taste is perverted, and the mind is not satisfied unless fed upon this unwholesome food. I can think of no more fitting name for those who indulge in such reading than mental inebriates. Intemperate habits of reading have an effect upon the brain similar to that which intemperate habits of eating and drinking have upon the body.

Before accepting the present truth, some had formed the habit of novel reading. Upon uniting with the church, they made an effort to overcome this habit. To place before this class reading similar to that which they have discarded is like offering intoxicants to the inebriate. Yielding to the temptation continually before them, they soon lose their relish for solid reading. They have no interest in Bible study. Their moral power becomes enfeebled. Sin appears less and less repulsive. There is manifest an increasing unfaithfulness, a growing distaste for life's practical duties. As the mind becomes perverted, it is ready to grasp any reading of a stimulating character. Thus the way is open for Satan to bring the soul fully under his domination.

With the immense tide of printed matter constantly pouring from the press, old and young form the habit of reading hastily and superficially, and the mind loses its power of connected and vigorous thought. Furthermore, a large share of the periodicals and books that, like the frogs of Egypt, are overspreading the land are not merely commonplace, idle, and enervating, but unclean and degrading. Their effect is not merely to intoxicate and ruin the mind, but to corrupt and destroy the soul.

If one finds the reading and studying of God's words boring or meaningless, it indicates a needed change in what the person reads as well as what is seen and heard in the media.

Acts 19:18-20

And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

The Review and Herald, July 19, 1906

Dear youth, cease to read the magazines containing stories. Put away every novel. In the days of Paul, those who were converted at Ephesus burned their magical books. We would do well to clear our houses of all the story magazines and the publications containing ridiculous pictures -- representations originated by satanic agencies. The youth can not afford to poison their minds with such things. "What is the chaff to the wheat?" Let every one who claims to be a follower of Christ, read only that which is true and of eternal value.

Counsels for the Church, p. 169

My dear young friends, question your own experience as to the influence of exciting stories. Can you, after such reading, open the Bible and read with interest the words of life? Do you not find the Book of God uninteresting?...

Resolutely discard all trashy reading. It will not strengthen your spirituality, but will introduce into the mind sentiments that pervert the imagination, causing you to think less of Jesus and to dwell less upon His precious lessons. Keep the mind free from everything that would lead it in a wrong direction. Do not encumber it with trashy stories, which impart no strength to the mental powers. The thoughts are of the same character as the food provided for the mind.

The Youth's Instructor, November 16, 1893

What a mass of fictitious reading is there in the world, to fill the mind with fancies and follies, thus creating a disrelish for the words of truth and righteousness! The mind is thus unfitted for solemn thought, for patient, persevering investigation of the Scriptures, which is the guide book by which you are to be directed to the paradise of God.

Media ministries

<http://www.adventistcommunicator.org/article.php?id=56>

A guest at the Saturday night Awards Banquet for the Society of Adventist Communicators Convention in October 2010 featured comedian Joey I.L.O. who tours the U.S. and Canada "with his high-energy, charismatic, clean comedy act." He previously performed as a musician, releasing two albums in 2001, and touring nationally with a "wide variety of performance groups and has enjoyed great success." However, at age 26, "he retired from his thriving music career to focus his energy on the comedy scene. After his first comedy show, he had found his niche. His energy, charisma, and rapport with the crowd made him an instant sensation. Since that day, many national personalities have requested Joey to perform at numerous events all over the country."

There is actually no such thing as a "clean" comedy act as far as God is concerned. What are the SDA communicators thinking when they include such nonsense at their convention?

Super Bowl ad

<http://www.goallpower.com/superbowl>

This website, by an SDA pastor, includes a "Sabbath Reminder Super Bowl ad petition," with the following information:

"YES, I pledge to donate \$20 toward this Super Bowl commercial after we have 144,000 signers."

"So whether you are an American football fan or not, this is a way to begin the Sabbath conversation among a massive audience of over a 100 MILLION people who desperately need to hear the truth."

Sabbath reminder Super Bowl commercial (Text draft #7):

The commercial begins in a living room with a big screen television, drinks, snacks, and "three guys & 2 girls sitting on a couch yelling and totally engaged in the game."

Jesus walks into the house where they are watching the Super Bowl game and stands next to the television. “Man One Ring Leader,” appearing amazed and shocked, says, “Jesus?”

Jesus responds, “Hello everyone, did you all go to church today?” The group of five look at each other sheepishly, and the ringleader states, “Umm, Yes Jesus, we all went this morning!”

Jesus now asks, “Did you forget the fourth commandment says to keep the seventh day holy?”

The ringleader looks at Jesus in disbelief and asks, “Huh?”

Jesus now makes the Ten Commandments appear and points to the fourth commandment and reads, “The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” He then asks, “What day is the seventh day?”

The group looks at each other with “quizzical, humorous looks.” “Uhh, the seventh day is Saturday!”

Jesus responds, “That’s right. Check out the website [address] to get all the facts.” (The website appears on the screen.)

The ringleader asks, “Well, if Saturday is the holy day for church and worship, then what is Sunday for?”

Jesus gives a big smile, sits down “between the two guys putting His arms around them and says, ‘Sunday can be for **football!**’ ” [END]

First of all, to do a pledge using the figure of 144,000 belittles the seriousness of what it means to be among that group. Then to say “So whether you are an American football fan or not” and to have Jesus state that “Sunday can be for football!” gives approval for watching and playing competitive football. Worse than that is using an actor to represent Jesus.

Adventist Media Center, Simi Valley, California

<http://www.adventistmedia.org>

Adventist Media Productions (AMP) is the SDA electronic media production center, which produces television and radio programs for the following ministries of the Church: Adventist Communication Network, Breath of Life, Faith For Today, Hope Channel, It Is Written, Voice Of Prophecy plus La Voz de la Esperanza (Voice of Prophecy in Spanish), and others.

Regrettably, most of the large SDA media ministries (including some self-supporting ones) have begun to pattern after the world’s ways in programming, music, or advertising in the desire to be “culturally relevant.” Focus is placed on worldly success and being entertaining. While we can appreciate the good that comes from these ministries, faithful SDAs cannot approve of the following media practices:

- Special offers/items for sale, resembling a business rather than a ministry. The ABCs are included in this as well.

The Publishing Ministry, pp. 213-214

If you desire to place the work on a paying basis, do not lower the prices by special offers, which are called by my Instructor inducements, bribes. God does not want you to do this. These methods He does not approve. Devise means to create a fund by which books

can be placed in families who do not and cannot obtain them for themselves.

- Film festival awards.
- Producing movies that include Hollywood actors, such as “Love’s Pure Light,” advertised by AMP in 2006 as a “Christmas special.” *Advent Source* advertised the movie as the SDA Church’s fifth Christmas program. The NAD’s Office of Communication created a grid to help viewers with show time information.
<http://www.plusline.org/article.php?id=5627>
- Popular music.
- Talking about sports.
- A Hope TV newsletter discusses how its new health program will resemble two different television shows. It also uses popular terms such as “celebration.” At one point a “non-traditional” church is promoted. One mission video showed a group of SDAs placing stones (resembling their burdens) at the foot of a life-sized cross; then prayer was offered. Though this act may seem innocent, it resembles a pagan custom. Not every detail of the programming can be covered, but this should be enough to cause concern.
- Hope TV/Parker’s Puzzle (for children):The parents’ section included a comment by Derek Morris. One mother commented how glad she was to see a children’s program that is entertaining. The “Parker’s Pals” section is loaded with nonsense and untruths being acted out in an effort to attract children of the world. Hope TV is sending wrong messages to the world. If the current leadership and media ministries are to be effective in preaching the true gospel, they have much to change. God’s sincere people of the world do not need more of the world. They do not need to be entertained or see how “successful” we may be. They need to be spiritually fed with a gospel that is pure and undiluted, to hear “heavenly” music, not the popular tunes of today. Hope TV boasts of life-changing programs, but what kind of life changing? Half-way is not enough.
- Spectrum magazine shared the following about the 2009 three-day 7th Annual SONscreen Film Festival (held annually at the Adventist Media Center).
 - “. . . best showcase of talent and artistry in Adventism: spirited music, powerful speaking that highlighted social causes, lively discussion, plenty of food, fabulous (sometimes provocative) films, and an awards gala second only to the Oscars...almost.”
 - “Walls are lined with photos of popular evangelist and World Church vice president Mark Finley and other SDA stars.”
 - “Lennox Fleary led worship on Sabbath morning with the praise band from the Hollywood Adventist Church,” which included “praise tunes” and Fleary’s “acoustic fusion: bluesy jazz acoustic guitar stuff.”
 - The “Saturday morning’s keynote address” was given by a “designer and brand management guru” who has provided services for megacorporations, worked for professional athletes, and was the exclusive designer for the Democratic National Convention.

- SONscreen's sponsors include the NAD of SDAs, Adventist Media Productions, and Adventist Filmmaker (a social networking site for SDA and other Christian filmmakers).
- Student filmmakers from Central Valley Christian Academy (SDA school in Ceres, California) submitted "God Squad." That name not only resembles the name of a former television series, but it takes God's name in vain.
- The artistic director for the Monkey Butler Comedy Company (non-SDA) and the co-writer of the comedy film "Jesus People" were involved in a panel discussion on stage regarding the "Church's place in Hollywood." The two discussed not necessarily the importance of Christian comedy, but of comedy made by Christians.
- During the Q&A, an audience member asked panelists if their "involvement in the Hollywood industry was tantamount to being worldly. The questioner cited Scripture calling for 'being in the world' but 'not of the world.'" Ryan Bell (Hollywood SDA Church pastor) responded that the tension might be described as being an oxygen-breathing creature in the water, but not of the water. Being in the water, he said, requires getting wet. But it does not require drowning."
- "The festival ended Saturday night with an awards ceremony to honor the judges' selections for outstanding work in seven categories." <http://www.spectrummagazine.org/node/1592>
- The SONscreen website included the following information in Facebook comments:
 - "Seventh-Gay Adventists" to be released in 2011.
 - A "Zen moment" after taping.
 - SONscreen supports the Kingdomwood Film Festival in Atlanta (non-SDA), "the premier Christian Film Festival in the South." <http://www.kingdomwood.com>
 - Congratulations were given to the 2010 Audience Choice Award Winning Film. <http://www.sonscreen.com>
- SONscreen also included an announcement for applications with Act One, a non-SDA Hollywood faith-based organization with an executive leadership program to train screenwriters and provide entertainment internships.

Contrary to Ryan Bell's statement, these examples of our media people copying Hollywood are equivalent to spiritual drowning. Of course, with SDAs watching Hollywood's movies from the comfort of their own homes, why should the above comments and practices come as a surprise?

The July 2009 Pacific Union Recorder featured an article entitled "Filmmakers Claim Awards at SONscreen VII." It stated that "films are our parable, and we need our members to learn the state of the art and be able to engage our culture with serious and important stories." Most of the films submitted came from students at LSU, PUC, SAU, SWAU, and WWU. Other films came from academy students as well as Avondale College. The award winners were listed as anything from "Best in Fest" and "Best Animation" to "Best Comedy." Adventist World for June 2010 included an announcement about the Worldwide

SONscreen Film Festival Showcase that occurs every five years at the SDA General Conference sessions. The annual festival is a gathering for SDAs “who have a passion for using film and video in the creation of timely and relevant productions for social awareness; outreach; and uplifting, creative entertainment.” The showcases “highlight the very best works of the annual festival and bring them to venues around the world.”

The Voice of Prophecy/Faith for Today (VOP/FFT)

These ministries provide a biblical teaching and training program for church leaders, ministers, and members as part of their evangelistic goals. It is entitled “Jesus101 Biblical Institute.” It develops and offers instruction and resources in the areas of biblical studies and spiritual formation/discipleship. The training takes place in local churches, conferences, unions, and academic institutions. Mike Tucker heads the spiritual formation area, and Elizabeth Talbot heads the Biblical Studies area.

Tucker’s academic training includes: Master’s Degree in Education, Secondary Guidance and Counseling from Pan American University, Texas; graduate studies at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas. Talbot’s academic training includes: Ph.D. (candidate) in Biblical Studies from the University of Gloucestershire, UK; Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, Azusa Pacific University, CA; Master of Arts in Organizational Behavior, Phillips Graduate Institute, CA.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 355

In pursuing their studies, they separate from the God of wisdom. Some congratulate them on their advance, and encourage them to take degree after degree, even though they are less qualified to do the work of God after Christ’s manner of instruction than they were before they entered the school at Battle Creek.

The spiritual disciplines curriculum is adapted from Forster Freeman, Readiness for Ministry through Spiritual Direction. The Alban Institute, 1986. The Alban Institute was founded in 1974 “as a major resource for American congregations facing the challenges of a changing society.” It believes that “if you want to move the world, move a congregation.” It is an ecumenical/interfaith organization that supports congregations through education, consulting, research, online activities, etc. Their website as well as the VOP/FFT Biblical Institute use the typical emerging church terms.

Even though “Jesus101” is “adapted” from The Alban Institute, those doing the adaptation had to expose themselves to falsehood. That not only affects them but also what they write and teach. To use the title “Jesus101” takes His name lightly.

Adventist News Network (ANN)

The following information comes from a November 2005 ANN article entitled “Britain: Soap Opera Highlights Youth, Offers Help.”

- The producer and director of the film states that “One Hope Street is a ‘character-driven drama that looks at the lives of everyday Christian youth as they struggle to find their place in the family, society, the church and the world.’”

- Don McFarlane, Global Mission/Stewardship director for the SDA Church in the Trans-European region, and a production supporter stated that "The strength of *One Hope Street* is the fact that it is in the style of a soap opera, which is so popular with various age groups today."
- They are hoping to make "subsequent episodes where particular issues are being explored in more detail."
- *One Hope Street* aired at the New York Film Festival.
<http://news.adventist.org/2005/11/p/britai-soap-opera-highlights-youth-offers-help.html>

It is time for SDAs to re-evaluate what they are beholding and what they are listening to. Has it become an addiction too strong to let go? Why are SDAs spending valuable time and funds to make what non-SDA organizations already provide? Where are the messages of the three angels? The fourth angel will pass by unnoticed by those who ignore these messages.

Last Day Events, pp. 192-193

I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should therefore be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord.

It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church.... Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

The latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord--fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Adventist World Radio (AWR)

<http://www.awr.org/en/home>

Sadly, AWR plays the popular music of countries worldwide.

Life Talk Radio

<http://www.lifetalk.net>

This music includes modern praise and Christian rock music.

Television and theater

Regarding television, it is not necessarily a sin to own one; however, if we cannot control it, we should not have one.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure,

whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Proverbs 21:17

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man.

Luke 8:14

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Following are some important questions to consider regarding the media we watch:

- What do the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy say about it?
- What effect does it have on us?
- Are we addicted to it?
- Does it make us more spiritually minded?
- Do we watch others commit sin which could lead us to do the same?
- Is it educational or just entertaining?
- Does it glorify God?
- Is it a good use of time? Could that time be better spent helping others?
- Does it make you love the world more than Jesus? Would He watch it?

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 415

The world is teeming with errors and fables. Novelties in the form of sensational dramas are continually arising to engross the mind, and absurd theories abound which are destructive to moral and spiritual advancement.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 2, p. 246

Those who compose these societies, who profess to love and reverence sacred things, and yet allow the mind to come down to the superficial, to the unreal, to the simple, cheap, fictitious acting, are doing the devil's work just as surely as they look upon and unite with these scenes.

The Adventist Home, p. 516

Among the most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. Instead of being a school for morality and virtue, as is so often claimed, it is the very hotbed of immorality. Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes deprave the imagination and debase the morals. Every youth who habitually attends such exhibitions will be

corrupted in principle. There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement.

Creeping Compromise, Joe Crews, Homeward Publishing, Yorba Linda, CA, 2008, p. 74

Translated into a modern setting [Matthew 5:29] Christ was saying that if we have a television set in the home which we cannot control, it is better to cast it out of the house onto the junk pile than to be led into sin by its influence.

The only way to be pure-minded is to look at, listen to, and speak only the things that are pure. [Philippians 4:8]

Ibid., pp. 106-107

Christ is coming very soon. These final probationary moments are for preparing to meet Him. ...There is no time to waste on the inanities [lack of value] of TV, dancing, theater, and worldly pleasures.

From Rock 'N Roll to Rock of Ages, Brian S. Neumann, Southern Africa, 1997, p. 143

God did not intend us to use up our sensitivity on an experience that took place in some Hollywood studio. There is enough in this world, in our very own lives, that merit emotional response of a mature, spiritual nature. The evidence against the pretended and sensational is far too concrete to be controverted and ignored. Those of us who insist on giving the precious gift of emotion to the world of fiction will most surely pay the price of emotional desensitization. Our taste will become corrupted and ultimately we will lose the ability to clearly differentiate between right and wrong....

Today, it is more necessary than ever to think twice before getting involved, to trace each action from cause to effect, and then to weight them up against the truth's of God's word. The vital ingredient that ties this all together and makes it a success is the power of prayer. The open channel of communication between Heaven and Earth must be kept clear at all times....

Our Hero needs to be Jesus Christ.

Drama and worship

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/worship>

Worship: The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object; the ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by which this love is expressed. Ardent devotion.... Adore...God or any person or thing considered divine.

When we adopt the world's ways of worship entertainment, we cheapen spiritual matters. Worship to God includes the first four of the Ten

Commandments. Worshipping Satan includes the opposite. A person will either worship God or Satan, because man was created to worship. The battle over worship began with Cain and Abel, and it will be a fierce battle at the very end of this world.

Exodus 20:3-11

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Matthew 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Beware of anything that is very popular. The entertainment industry is very popular. Satan has worked in a slow, subtle way through entertainment so that mankind will come to worship him. It does not take long for television and the theater to pull a person away from God. It is that type of amusement that affects our thoughts and our feelings, which make up our character. Unless we have a perfect character, we cannot live in a perfect place with a perfect God.

Astrolatry is worship of the stars and has existed for thousands of years. Today we are seeing the worship of the stars of Hollywood. Mankind has gone from the worship of carved idols to human idols.

Deuteronomy 4:16, 19

Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Deuteronomy 29:17

And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them.

The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4, p. 237

Men may not bow down to idols of wood and stone, but all who love the things of the world and take pleasure in unrighteousness have set up idols in their hearts. The majority of professed Christians are serving other gods besides the Lord. Pride and luxury are cherished, idols are set up in the sanctuary, and her holy places are polluted.

It is a known fact that Hollywood is full of Freemasonry and the occult. Aleister Crowley (1875–1947), was an occult leader, mystic, ceremonial magician, and was known in his time as “the wickedest man in the world.” He stated that one method for invoking a “deity” is the dramatic, which is especially attractive to the artist’s temperament since it appeals to the imagination through behavior and outward appearance.

Anton LeVey (1930–1997) who founded the Church of Satan stated that television is a major method for infiltrating the Satanic religion and called the television a “satanic family altar.” He also believed that it is a replacement for real life and has become a “major religion of the masses.”

In other words, to become possessed by demons, join the entertainment industry. Many actors and script writers pray to the “spirits” for help in acting or writing.

Satan laughs because he has succeeded in bringing drama into the SDA Church. If you choose to worship your Creator only, you cannot worship Hollywood or anything that resembles it, including popular music that also promotes mysticism and occultism.

Honor of men

SDAs are placing much focus today on the recognition of accomplishments, education, and careers with congratulatory awards in the form of articles, certificates, plaques, medals, trophies, badges, and pins. While we are to always do our best in everything, we are never to seek recognition. What does God’s Word tell us about this subject?

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 486

He who regards the favor of men as more desirable than the favor of God will fall under the temptation to sacrifice principle for worldly gain or recognition. Thus fidelity to God is constantly being sacrificed.

Ye Shall Receive Power, Ellen G. White, p. 209

Our object in working for the Master should be that His name may be glorified in the conversion of sinners. Those who labor to gain applause are not approved of God.

This Day With God, p. 270

We are not to engage in any employment or enterprise to gain the praise or honor of men.

Our High Calling, p. 184

We must realize that we are in Christ's school, not to learn how we may esteem ourselves, how we shall conduct ourselves so as to receive honor of men, but how we may cherish the meekness of Christ. Self and selfishness will be ever striving for the mastery. It is a fight we must have with ourselves, that self shall not have the victory.

A Call to Stand Apart, p. 65

To seek for self-recognition, for self-glorification, will leave the human agent destitute of the Spirit of God, destitute of that grace which will make him a useful, efficient worker for Christ.

Because there is an abundance of SDA news on honors and awards, which has already been shown in this chapter, included below is another sampling.

<http://news.adventist.org/2008/04/review-of-adventist-flagship-journal-turns-out-awards.html>

On April 29, 2008, Adventist News Network featured "Review of Adventist flagship journal turns out awards." The *Adventist Review* continues to win awards for its "noteworthy articles and Web site design" from the Associated Church Press (ACP) during the group's annual convention. "The Review has taken home similar awards since it first submitted material to the ACP in 1987." The *Canadian Union Messenger* "received two awards of excellence and a merit award for a two-part piece." Notice that the *Adventist Review* submitted the material. Why would an SDA institution seek to receive awards?

The May 28, 2009 issue of the *Adventist Review* included an article entitled "Review Redesign Reaps Rewards, Renown." It discussed how it was "honored with two top awards" by the ACP during a banquet. Also honored was the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* and *Ministry* magazine.

Again, the *Adventist Review* for June 10, 2010 featured "*Adventist Review* Garners Seven Associated Church Press Awards," which were received on May 8, 2010 at the ACP convention. A photo was included of two *Adventist Review* editors standing proudly on either side of Cokie Roberts, the "veteran National Public Radio correspondent" who was a keynote speaker at the convention. *Ministry* magazine was also recognized as receiving an award.

In October 2009, *Adventist World* depicted an individual receiving the biannual NAD Distinguished Service Award in the form of a very large plaque. The person was awarded for "hard work and dedication" to Adventist Single Adult Ministries. How did that make the other singles feel who did not receive a plaque?

Additional *Adventist Review* articles showed the following information:

- "Jan Paulsen Honored at Loma Linda University" with the Presidential Medal.
- Heather Knight received a "medallion of office as president" of Pacific Union College.
- Hundreds of SDAs gathered at Centennial Olympic Park (across from the 2010 SDA General Conference session) for the Adventist Race for

Health. "More than 100 trophies were handed out to runners, many of whom were not Adventists."

Jude 1:16

...and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Luke 16:15

And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Matthew 23:12

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

John 12:42-43

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Job 17:5

He that speaketh flattery to his friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.

<http://www.lifestyle.org/article.php?id=17>

Faith for Today's Lifestyle Magazine received two Telly Awards at the 22nd Annual Telly Awards and the Gold Award at the WorldFest Houston International Film Festival.

<http://www.itiswritten.com/quick-facts>

It Is Written received 32 Angel Awards from the Excellence in Media organization, with two Gold Angels presented to George Vandeman. Twelve statuettes have been received from the Telly Awards since 2002, including the Silver Telly in 2006. A few awards were received from the Aurora Awards between 2002 and 2006.

<http://www.llu.edu/news/360/llu-sweeps-emmy-awards.page>

The Loma Linda University website included an article under "News and Events" entitled "Loma Linda University sweeps its categories at Emmy Awards." A photo included the two young women who won LLU's first Emmy Awards. They are pictured dressed Hollywood style holding their trophies. Why would an SDA university want to be involved in Emmy Awards?

Conflict and Courage, p. 212

The custom of offering praise to men is one that results in great evil. One praises another, and thus men are led to feel that glory and honor belong to them. When you exalt man, you lay a snare for his soul, and do just as Satan would have you.... God alone is worthy to be glorified.

Christian Leadership, p. 45

Men are only men whatever may be their work. The more responsible the position, the more important that the one who stands in this position have no more honor or exaltation given him than is for his good. In fact, people are ruined through praise and honor bestowed upon them as though they were infallible. While due respect should be given to those whom God has entrusted with more than ordinary talents, that man thus endowed needs to walk more humbly and closely with God as he advances.

The Review and Herald, March 15, 1892

Praise and flattery of one another is forbidden in the Scriptures. It is an offense to God, and is an injury both to him who gives and him who receives praise. It is a snare to them; for it separates the soul from God.

The Youth's Instructor, December 6, 1900

The life of Christ is to be our pattern. His life and work in the world are a sample of what our life and work should be. "I receive not honor of men," he said. In his service we need not expect ease of worldly honor; for the Majesty of heaven did not receive these things. "He was despised and rejected of men."

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 80

Those who desire words of praise and flattery, and feed upon them as a sweet morsel, are Christians in name only.

Sons and Daughters of God, p. 132

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:52

It was the simplicity of the life of Christ, and His freedom from pride and vanity, that gave Him favor with God and man. He did not seek to attract attention for distinction.

Prophets and Kings, p. 458

I dare not disregard the commands of God because of the fear or favor of man. I love the truth, I hate sin, and I will follow the counsel of the Mighty One of Israel.

Education, p. 117

Talent is too much idolized, and station too much coveted. There are too many who will do nothing unless they are recognized as leaders; too many who must receive praise, or they have no interest to labor. What we need to learn is faithfulness in making the utmost use of the powers and opportunities we have, and contentment in the lot to which Heaven assigns us.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, p. 218

Our brethren separate themselves from God, by reason of the homage they give to human beings. They may esteem themselves, they may esteem others, and look to themselves and to others with that confidence which should be given to the Lord of Israel. The remedy for these things is the heartfelt belief of Bible truth, taking the plainest declaration of the Scriptures. There is great need for all who are placed in positions of trust, who have an influence over other minds, to take heed that, in their positions of trust, they do not prove to be agents through whom the enemy can work, to the detriment of souls. If the weak brother perish, the blood of his soul will be required at your hand.

Education, p. 93

At the ordination of the Twelve the disciples had greatly desired that Judas should become one of their number, and they had counted his accession an event of much promise to the apostolic band. He had come more into contact with the world than they, he was a man of good address, of discernment and executive ability, and, having a high estimate of his own qualifications, he had led the disciples to hold him in the same regard. But the methods he desired to introduce into Christ's work were based upon worldly principles and were controlled by worldly policy. They looked to the securing of worldly recognition and honor--to the obtaining of the kingdom of this world. The working out of these desires in the life of Judas, helped the disciples to understand the antagonism between the principle of self-aggrandizement and Christ's principle of humility and self-sacrifice--the principle of the spiritual kingdom. In the fate of Judas they saw the end to which self-serving tends.

We do not need to go to each other or the world to give or receive praise. Sadly, this desire is widespread in our institutions and has been for quite some time. We are doing others a dishonor by honoring them. We must learn to improve ourselves and work for God without self-praise in mind. The praise, honor, and glory must not go to ourselves, but to God.

Isaiah 12:4

And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 318

Sad will be the retrospect in that day when men stand face to face with eternity. The whole life will present itself just as it has been. The world's pleasures, riches, and honors will not then seem so important.

Ibid., p. 374

And better than all the words of earthly praise will be the Saviour's words to His faithful servants, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34.

My Life Today, p. 326

The wounds and scars of our warfare will be to us, as to Paul, the trophies of victory.

Medical work

The information that follows is only part of the apostasy and spiritualism in the SDA health care system. It is not following the plan that God showed His prophet, Ellen White.

Pamphlet 094 39 (Testimonies and Experiences Connected with the Loma Linda Sanitarium and College of Medical Evangelists)

Forty years ago the Lord began to give us instruction in regard to the establishment of sanitariums as one of His chosen ways for proclaiming the third angel's message.... Our sanitariums are to be schools in which people of all classes shall be taught the way of salvation. In them the sick are to be taught to overcome the appetite for tea, coffee, flesh-meat, tobacco and intoxicating liquor of all kinds. In every one of our medical institutions the sick and suffering are to be pointed to the Saviour as their only hope....

While SDA hospitals teach against smoking and alcoholic drinks, many now allow tea, coffee, and meat. Proclaiming the third angel's message is practically unheard of. Would that have something to do with the ecumenical movement and ignoring God's instructions? The focus is now on making money and being successful. Medical evangelists and natural remedies hardly exist today except in self-supporting work.

The Medical Evangelist, January 1, 1910

Let the students be given a practical education. And the less dependent you are upon worldly methods of education, the better it will be for the students. Special instructions should be given in the art of treating the sick without the use of poisonous drugs, and in harmony with the light God has given. Students should come forth from the school without having sacrificed the principles of health reform.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 127

Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power--these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them.

Medical Ministry, pp. 230-231

God has caused to grow out of the ground herbs for the use of man, and if we understand the nature of these roots and herbs, and make a right use of them, there would not be a necessity of running for the doctor so frequently, and people would be in much better health than they are today.

Adventist HealthCare, Maryland

<http://www.adventisthealthcare.com/adam/complementary%20and%20alternative%20medicine/33/000364.html>

This website included an overview on yoga as follows:

- A definition of yoga that stressed energizing and balancing the whole person, improving overall well-being, and that “most Westerners practice yoga for exercise or to reduce stress.”
- Information on yoga’s history and that it is “considered a complete lifestyle that provides a path to spiritual enlightenment.”
- The “dimensions of yoga” depicted as a tree with eight limbs to represent breathing, postures, restraint, healthy observances, sensory withdrawal, concentration, meditation, and higher consciousness.
- Descriptions of twelve types of yoga.
- Information on how yoga works, including breathing, postures, and meditation (still the mind).
- Precautions were given for the yoga exercises.
- Resources were included, such as the International Association of Yoga Therapists, the Yoga Alliance, and the Yoga Journal.

Not only is it amazing that an SDA health care institution would recommend yoga, but only give precautions for the exercises and not the meditation and higher consciousness.

Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), Maryland

<http://www.washingtonadventisthospital.com/WAH/health/calendar/detail.aspx?eventId=1730e9d1-76ee-df11-a7c0-e0cb4ef9b7ad>

Beginner tai chi classes are taught at the WAH. It was stated that the Chinese “coed exercise program will help improve balance and coordination, flexibility and range of motion and strength.”

<http://www.adventisthealthcare.com/health/event-search-results-detail.aspx?eventId=5938b146-c449-e011-8929-e0cb4ef9b7ad>

Beginner yoga classes are also taught at this hospital: “Learn Yoga exercises to ease tense muscles, tone the internal organs and improve flexibility of joints and ligaments. Learn to improve your strength, flexibility and de-stress. . . .”

<http://www.washingtonadventisthospital.com/WAH/index.aspx>

The WAH also includes a “Health & Wellness/Alternative Therapies/Treatment Options” section, with a list of complementary and alternative medicine, most of it being New Age therapies, including hypnotherapy (hypnosis). A disclaimer follows which states: “The information contained in this website, and its associated websites, is provided as a benefit to the local community, and the Internet community in general; it does not constitute medical advice. We try to provide quality information, but we make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in or linked to this website and its associated sites. As medical advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each patient and healthcare is constantly changing, nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of a competent physician. Furthermore, in providing this service, Adventist HealthCare does not condone or support all of the content covered in this site. As an Adventist health care organization, Adventist HealthCare acts in accordance with the ethical and religious directives for Adventist health care services.”

Why do Adventist HealthCare and WAH bother listing New Age therapies if they claim to not support all the methods? It is hypocritical to make it available to the community when not agreeing with it all. WAH already uses New Age methods, such as yoga, so why not approve of all the methods since they come from the same source?

Under "Pastoral Care Services/Suggested Reading/Prayer & Spirituality" is a recommendation for the book *Contemplative Prayer* by Thomas Merton.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (SGAH), Maryland

<http://www.shadygroveadventisthospital.com/SGAH/index.aspx>

SGAH also promotes the same as listed above for WAH.

Centura Health, Colorado

<http://www.centura.org>; <http://www.centurahealthannualreport.org>

In typical ecumenical fashion, Centura Health includes approximately four SDA hospitals and six non-SDA hospitals or medical centers. It began in the 1990s and is now Colorado's largest hospital and healthcare network. The Board of Trustees includes not only SDAs but also two executives of Catholic Health Initiatives and a retiree from Catholic Charities.

Adventist Midwest Health, Illinois

http://www.keepingchicagowell.com/library/healthy_living/take_care_of_your_spiritual_health

A doctor from Adventist Midwest Health has suggested practicing yoga, meditation, or other relaxation techniques.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center (GAMC), California

<http://www.glendaleadventist.com>

Following are some of the practices used at GAMC:

- One of the psychiatric services is somatic therapy, which is closely linked with New Age practices and used by psychotherapists and others for relieving or resolving symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. <http://www.glendaleadventist.com/body.cfm?id=66>
- Recommends Alcoholics Anonymous as a resource under its Alcohol and Drug Services.
- Psychologists are used.

Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC), California

<http://onlinepressroom.net/llu>

Below are some of the LLUMC Newsroom Press Releases for the end of 2010.

- LLUMC adds color to the 2011 Donate Life Rose Parade Float.
- "Santa Claus" arrived on a motorcycle for the 18th annual LLUMC Children's Hospital Toy Run.
- Los Angeles (California) Angels baseball players brought "cheer" to children at LLUMC Children's Hospital.
- A baseball "legend" was the guest speaker for LLUMC Health Care's second annual Sports Luncheon and Trivia Extravaganza to raise funds for the disabled.

- Children at LLUMC Children's Hospital spent time with local "Superheroes."

This hospital is not what the Lord intended when it started as a sanitarium in 1905.

Sonora Regional Medical Center (SRMC), California

<http://www.sonoramedicalcenter.org>

An SRMC press release in April 2008 announced that the hospital would be offering a two-day training entitled "Spiritual Care in the Health Care Setting." Local guest speakers included an executive pastor at Sierra Bible Church, the pastor of the Old Brethren Church, a nun from St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and the thanatologist and founder of Dawn's Light.

A thanatologist is a practitioner who deals with death and grief, particularly its social and psychological aspects. Dawn's Light includes an "Introductory Emotional Freedom Technique 1 day workshop which provides a solid foundation in EFT theory and hands on application. EFT is a simple process of tapping on the energy meridians with your finger tips as you focus on your block or issue to remove them and return to a healthy state." There is also Level 2 training. This is Eastern mysticism and occultism.

Florida Hospital, Orlando, Florida

<http://www.floridahospital.com>

This hospital boasts that it has grown into the "largest network of hospital and urgent care facilities in Central Florida." What does inspiration have to say on this matter?

Counsels on Health, p. 239

I have been repeatedly shown that it is not wise to erect mammoth institutions. It is not by the largeness of an institution that the greatest work for souls is to be accomplished.

Ibid., p. 242

In the building of our sanitariums we must guard carefully against any unnecessary extravagance in our outlay of means. It is our duty to study simplicity.... The impression that we desire to be left upon the minds of the patients is that of the truths we teach rather than of the grandeur of the buildings.

The following examples reveal the results of disregarding the Lord's instructions:

- Among the non-SDA resources offered by Florida Hospital to support local clergy has been the Association of Professional Chaplains, Asbury Theological Seminary, Florida Center for Theological Studies, Reformed Theological Seminary, and The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
- Among other things, a *Shrek the Third* sticker book has been for sale in the hospital gift shop. Shrek is an ogre, which in folklore is a monster or giant that eats humans and is cruel and hideous. The movie includes fairy

tale villains that invade and attack, black knights, wicked witches, outlaws, pirates, a tavern and a bar, betrayal, a magic spell, and attempted killing.

- The 7-story Florida Hospital for Children includes a \$65 million expansion program, with an increase in the number of beds as well as the Walt Disney Pavilion “growing by leaps and bounds,” with a 15,000-square-foot addition, a new entrance, lobby, and three-level atrium. Activities involved the following:
 - Members of the U.S. Military All-Stars baseball team visited the patients.
 - A toy delivery became so “wildly popular” that it was featured on both the Rosie O'Donnell Show and Oprah.”
 - The pavilion allows guests to draw on a cave wall, visit the life-size figures of Disney characters, “generate jungle sounds,” “fish for virtual salmon or play in a magical world of popping bubbles and dancing sea horses. Each night as the sun sets, the lobby will transform into a celestial display, featuring constellations on the ceiling and a musical score created by the young patients. This captivating experience will allow children to use their imaginations to get lost in a world of magic and fantasy, ultimately evoking a healing environment and enhancing the patient experience.” The waiting area is “specially decorated and includes television programs and toys to keep your child and their siblings occupied while they await care.”

Counsels on Health, p. 240

Worldly or theatrical entertainments are not essential for the prosperity of the sanitarium or for the health of the patients. The more they have of this kind of amusements, the less will they be pleased unless something of the kind shall be continually carried on. The mind is in a fever of unrest for something new and exciting, the very thing it ought not to have. And if these amusements are once allowed, they are expected again, and the patients lose their relish for any simple arrangement to occupy the time. But repose, rather than excitement, is what many of the patients need.

The president of Florida Hospital stated, “Together, we are building a children’s hospital that we hope will usher in a new era of healthcare and serve as a model for future hospitals.” God’s faithful can only pray that no other medical institution will model after this kind of hospital. The new era that should be ushered in is SDA medical institutions not doing according to their own likes but following God’s plan in order to hasten Christ’s return.

The April 26, 2010 *Orlando Business Journal* described Florida Hospital’s plans to move ahead with the “second and third pieces of its 172-acre, mixed-use Health Village in north Orlando.” The first piece was a \$47 million, seven-story medical office building. Construction started at the end of 2010 on a \$20 million, 3-story research center. Plans for 2011 include a \$25 million, 200-unit apartment complex. The Health Village will also include retail, parks and more.

According to a May 2009 article in the *Orlando Sentinel* Florida newspaper, the president of Adventist Health in Winter Park, Florida earned \$3.5 million,

according to 2007 IRS filings. It was stated that his compensation was more than what the top administrators received (combined) at Johns Hopkins Health System (Baltimore, Maryland) and the Mayo Clinic (Arizona, Florida, and Minnesota). The president of Florida Hospital made \$1.1 million. The local hospital officials state that they pay their executives only what they are worth and that the community gets quality care because of it. Yet there are many who find these figures very excessive, especially for non-profit hospitals that use the SDA name. One Florida physician believes the hospital administrators are making money at the expense of the people, since many go without medical care because they cannot afford it. It is interesting to note that the IRS and the U.S. Congress looked into this matter.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 199

The Lord calls for self-denial in His service, and this obligation is binding upon physicians as well as upon ministers. We have before us an aggressive work which requires means, and we must call into service young men to labor as ministers and as physicians, not for the highest wages, but because of the great needs of God's cause. The Lord is not pleased with this spirit of grasping for the highest wages. We need physicians and ministers whose hearts are consecrated to God, and who receive their marching orders from the greatest Medical Missionary that has ever trod this earth. Let them behold His life of self-denial, and then gladly sacrifice, in order that more workers may engage in sowing the gospel seed. If all will work in this spirit, less wages will be required.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 633

That which had been shown me as a place where the suffering sick among us could be helped was one where sacrifice, hospitality, faith, and piety should be the ruling principles. But when unqualified calls were made for large sums of money, with the statement that stock taken would pay large per cent; when the brethren who occupied positions in the institution seemed more than willing to take larger wages than those were satisfied with who filled other and equally important stations in the great cause of truth and reform; when I learned, with pain, that, in order to make the institution popular with those not of our faith and to secure their patronage, a spirit of compromise was rapidly gaining ground at the Institute, manifested in the use of Mr., Miss, and Mrs., instead of Brother and Sister, and in popular amusements, in which all could engage in a sort of comparatively innocent frolic--when I saw these things, I said: This is not that which was shown me as an institution for the sick which would share the signal blessing of God. This is another thing.

Ibid., Vol. 9, p. 175

Moreover, should we follow the world's methods of medical practice, exact[ing] the large fees that worldly physicians demand for their services, we would work away from Christ's plan for our ministry to the sick.

<http://www.adventist-fl.com/news/index.php?s=dick>

The Florida Conference of SDA announced an Ecumenical Sunrise Service to be held on March 27, 2005 at Lakeside Park in downtown Celebration. Various

local community churches participated including Celebration SDA Church, which meets inside Florida Hospital Celebration Health. The event was advertised with the title “Celebration Congregation Invites Community to Easter Festivities.” There was an “array of free programs and experiences during the Easter holiday.” Friday evening through Sunday evening featured a 24/7 prayer room that was open in the Celebration Health Chapel in which the public was welcome to come. Sabbath morning featured “Sabbath Celebration” in the Celebration Health atrium. Dick Duerksen, the director of Florida Hospital Mission Development at the time, was the presenter. That evening featured a concert with popular gospel music by two recording artists.

It is not surprising that part of this hospital system includes a building named Celebration Health. The activities that Florida Hospital is involved in do not properly represent God’s idea of how to share health and the gospel. It is nothing to celebrate.

Sanitarium Health Food Company, Australia

<http://www.sanitarium.com.au/about-us/sanitarium-news/2010/kids-tryathlon-breaks-world-record>;

<http://weet-bix.com.au>

Owned by the SDA Church, this institution featured the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon event under its Health & Wellbeing Services. They were “so excited to share the news” that they “smashed the World Record” and are planning “an even better 2011 Kids TRYathlon series.” There are always well known athletes involved with the promotions and handing out of medals to the winners. The conference-wide SDA churches feature bulletin announcements about the event.

St. Helena Hospital (SHH), California

<http://www.sthelenahospital.org>

Fund-raising events at this hospital for 2011 include a tennis tournament, a golf tournament, and a gala. In October 2010 the 16th Annual SHH Foundation gala was held at a winery to honor a financial contributor.

Movies, coffee, jewelry and New Age items are also available at this hospital.

<http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/39/8/516>

In August 2010, the Pacific Union *Recorder* wrote about the new Martin-O’Neil Cancer Center at SHH. Hope is “embodied in the 13-foot high sculpture that adorns the lobby.” JoAline Olson, vice president of Innovations at Adventist Health says, “The Hope Tree is the first thing you see upon entering the facility. We want everyone who comes through the door to feel peace, relief, to know that they’ve found a place that will help them through this ordeal.” The trunk of the tree has an “opening that holds messages from patients, family members and caregivers.” “Engraved on the tree are 48 symbols of hope from around the world, representing different cultures and faiths. . . .” These are messages of hope, of encouragement, of love.” A crucifix was also placed inside the Hope Tree.

Below are a few of the symbols and partial descriptions from a brochure made available at an open house held in November 2009.

- Spiral (also on each leaf): An ancient symbol that “may have represented the ‘life-death-rebirth’ cycle to our ancestors. Like the spiral, we look up and outward, hoping there is more to our existence than we know.”
- Phoenix: “The phoenix rising from the ashes is a classic Greek symbol of rebirth. It reminds us that, in embracing life, we can overcome death.”
- Lotus: “The symbol of enlightenment in many cultures. . . .”

In the occult world, the spiral symbolizes the Kundalini force (a type of yoga) and “rising in consciousness.” The Phoenix is a legendary bird in mythology associated with sun worship and a symbol of immortality (an occult alternative to Christian salvation). The lotus is a symbol of the “mystic center,” evolution, bisexuality, etc. The brochure also mentioned the “healing nature” of the tree. This is nothing more than pagan idol worship.

One cancer center ad for the Women’s Cancer Support Group promoted a guest speaker who is a doctor specializing in therapeutics from both East and West. Here are some of the alternative services SHH offers: aromatherapy, music therapy, guided imagery, Reiki, acupressure, foot reflexology, therapeutic touch, and shiatsu. These are all New Age practices.

A planning meeting held at SHH for the cancer center covered the teachings of Starizon, which is an “experience design” consulting firm dedicated to teaching companies how to design “world-class experiences” that creates innovation, loyalty, and profits. In the health care field it is about “putting patients first,” such as: 1) personalizing their stay by providing such things as a resource library and a dining area for patients and their families; 2) providing for the five senses, such as food, beverage, music, entertainment, color, and memorabilia; 3) creating a place within the place, such as just for cancer patients; 4) providing classes on how to relax and think positively; 5) providing a walking labyrinth for prayer or meditation and other New Age practices.

Part of Starizon’s teachings includes creativity and authenticity. It believes that “change in any organization is difficult and catalysts are designed to encourage everyone to embrace these changes more rapidly.” According to Leland Kaiser (see next section below), “Starizon is a one-of-a-kind place where experience reigns supreme and you can explore the outer limits of possibility for your healthcare organization. I highly recommend that your organization consider it as a place for an organizational retreat, an extraordinary team development experience, or an intense session of strategic planning, innovation or futuring. A number of large corporations have already discovered the magic at Starizon. If you act soon, you can join them in an experience of a lifetime.”

The cancer center stresses “abundant health, hope, and healing” as the “employee experience” for itself and the rest of the hospital. However, John 10:10 says, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” True abundance comes from God, not New Age beliefs.

If SHH continues in the direction it is headed, its employees may never join in the true experience of a lifetime when Jesus comes to take His faithful home. Because this hospital is so close to Elmhaven, it is appropriate to quote from

the messenger of the Lord who would never have approved of what is transpiring today.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 586-587

Let religious principles be made prominent and kept so; let pride and popularity be discarded; let simplicity and plainness, kindness and faithfulness, be seen everywhere; then the sanitarium will be just what God intended it should be; then the Lord will favor it.

Unless SHH or any of the SDA hospitals that are involved in the above-mentioned practices and more are not humbled and taken back to where they should be, the Lord's favor cannot rest upon them.

It is also sad to note that in July 2008, the Elmshaven SDA Church in St. Helena, California, displayed a large cloth prayer labyrinth on the floor of their youth room/fellowship hall.

Leland Kaiser

As described earlier in this chapter, Kaiser is the founder and president of Kaiser Consulting (a health care consulting firm located in Brighton, Colorado); co-founder of the Kaiser Institute and Two Worlds Wisdom School; a motivational speaker "known for his ability to change the way organizations think"; an advocate of self-designing communities and organizations; an intuitive, executive coach, and organizational consultant; an author, educator, and pioneer in the field of electronic teaching technologies; a futurist and "acknowledged authority on the changing American healthcare system"; a mentor to many hospitals and healthcare organizations in the U.S.; and a pioneer in tithing programs for hospitals.

Kaiser has master's degrees in Medical Care Administration and Clinical Psychology and a doctoral degree in Social Psychology and Higher Education. He is involved in the design of new communities and state-of-the-art hospital architecture and has experience with Disney, Florida Hospital, and Celebration City. His speaking topics include innovation, alternative medicine, management, and spirituality (which he differentiates from religion). His speaker's fee ranges from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

In a January 2009 *Adventist Review* online, under "Money Issue Highlights," is the title "Success Is out of Control: Futurist Leland Kaiser believes corporate tithing really boosts the bottom line." So far, one can see a large focus on money.

<http://www.starizon.org/explorations.htm>

Kaiser co-authored the book *Courage to Be First* with Mark Scott, who was an original member of Kaiser's CEO group called, "Knights of the Healthcare Roundtable." The book describes how Scott and his colleagues "transformed Mid Columbia Medical Center from a traditional hospital to an innovative center for whole person healing." They introduced a "holistic approach to meeting people's needs of body, mind and spirit and welcomed families and friends into the healing process." The book cover artwork depicts part of a prayer labyrinth.

<http://www.kaiser.net/index.php>; <http://www.twoworldswisdom.org>;

<http://gnosticnotes.blogspot.com>

Below are some dangerous statements made by Kaiser on his websites.

- “Jesus was a Gnostic and a practicing Jew.” “Gnosis or wisdom is found in all religions.” “I am a committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian and a Gnostic.”

Gnosis is actually a belief system mixed with Eastern and Greek philosophy from the 1st to the 6th century A.D. It is a mix of paganism and Christianity. Secret knowledge is stressed rather than faith as a way of salvation.

- “Five senses are not enough to help you very much. That is why fourth dimensional perception is so important. It is the dimension of connectedness and enables you to perceive anything from the inside out. To know anything, you have to know how it is connected to everything else in the quantum field through time and space.” “Intuition is a faculty of consciousness that operates beyond your brain, your nervous system and your third dimensional experiences and memory. Of course, the fifth and sixth dimensions will reveal an even more complete picture of That Which Is.” “If you want to dive into levels of greater depth, you will be involved in the pursuit of Gnosis.” “At a depth level, you can learn the art and science of remote viewing” and learn to become “conscious in the fourth dimension. So, Gnosis is not essential for your salvation. It is for your edification.”
- “We no longer have the opportunity to learn in person from Lao Tzu or Paramahansa Yogananda, but we do have the opportunity each year to be with very special wisdom elders.”

As mentioned earlier, Lao Tzu was a Chinese Taoist philosopher and the father of Taoism. Yogananda was born in India and became a guru on meditation and yoga, introducing it to westerners.

- “The soul of the organization can be felt everywhere in the institution but often is best encountered in sacred areas of the hospital that are most conducive to it, such as the chapel, labyrinth, meditation garden, and walking paths.”
- “All substance is intelligent and you can communicate with it.”
- “Sufficient resources exist to accomplish anything you want to do.”
- “Honor all things.”
- “From an evolutionary unfoldment perspective, everything is perfect now—just as it is. It is where it should be and will get even better as it goes along.”
- “Each thought, feeling, and action impacts the universe, generates karma, and requires a balance factor to be supplied by the initiator. You can volunteer to meet the penalty of another person’s negative karma.”
- “Magic is the ability to change consciousness at will and thereby alter all things.”
- “With sufficient soul maturation, there is no loss of consciousness in sleep, death, or dreams.”

- "With sufficient soul advancement, the universe is obedient to your commands."
- "All creation evolves toward God."
- Kaiser has used "SoulCards" many times. He believes they are "navigation aids for exploring your unconscious and superconscious minds."
- Kaiser promotes "Touch Drawing." It is not recommend that you go to this website, since it is part of the occult, but the link is provided as evidence:
<http://www.touchdrawing.com/4Deborah/interpretiveSS/TwoWorlds08/TwoWorlds08.html>
- Kaiser also promotes "Direct Writing." He explains: "Get quiet and centered. Write a question in your notebook. . . . Then . . . intend the answer to come. Let the inner voice start by addressing you directly, perhaps by name, then allow words to arise, one by one, without censorship, as a spontaneous flow of commentary. Don't think ahead, don't second-guess what's being said. If a strange word comes into your head, write it down! Whatever word is supposed to follow that one will simply occur next. Don't stop and read back over what you've written. You're taking dictation. When it's ready, the writing will finish by itself." The dictation Kaiser refers to originates from Satan. Kaiser has also used the word "Thoth" in his signature. It is an Egyptian god of the moon, magic, and writing.

Please do not try any of the above practices. They are dangerous, because they lead to demon possession.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 110

Human theories and speculations will never lead to an understanding to God's word. Those who suppose that they understand philosophy think that their explanations are necessary to unlock the treasures of knowledge and to prevent heresies from coming into the church. But it is these explanations that have brought in false theories and heresies.

<http://www.atoday.com/files/Vol%202%20No%203.pdf>

The following ideas come from statements made by Kaiser in the May/June 1994 Adventist Today:

- SDAs must change their minds and some of their practices; they must change their paradigm, because "the world is changing rapidly around us." If SDAs do not change their "traditional ideas about health care," they will not survive.
- "We like to call ourselves 'the remnant,' but the remnant is often the last thing you see before the entity disappears. So it is important to begin changing our mind. The challenge is a change of consciousness."
- "Work cooperatively with the community, reach out and embrace others, acknowledge them as allies" in the SDA health mission and "emphasize our religious similarities with other Christians. A humorous example of the old paradigm is our obsession to keep meat and pepper out of the Adventist hospital cafeteria."

- “Under the old paradigm we hire and promote Seventh-day Adventists in our hospitals whether or not they are the best qualified people for the job. New paradigm: hire and promote the people best qualified for the job.” “Celebrate the spirituality in all people.” “The mission of our hospitals cannot be accomplished by Seventh-day Adventists, because there are not enough of us.” “Develop trust relationships based upon mutual respect for . . . non-Adventist beliefs and values.” “View Catholic hospitals as important allies” since “they have the most outstanding examples of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

Counsels on Health, p. 239

A mammoth sanitarium requires many workers. And where so many are brought together, it is exceedingly difficult to maintain a high standard of spirituality. In a large institution it often happens that responsible places are filled by workers who are not spiritual-minded, who do not exercise wisdom in dealing with those who, if wisely treated, would be awakened, convicted, and converted.

- “The old paradigm considers all religions other than Seventh-day Adventism as inferior. New paradigm: When it comes to medical care, we should take a bow because we are in the major league here at Loma Linda University.” “Invite people of all spiritual persuasions to work with us in the mission of God.” Kaiser believes that “all those who have a spiritual nature and interest are a brother and a sister” of his “in God's family” and that “we can journey together. Celebrate all spirituality wherever it is.”
- “Because of good council from Ellen White and others, we can offer a service and a perspective not shared by many others in the world.” “New paradigm: know in your heart that Seventh-day Adventist hospitals are about to enter the very best stage of their fulfillment and they will soon become world leaders in health education, disease prevention, and healthful living.”

True SDAs will stick with the “old paradigm,” especially as they see the results of the “new paradigm”: lowered standards, apostasy, New Theology, New Age, occultism, and an SDA medical system that has gone after the world, especially in consulting with a New Age occultist. Unless it renounces these practices, it will enter the very worst stage of its existence.

<http://news.adventist.org/2000/08/avetist-teachers-make-history-with-largest-conventio-of-its-ki.html>

On August 22, 2000, Adventist News Network announced the “largest convention of its kind” in which about 6,000 SDA educators for elementary and high school met together. Kaiser was among the “internationally renowned speakers” at the convention.

<http://www.kaiser.net/client-list>

Here are some of the SDA institutions on the Kaiser client list: Adventist HealthCare; Andrews University; Florida Hospital; General Conference of SDAs; Glendale Adventist Medical Center; Loma Linda University and Medical Center; NAD of SDAs; Porter Adventist Hospital; PorterCare Adventist Hospital;

Rocky Mountain Adventist Healthcare; Southern Adventist University. Kaiser has infiltrated to the very top of the SDA Church leadership.

<http://brightonenglish22.adventistchurchconnect.org/index.php>

The church bulletin for the Brighton SDA Church in Colorado included “A Deeper Look- Fellowship Hall: Dr. Leland Kaiser.” Why has the church not disfellowshipped him because of his open and continued involvement in the occult? Tragically, his son, Kevin, and daughter, Leanne, are following in his footsteps.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 14, p. 60

No one is to put truth to the torture by cheap imaginings, by putting a forced, mystical construction upon the Word. Thus they are in danger of turning the truth of God into a lie. There are those who need in their hearts the touch of the divine Spirit. Then the message for this time will be their burden. They will not search for human tests, for something new and strange.

This Day With God, p. 247

Many are investigating Spiritualism simply from curiosity. They have no real faith in it, and would start back horrified at the idea of becoming mediums; but they are venturing on forbidden and dangerous ground. When they are fast in the toils of the deceiver, they find they are in the power of him who makes the most abject slaves of his servants, and nothing can deliver them but the power of God. The only safety for us is in trusting implicitly and following faithfully the instruction of the Word of God. The Bible is the only chart that marks out the narrow path which shuns the pitfalls of destruction. . . .

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 71

Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church.

Evangelism, pp. 368-369

God is not pleased with the slothful work done in the churches. He expects His stewards to be true and faithful in giving reproof and correction. They are to expel wrong after the rule God has given in His Word, not according to their own ideas and impulses. No harsh means must be used, no unfair, hasty, impulsive work done. The efforts made to cleanse the church from moral uncleanness must be made in God's way. There must be no partiality, no hypocrisy. There must be no favorites, whose sins are regarded as less sinful than those of others. Oh, how much we all need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Then we shall always work with the mind of Christ, with kindness, compassion, and sympathy, showing love for the sinner while hating sin with a perfect hatred.

SDA Leadership

Isaiah 9:16

For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, p. 41

I am instructed to say that those who would tear down the foundation that God has laid are not to be accepted as the teachers and leaders of His people.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 210-211

Satan's chief work is at the headquarters of our faith. He spares no pains to corrupt men in responsible positions and to persuade them to be unfaithful to their several trusts. He insinuates his suspicions and jealousies into the minds of those whose business it is to do God's work faithfully. While God is testing and proving these helpers, and fitting them for their posts, Satan is doing his utmost to deceive and allure them, that they may not only be destroyed themselves, but may influence others to do wrong and to injure the great work. He seeks by all the means in his power to shake the confidence of God's people in the voice of warning and reproof through which God designs to purify the church and prosper His cause.

Ibid., Vol. 2, p. 439

Men who stand in very responsible positions at the heart of the work are asleep. Satan has paralyzed them in order that his plans and devices may not be discerned, while he is active to ensnare, deceive, and destroy.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 409

Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath.... Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is.

The Review and Herald, April 2, 1908

A great danger threatens us in the influence of some who have not followed on step by step to know the Lord. False doctrines have come into our ranks in some places, doctrines that are creating a careless neglect to keep the way of the Lord. There are among us men who in the past God has used to his name's glory, but who are now being ensnared by Satan's deceptions. Many who once prized the truth, because they have refused to heed the instruction God has sent, have become independent and full of self-justification. These men are not to be entrusted as guides for us or for our youth.

Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 411

We shall in the future, as we have in the past, see all kinds of character developed. We shall witness the apostasy of men in whom we have had

confidence, in whom we trusted, who, we supposed, were as true as steel to principle.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 620

All who endeavor to excuse or conceal their sins, and permit them to remain upon the books of Heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. The more exalted their profession, and the more honorable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God, and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, p. 183

The message given man to proclaim in these last days is not to be amalgamated with worldly opinions. In these days of peril, nothing but obedience will keep man from apostasy. God has bestowed on man great light and many blessings. But unless this light and these blessings are received, they are no security against apostasy and disobedience. When those whom God has exalted to positions of high trust turn from Him to human wisdom, their light becomes darkness; and how great is that darkness! Their entrusted capabilities are a snare to them. They become an offense to God. There can be no mockery of God without the sure result.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 265

The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt, and as stated in Revelation, "a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Through association with the world our institutions will become unsubstantial, unreliable; because these worldly elements, introduced and placed in positions of trust, are looked up to as teachers to be respected in their educating, directing, and official position, and they are sure to be worked upon by the spirit and power of darkness; so that the demarcation becomes not distinguished between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.

Pamphlet 157 17-18 (Special Testimony to the Oakland and Battle Creek Churches)

During the week of prayer God would have wrought in a manner you have not yet realized were it not for the corrupting principles existing in the church at the very heart of the work, where it was supposed and where it has been taught that the counsel coming therefrom was of God. But the neglect of the measures that should have been taken to cleanse from our institutions and from our church their moral defilement, has brought the wrath of God upon his people.

Last Day Events, pp. 204-206

In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged.... God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by

the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals.

The Comforter is to reveal Himself, not in any specified, precise way that man may mark out, but in the order of God--in unexpected times and ways that will honor His own name.

He will raise up from among the common people men and women to do His work, even as of old He called fishermen to be His disciples. There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places....

It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought that is needed. This is of more value than brilliant talent, tact, or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a "Thus saith the Lord," is better qualified for God's work than are those who have capabilities but do not employ them rightly....

Words will come from the lips of the unlearned with such convincing power and wisdom that conversions will be made to the truth. Thousands will be converted under their testimony.

Why should the illiterate man have this power, which the learned man has not? The illiterate one, through faith in Christ, has come into the atmosphere of pure, clear truth, while the learned man has turned away from the truth. The poor man is Christ's witness. He cannot appeal to histories or to so-called high science, but he gathers from the Word of God powerful evidence.

When the heavenly intelligences see that men will no longer present the truth in simplicity as did Jesus, the very children will be moved upon by the Spirit of God and will go forth proclaiming the truth for this time.

The following includes details about some of the SDA leaders and conferences who are leading others into spiritual darkness.

Atlantic Union Conference of SDAs

<http://www.atlantic-union.org/pastors-teachers2009.html>

In August 2009 the Atlantic Union Conference held a Pastors and Teachers Convention that was co-sponsored by the Ministerial Departments and the Office of Education in the Atlantic Union, Bermuda, Greater New York, New York, Northeastern, Northern New England, and Southern New England Conferences. A special feature included a "4 Ball, Best Ball, 27 Holes Golf Tournament," which included prizes for the "longest drive," "closest to the pin," and the winning team.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/tournament>

Tournament

1. A series of contests in which a number of contestants compete and the one that prevails through the final round or that finishes with the best record is declared the winner.

2. A medieval martial sport in which two groups of mounted and armored combatants fought against each other with blunted lances or swords.

Is a golf tournament something that our Church pastors and teachers should be involved in as witnesses for church members and students?

<http://www.atlantic-union.org/images/Gleaner%20Online/Apr09Gleaner.pdf>

Some of the articles featured in the April 2009 Atlantic Union *Gleaner* are described below.

- Ron Halvorsen, Sr. visited the Patchogue SDA Church in New York and presented two messages entitled "Faith on Fire" and "Prayer Revival." In the afternoon he presented a seminar that discussed in depth three topics: taking cities for God, prayer walking, and warfare praying (prayer warriors). The prayer-filled seminar concluded with a music concert. Many of the church members have since stated that they "appreciated the presentations and have put into practice much of what they learned."
- A communication workshop was held in Albany, New York in February 2009, in which a photo is shown of attendees from area churches in the Northeastern Conference of SDAs. They are standing during a morning devotional service with their hands raised "to praise the Lord in song."
- A GODencounters Young Adult Retreat article entitled "24/7 Worship" included a photo of Maria Long, an SDA pastor's wife, singing popular Christian rock/pop with a guitar and dressed in destroyed jeans (new jeans that look very worn). The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that in spiritual meetings we are to wear the best we have, not something that looks as though a person was in major destruction. That is a distraction, irreverent, and a disgrace to our Creator. The exception is if that is all a person has to wear, but that is certainly not the case in this situation.

Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, pp. 86-87

All who meet upon the Sabbath to worship God, should, if possible, have neat, well-fitting, comely garments to wear in the house of worship. It is a dishonor to the Sabbath, to God, and to his house, for those who profess to believe that the Sabbath is the holy of the Lord, and honorable, to wear upon that day the soiled clothing which they have worn through the labors of the week, if they can obtain anything more suitable....

In their dress they avoid superfluity and display; but their clothing is modest, and arranged upon the person with order and taste. They are more anxious for their bodies to be in a condition to glorify God, than they are to be clothed according to the latest dictates of fashion.

<http://www.bandsintown.com/event/3866914-maria-long-bonnerdale-ar-live-at-bonnerdale-sda-church-on-october-02-2010?artist=Maria+Long>

In October 2010, Maria Long performed at the Bonnerdale SDA Church in Arkansas. She is also scheduled to perform on Friday and Sabbath in April 2011 at Andrews University.

http://www.arklacsda.org/Newsletters/Newsletter3_07.pdf

The August 2007 Newsletter for Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of SDA had the following statement: "Following a delicious fellowship meal arranged for by the church, members gathered once again in the church sanctuary for a mini-concert by Maria Long and an additional baptismal service." This is a desecration to combine Christian rock with a baptismal service.

http://www.newreleasetuesday.com/artistdetail.php?artist_id=1019

Even though Maria Long says that Christ is everything to her, not only is she deceived by the music she uses, but it is a disgrace as a pastor's wife. Many people believe they are being used by God to witness through their popular music, but one cannot be led to the true God with Satan's music. Unless they repent, when the false Christ comes, it will be very easy for them to believe it is the true Christ.

One attendee of the GODencounters retreat stated that the "Bring Back Ancient Worship" workshop on three types of prayer helped them understand the power of prayer and how to improve their prayer life, which left them feeling uplifted and excited. Why is it individuals cannot be excited with what God's Word already tells us about prayer? It is interesting to note here that "ancient-wisdom" is another term for contemplative spirituality.

<http://www.atlantic-union.org/images/Gleaner%20Online/Dec10Gleaner.pdf>

A Dare2Do Youth Congress held in October 2010 was co-sponsored by the Youth Ministries departments of the Atlantic Union Conference and its six local conferences. Besides an "inspiring drama presentation," Steve Varro, a Christian illusionist, "shared many gospel illustrations through illusions." Several people said the highlight of the weekend was the lessons gained from Varro's ministry. He travels worldwide to share his "gospel magic" and states that it is to teach object lessons through entertainment. "The Magic of Laughter" is a secular program available for social events and is advertised as "family entertainment with lots of clean comedy and audience participation" along with a "skillful blend of magic" that "leaves audiences laughing, mystified and most importantly . . . entertained." He has also performed with many celebrities. Some of the memberships Varro has been involved with include the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Magical Arts Guild, the Hollywood Magic Castle, and the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. Contrary to Varro's beliefs, the gospel cannot be combined with magic, entertainment, and Hollywood. Are Christians being prepared for the "magic" that Satan will perform when he impersonates Christ?

Columbia Union Conference of SDAs

<http://www.columbiaunion.org>

The banner on the website home page for this conference states: "Helping People Celebrate God's Transforming Grace."

The following is some of what was voted at their 2007 year-end meetings for implementation through 2011: Foster a culture of discipleship; support innovation; increase enrollment in SDA schools; and support initiatives and programs to increase attendance in SDA churches.

The Conference on Innovation in Ohio was advertised and highly recommended. It was stated that the conference would "stretch their thinking" on how to "enhance the organizational church's viability and ministries." A photo

was included of Raj Attiken welcoming attendees during opening night and a statement that he is a “forwarding-thinking church leader who encourages innovative thinking throughout the field he leads.”

http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/CUV/CUV19980615-V103-12_C.pdf

The June 1998 Columbia Union *Visitor* wrote a synopsis on a talent show held at the Burnt Mills SDA Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. The following describes the event:

- It was a “festive atmosphere.”
- It was “lights, camera, action! With skits and songs, recitals and readings, cookies and quizzes, there was never a dull moment.”
- It was an evening that “emphasized the diversity” of its “multicultural church family.”
- The “varied fare of entertainment” included:
 - A church member and her friends who “had the crowd in splits” with their “The Boyfriend” skit.
 - Three East Indians presented an Indian song “that had the audience tapping its feet to the lively rhythm.”
 - Other “delightful musical interludes” included a romantic tribute, and a song sung in “splendid operatic style.”
 - “Skits that drew members of the audience in for impromptu performances were a big hit.” The performers delivered a “rousing performance.”
 - A pastor was the “star of the evening” who “surprised the congregation with his hitherto-hidden talents.”
 - “And for those who didn't get their fill from musical, oratory and theatrical talents,” the cookie-baking contest provided refreshments after “all the excitement.”
 - Talent contest winners were chosen and “It was an unforgettable Saturday Night Live at Burnt Mills that revealed how generous the Lord has been in blessing us with talents and potential.” However, a talent show is not the type of talent and potential that God desires.

http://columbiaunion.org/site/1/feature/December_08_Visitor.pdf

The “From the Pulpit” section in the December 2008 *Columbia Union Visitor* included a quote by Leonard Sweet.

In the same issue, Kermit Netteburg, senior pastor of Beltsville SDA Church in Maryland, stated that we should not look for signs of Christ’s return in disasters and should not warn people that the end is near because the “situation is so bad.” He goes on to state that the disasters are “what the devil is doing” and that “Jesus is not waiting for the devil to do more *bad* things; He’s waiting for Christians—his disciples—to do more *good* things.” What does God’s Word say about disasters?

Last Day Events, pp. 27-28

What mean the awful calamities by sea--vessels hurled into eternity without a moment's warning? What mean the accidents by land--fire

consuming the riches that men have hoarded, much of which has been accumulated by oppression of the poor? The Lord will not interfere to protect the property of those who transgress His law, break His covenant, and trample upon His Sabbath, accepting in its place a spurious rest day.

The plagues of God are already falling upon the earth, sweeping away the most costly structures as if by a breath of fire from heaven. Will not these judgments bring professing Christians to their senses? God permits them to come that the world may take heed, that sinners may be afraid and tremble before Him.

God has a purpose in permitting these calamities to occur. They are one of His means of calling men and women to their senses. By unusual workings through nature God will express to doubting human agencies that which He clearly reveals in His Word.

How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man, but in them all God's purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.

Most today do not want to tremble before God, come to their senses, or be aroused to their danger. However, if they do not follow God's instructions, what will their consequences be? Loss of property, suffering the plagues, then weeping and gnashing their teeth at Christ's return.

Netteburg states that what gives him confidence that Christ's coming is soon are the stories from God's people and that God is "working among us to finish His work." He then goes on to give examples of church baptisms, church plants, and Bible study interests as his reason for believing in Christ's soon return. This is the emerging church "works" idea. Just because the SDA Church is growing at a rapid rate today does not indicate it is hastening Christ's return--certainly not with apostasy in its ranks. What hastens Christ's return is the purifying of His church, not bringing in more of the world.

<http://www.columbiaunion.org/article.php?id=689>

In February 2011, the Columbia Union Conference website home page featured news on the special issue of Insight magazine to reach 100,000 Super Bowl enthusiasts. The editor wanted everyone who came to the game to have an opportunity "to meet Jesus" by receiving the magazine. His idea was encouraged by youth leaders around the country and by Ted Wilson, "who raised donations to print 100,000 copies of the special issue at the Review and Herald Publishing Association." It was announced that churches and youth groups could request free copies of the issue. The director of Subscriber Services at the Review said, "My email was just popping. I received a total of 285 requests, and within a week all 100,000 magazines were spoken for." The issue included a cover photo and interview with a football star and an article on a football coach whose goal is to be "coaching like Christ." Lay people, especially the youth, from across the U.S. distributed the magazine in their neighborhoods.

Regrettably, that special issue did not help people “meet Jesus,” because He does not approve of a popular issue that brings glory to football stars and coaches rather than God. The fact that the president of the General Conference and SDA youth leaders from across the U.S. approved of this project indicates the miserable condition the Church is in. How unfortunate that time and money was not spent on a magazine that warned people about the dangers of football and the joys of true recreation.

Bahamas Conference of SDAs

<http://www.bahamasconference.org/WORLDNEWS2009/worldnewsforjuly2009.htm>

This conference included an article on their website from “Adventist World News” for July 2009 featuring “The Devout Diva: Star running back Rachelle Pecovsky-Bentley puts God before gridiron.” “An Adventist Who Chooses God Over Football.” Below is part of the article.

As the sun sets on her football career with this weekend’s Sup-Her Bowl game, Rachelle Pecovsky-Bentley has been taking a lot of time checking out the sunsets. Well, the D.C. Divas’ retiring star checked out what time the sun sets, anyway. She can tell you without hesitation, for example, when sundown took place on July 11 in Massachusetts, site of the Divas’ last-second, come-from-behind thriller win over the Boston Militia that earned the Divas a trip to the IWFL’s championship game.

“It wasn’t until 8:22,” Pecovsky-Bentley tells me. And that explains why she didn’t play at all in the semifinals game. So had the Divas lost, Pecovsky-Bentley’s run as a player would have ended with her not even in uniform. But, perhaps with some divine assistance, a teammate returned a kickoff 85 yards with just 40 seconds left in the game for the win.

So Pecovsky-Bentley lives to play another game. Well, another half-game, anyway.

The tale of what will be her 10th and final season in women’s tackle football goes like this: Pecovsky-Bentley’s a Seventh-day Adventist. Adventism calls for followers to honor the Sabbath from sunset on Fridays through sunset on Saturdays. That means honoring God, not running for daylight on a football field. Divas home and road games are played on Saturdays and typically have kickoff times of either 6 p.m. or 7 p.m.—or right in the Sabbath’s wheelhouse. The game days and times have been the same since Pecovsky-Bentley joined the squad in 2006, after starring in Philadelphia and Delaware, but she played alongside her teammates and prayed later.

In the past, she “let football mean more than faith,” but during the last preseason, she was “no longer willing to put gridiron before God.” So she “went to Howard and told him she would be of no use to the squad, because her beliefs would cause her to miss too many training camp workouts and games.” However, Howard “made a deal.” She could “honor God and play football.”

Those who compete in sports like to bring out the point of not playing during Sabbath hours, how it is a great witness, and brings glory to God. Some state that they were even able to keep their grade point average high. Regardless of

these two points, what have they forgotten from God's Word? The issues of competition and honor of men.

Hawaii Conference of SDAs

<http://pacificunionrecorder.adventistfaith.org/issue/20/3/344>

The May 2010 Pacific Union *Recorder* entitled an article "Youth Leaders Become Better Equipped to Lead." "Leading by Listening, Learning and Loving" was the theme for the Hawaii Conference "children and youth leaders Hand 'n Hand training weekend." It must be questioned how the youth leaders can become better equipped to lead with the following:

- Featured speakers from Loma Linda University church and La Sierra University.
- "How to reach kids by incorporating all learning styles" and "how ministry fits into post-modern society."
- "The program was full of variety," featuring a praise team, a testimony about having fun at camp, and the Kailua's Campus of Hawaiian Mission Academy presenting a dramatization.
- Two individuals were "recognized in honor of their devotion to youth and their volunteer spirits," with one of them receiving a plaque.
- The Hawaii Conference youth director stated, "It is thrilling to see new leaders getting excited about being trained to explore new ideas for leadership in children's and youth ministries."
- Mention was made of the summer camp program offering "another avenue for young people to connect with Jesus."

Teachers' orientation

The following was shared with the For My People Ministry by a pastor who attended a teachers' orientation: "As soon as we assembled, the conference president said we should not put emphasis on last day events, that we should not say we can hasten Christ's return by godly living, and that we should only focus on Jesus and what He has done. Another leader used a quote from The Great Controversy book by Ellen White and implied that it contradicted the Bible. The quote was referring to living on the earth without a mediator. It is clear that Satan is mad that people are talking about preparing for Jesus to come."

Spirits of devils

This true experience is an example of two pastors who could have shared truth but did not.

Several years ago, a head deacon of a local SDA Church went to a cemetery to visit his mother's gravesite. Not remembering where it was located, he went to the cemetery office to inquire. The attendant showed him the location and stated that his mother would be waiting for him. While at his mother's grave, he felt a distinct presence, but did not know what it was.

Sometime later while at a church conference, the deacon related the incident to two pastors and asked what they thought the presence was. One of the pastors who had written a book on the state of the dead responded that he was not sure what it was, that it could have been just a feeling. The other pastor said that we are not really designed to deal well with death and that it was probably

just an emotional response from not being there for quite some time and not to worry about it.

What should have been the correct response? That Satan and his angels are out to convince people that when you die you immediately go to heaven, and that he will do all he can to persuade us of that lie, even during a visit to the gravesite of a loved one.

Early Writings, p. 87

I saw that the saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who appear to them are the spirits of devils.

At death the body turns to dust again, and the spirit returns to God. The spirit is simply the breath of life.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Job 27:3

...the spirit of God is in my nostrils.

James 2:26

...the body without the spirit is dead....

Ecclesiastes 9:5

...the dead know not any thing....

Psalms 115:17

The dead praise not the Lord....

Life Insurance

<http://www.uccsda.org/HR/Employee-forms-and-resources>

http://adventistrisk.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=93&Itemid=131

<http://www.sdacc.org/en/departments/hba.php>

These websites reveal the SDA Church involvement and promotion of life insurance. The Lord has given us advice on this practice that still applies to us today.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, pp. 549-550

I was shown that Sabbathkeeping Adventists should not engage in life insurance. This is a commerce with the world which God does not approve. Those who engage in this enterprise are uniting with the world,

while God calls His people to come out from among them and to be separate. Said the angel: "Christ has purchased you by the sacrifice of His life.

'What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.' 'For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.'" Here is the only life insurance which heaven sanctions.

Life insurance is a worldly policy which leads our brethren who engage in it to depart from the simplicity and purity of the gospel. Every such departure weakens our faith and lessens our spirituality. Said the angel: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." As a people we are in a special sense the Lord's. Christ has bought us. Angels that excel in strength surround us. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without the notice of our heavenly Father. Even the hairs of our head are numbered. God has made provision for His people. He has a special care for them, and they should not distrust His providence by engaging in a policy with the world.

God designs that we should preserve in simplicity and holiness our peculiarity as a people. Those who engage in this worldly policy invest means which belong to God, which He has entrusted to them to use in His cause, to advance His work. But few will realize any returns from life insurance, and without God's blessing even these will prove an injury instead of a benefit. Those whom God has made His stewards have no right to place in the enemy's ranks the means which He has entrusted to them to use in His cause.

Wintley Phipps

<http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20090228062954/http://palmbaysdachurch.org/church/pastor.php>

<http://www.adventistdirectory.org/ViewEntity.aspx?EntityID=11505>

<http://palmbaysdachurch.org/church/pastor.php> (original website)

Following is a list of Phipps' accomplishments as stated on his church's website.

- Senior pastor, Palm Bay SDA Church, Florida with contemporary music used; known as a "spirit-filled" preacher.
- Attended Oakwood College; received B.A degree in Theology.
- Attended Andrews University; received M.Div. degree.
- World-famous vocalist.
- Founder and president of U.S. Dream Academy, Inc., an educational program for at-risk children and youth.
- "Innovative" initiator of many projects.
- Performed for the 1984 and 1988 National Democratic Conventions; Robert Schuller's Hour of Power Telecast; the Billy Graham Crusades; the

Vatican; Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Diana Ross' wedding; Saturday Night Live; Sunday Live; Oprah Winfrey Show and CBS Nightwatch as well as non-SDA churches and other events.

- Nominated for Grammy Awards in 1988 and 1989.
- Founder of Songs of Freedom Publishing Company and Coral Records Recording Company.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=2362>

This *Adventist Review* article discussed the role of Phipps as the only soloist during U.S. President Obama's inaugural prayer service. The article also included a link to Phipps' website called, "U.S. Dream Academy" at <http://www.usdreamacademy.org>, which promotes Oprah's Angel Network.

A Time of Departing, Ray Yungen, Lighthouse Trails Publishing, Silverton, Oregon, 2008, pp. 103-104

Oprah's 2005 book, *Live Your Best Life*, highlights various areas of her philosophies. In the chapter on spirituality there is a story about Spiritual Energy. In it, there is a positive reference to a Reiki master who supports Oprah's view that "we [humanity] are all interrelated." This underlies Winfrey's spirituality, that ALL IS ONE. Despite her charming personal manner, there is little doubt her viewers and readers are still being fed a consistent diet of New Age spirituality.

Why would the *Adventist Review* editors promote Phipps who promotes Oprah Winfrey—a woman who endorses New Age spirituality? Why do the editors not carefully research before promoting individuals in their articles? Or are they aware and simply do not see the danger? The more influence a person has, the more souls that are lost.

Following is information from the U.S. Dream Academy website:

- Dream Builder Corporate Partners: Adventist Health Systems; Coca Cola Consolidated; Black Entertainment Television Jazz (BETJ).
- Major donors: The Oprah Winfrey Foundation; Coca Cola Bottling Company; Pacers Basketball Corporation Foundation; BET on Jazz; Dionne Warwick Institute.
- Famous supporters: Oprah Winfrey; former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Senator Orrin Hatch; miscellaneous performers, actors, etc.
- Faith Partners: Sligo SDA Church and non-SDA churches.
- 2008 Board of Directors: Delbert Baker, former President, Oakwood University; Barry Black (SDA), Chaplain, United States Senate; Miss America's Outstanding Teen, Inc.; Benjamin Carson (SDA), Director, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Benjamin Reaves, Vice President of Mission and Ministries, Adventist Health System; Lynn Parris, Licensed Instructor, Northeastern Conference of SDA; and others.

Summer 2008 Hollywood Field Trip: DreamKids received awards for academic excellence in theater, Tae Kwon Do, and athletic sportsmanship. A Fashion Expo workshop was also held.

The "U.S. Dream Academy" website's home page also uses the words innovative and mentoring.

Phipps' website reveals socializing with and condoning the world's politicians, actors, musicians, comedians, and sports athletes. An opportunity to share the true gospel with children is lost. Instead they are being taught how to be "rich and famous." What a tragedy.

With all this information, it is puzzling as to why Phipps as well as many others are allowed to remain as SDA pastors.

Dennis Smith

<http://www.spiritbaptism.org/books/61-baptism-of-the-holy-spirit.html>

Dennis Smith has been a pastor for the New Haven SDA Church in Connecticut and has authored many books, including *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit*. He talks of how he visited his church members, offering prayer with them and "laying hands" on them to "claim God's promise to fill them with His Spirit."

The book discusses Smith holding a revival with prayer fasting and contemporary praise songs as well as "seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit, revival and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

He promotes the book *Fresh Power* by Jim Cymbala, which he says is a book that "wonderfully illustrates the power of Holy Spirit ministry."

<http://www.brooklyntabernacle.org/Church/Pastor-Jim-Cymbala>

Jim Cymbala is the leader of The Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City, which is a charismatic, non-SDA church with a choir that won a Grammy for their contemporary gospel performance. The photos on their website include members with their hands raised during a service. One can plainly see that they are not receiving the right spirit. Why would an SDA pastor such as Dennis Smith promote a book by such a leader?

Smith's book describes a revival meeting he conducted where he states that they "experienced the presence of God as I have never experienced Him before. It is difficult to describe in words. One would have to be there to understand. His presence and blessing seemed to grow from meeting to meeting. The moving of the Spirit in personal lives, the joy, the fellowship was wonderful. One lady described it as 'falling in love with Jesus again.' Night after night I would hear individuals making comments about the renewed experience they were having with God." Were they simply experiencing their feelings, not the work of true revival?

<http://www.40daysdevotional.com>

Another book by Smith is entitled *40 Days - Prayers and Devotions*. The ad for his book states that "as you spend 40 amazing days with God, He will prepare you for earth's final crisis and Christ's long-anticipated second coming." How could everyone who reads this book automatically be prepared for the final

crisis in just “40 amazing days”? Smith’s methods are similar to Operation Global Rain.

The *40 Days* book is also aimed at church evangelism along with Visitor’s Sabbath. Materials must be purchased for a fee. It is advertised that “Kick-Off Sabbath” should be “approximately 40 days before Visitor’s Sabbath and 50 days before evangelistic meetings.” Why are sports terms used to advertise spiritual programs as well as in sermons and articles?

Additionally, has the “40 Days” book been copied from the world? Lent includes 40 days of prayer and fasting. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, it is called the Great Lent and it is observed by the Celts, Roman Catholics, and some Protestants. There are many websites by non-SDAs on 40 days of prayer and fasting. Pioneer Memorial SDA Church also promoted the *40 Days* book. Free copies of the book were given away at the mid-week prayer meetings during the “40 days of prayer.” The services were advertised as “forty-five spirit-filled minutes.”

Early Writings, p. 260

Like the Jews, who offered their useless sacrifices, they offer up their useless prayers to the apartment which Jesus has left; and Satan, pleased with the deception, assumes a religious character, and leads the minds of these professed Christians to himself, working with his power, his signs and lying wonders, to fasten them in his snare. Some he deceives in one way, and some in another. He has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another. Satan deceives some with Spiritualism. He also comes as an angel of light and spreads his influence over the land by means of false reformations. The churches are elated, and consider that God is working marvelously for them, when it is the work of another spirit. The excitement will die away and leave the world and the church in a worse condition than before.

Barry Black

Barry Black is an SDA alumnus of La Sierra University, Oakwood College, Andrews University, North Carolina Central University, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Palmer Theological Seminary), Salve Regina University, and the United States International University (Alliant International University). He earned Masters’ degrees in Divinity, Counseling, and Management and received a Doctorate degree in Ministry and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology.

The Signs of the Times, July 31, 1893

We are to rely upon the word of God, and not upon the assertion or speculation of human philosophy.

His military/wartime service began in 1976 in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps. In 2003 he was appointed as the Chaplain to the U.S. Senate, ministering to about 6,000, including senators, Chiefs of Staff, Capitol Hill employees, and spouses.

In school Black entered oratorical contests, participated in college sports, and studied the writings of Longfellow, Emerson, Milton, and Thoreau. Are those the type of writings that God wants His people to be studying? Among other things, Thoreau was one of the first in the U.S. to support evolution, a tax resister, philosopher, and a leading transcendentalist. A core belief of transcendentalism is that an ideal spiritual state is realized only through intuition, rather than religious doctrines. Milton promoted monism (pantheists are monists) which can be seen in the heresy of his writings. He also believed that Christ did not exist from the beginning. Emerson led the transcendentalist movement and befriended Thoreau. He did not believe in biblical miracles or that Jesus was God. He also believed that all things are divine and was influenced by Hinduism. Longfellow's poems were often about mythology and legend.

Black stated the following, "Ask 'Who am I and why am I here?' If you don't ask yourself these questions of identity and mission you will probably lead a life, as Thoreau says, 'of quiet desperation.' "Why do SDA schools glorify these kind of authors?

Pamphlet 117 38 (Testimony for the Battle Creek Church)

Then there appears in the Review a notice of the celebration of Longfellow's birthday. You deify a man of whose heart you know nothing, of whose relation to God you know nothing. This is similar to the course pursued by Aaron, when he made the golden calf in the absence of Moses, and offered sacrifice before it, while the people proclaimed, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." Have the church at Battle Creek put out their eyes, that they cannot see the tendency of these things? If I did not know how God regards your course, I would not write thus. The time spent in paying honor to a mere man, might better have been employed in fasting and praying before God.

Black emphasized the following advantages of his military position: "The variety of denominations, the improved salary, the appreciation on the part of a diverse group of people for my particular talents and gifts," etc. He is also the recipient of numerous awards. None of these are particularly conducive to a person's spirituality, including the fact that Black has spent 27 years with military personnel and at least 8 years with political figures. Also as stated earlier, he is a board member of Phipps' U.S. Dream Academy.
<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2332/Black-Barry-C.html>

The Youth's Instructor, May 17, 1900

Zealous in securing worldly treasure and honor, men had forgotten God.

<http://www.kxnet.com/getArticle.asp?setCity=bis&ArticleId=172284>

In October 2007, this website announced the Dalai Lama accepting the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bush. The ceremony was held in the Capitol rotunda where Bush "praised the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader as 'a universal symbol of peace and tolerance.'" The article then reported, "U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black thanked God for the Dalai Lama, calling him "his holiness." This is blasphemy. Not only is that title reserved for God, but since

when do SDAs honor Buddhist religious leaders? The Dalai Lama is supposedly reborn in order to enlighten others.

<http://www.adventistreview.org/2003-1525/news.html>

A 2003 *Adventist Review* article boasted about Black's nomination to become the next chaplain of the U.S. Senate. " 'It is a fitting tribute to Chaplain Black as a clergyman and a high honor to the Seventh-day Adventist Church to have him continue his chaplaincy career as he transitions into this new position,' said Richard Stenbakken, director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Don Schneider, North American Seventh-day Adventist president, called Black 'an excellent choice for the job.' "

Dick Duerksen

Dick Duerksen is a La Sierra University religion graduate. He has served as a pastor, high school principal and teacher, editor, planner and consultant for creative ministry, and worked as the youth ministries director for the North Pacific Union. Duerksen has also held high level marketing and mission development positions at SDA institutions, including Florida Hospital for nine years as the director of Mission Development. At present he is an assistant to the president of Maranatha Volunteers International as a professional storyteller and weekly television show host for Maranatha Mission Stories. He and his wife are "storycatchers" as they travel around the world with Maranatha volunteers.

<http://news.adventist.org/2000/04/avetist-commuicators-receive-awars-at-iter-faith-covetio.html>

Adventist News Network covered information about SDA communicators receiving awards at an inter-faith convention. While at Florida Hospital, Duerksen was among "the winners at the annual DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards for excellence in religious communication" that was held March 31, 2000. A CD produced by Duerksen "took top honors. . . with judges praising its high production quality as well as its content." It portrayed "the holistic approach to medical care delivered by Celebration Health" with an emphasis on "the need for a strong spiritual component in the healing process." Duerksen stated, "We're very honored that this piece was recognized," because their goal "was to portray something of the 'essence of God.' " From what has been revealed about Florida Hospital, they are not showing a strong spiritual component or the true essence of God.

Among the recipients of the awards was David Smith, the writer/producer for the Voice of Prophecy who has served as the national coordinator for the awards. Other recipients included a *TIME* magazine journalist, a United Media cartoonist, and an NBC news show. The four-day ceremony included more than 1,200 worldwide religious communicators from faith groups such as United Methodist, Episcopalian, Mennonite, Baha'i, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic. It was organized by the international Religion Communicators Council.

Charlotte McClure, public relations director for the SDA Church, was one of more than 30 SDA communicators who attended. She stated, "It was an opportunity to meet with people of different faiths, to worship together and to learn together. All the participants are facing a similar challenge—how to communicate their faith stories in an increasingly secular-minded world." Jesse Jackson was the keynote speaker for the opening of the convention and

challenged religious communicators from all religions “to make a difference in society by being ‘lights that shine in dark places.’”

This convention certainly displayed perfectly what ecumenism is all about. Our light cannot shine if we are not sharing present truth. Those of other religions will be held less accountable than SDAs who have had great light but have been ashamed to share it all. Duerksen and others may not see the wrong of giving and receiving awards, but again, God’s Word tells us otherwise.

http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/CUV/CUV19980615-V103-12_C.pdf#view=fit

Below are sample statements by Duerksen from the June 15, 1998 Columbia Union *Visitor* as part of a list of “10 things Christian men can do to save the world.”

- “Volunteer at the opera. Well, maybe not the opera, but your community is looking for volunteers to serve on the park commission, the arts and culture commission, the local cable channel and dozens of other significant organizations. You could coach girl’s softball . . . Get involved. Develop friendships with people you don’t know. Make your town a friendlier place.” Certainly there is a better way to witness than to drown ourselves in activities that do not honor God or save the world.
- “Read a book. Start with the book of John as Eugene Peterson has written it in The Message. Add Phillip Yancey’s book, What’s So Amazing About Grace. Then include the chapter ‘Calvary’ from The Desire of Ages, Billy Graham’s autobiography and the men’s devotional book, 600 Minutes With God.” This book is edited by Ray Dabrowski and Duerksen. It includes 200 devotionals written by Christian men for Christian men. It is advertised on Adventist Men’s Ministries website, which described the book as “personal, direct, humorous and pointed.” The website also recommends Discipleship magazine by NavPress, which sells books by Dallas Willard, Brenne Manning, Eugene Peterson, and other mystics. There is only one good book out of these five worth reading.

<http://www.emale.org/article.php?id=5&PHPSESSID=a0d033825f3376a59aa34c2d97eaeab3>

- “Lead family worship. Right before the old Seinfeld rerun on Channel 54! [comedy show] Gather the brood. Ask for God’s presence and guidance. Read the paragraph. Describe why those words are important to you. Ask, ‘How do you feel God was involved in your life today?’ ” God would not be involved in your life as you are reading The Message, Phillip Yancey’s book about grace, or Billy Graham’s autobiography, etc.
- “Get drunk on grace. It doesn’t take much grace to change you so wildly that most of your friends will think you’ve gone on a personality-changing binge with a carafe of something powerful! Even Peter, fisherman preacher, transformed cusser and bad-swing swordsman, was accused of being drunk. Think of what they’ll say about you! You’ll hear a whole new dictionary of words applied to you, like kind, peaceful, wise, caring, understanding, a good listener, humorous, interested, genuine and graceful. Drunk. Christian.” Instead of getting “drunk” on just grace, how about drinking from the well of surrender and obedience? Then you will be called all kinds of bad names just as Jesus encountered because He

would not give in to temptation. However, God's grace will rest upon you, and that makes it worthwhile. Contrary to what Duerksen stated above, those men who follow his suggestions will not be able to "save the world."

Hyveth Williams

http://www.andrews.edu/news/2009/12/hyveth_williams.html

In January 2010, Hyveth Williams joined Andrews University as the professor of Homiletics (art of preaching or writing sermons). She hopes that God will use her to inspire students as she was by her professors. Denis Fortin, dean of the Seminary, stated that Williams "brings to the Seminary many years of pastoral experience, a keen interest in communicating the gospel message with power and strength, and a desire to mentor young men and women for ministry."

The following information gives details on her career:

- 20 years as a senior pastor.
- 13 years as the senior pastor at the Campus Hill SDA Church, Loma Linda, California.
- Author of several books, including *Anticipation* (Pacific Press Publishing Association); *Secrets of a Happy Heart: A Fresh Look at the Beatitudes* and her autobiography *Will I Ever Learn? One Woman's Life of Miracles and Ministry* (Review & Herald Publishing); co-authored *The Celt & The Christ: A Fresh Look at the Book of Galatians* (Trafford Publishing); writes for *Adventist Review*, *Women of Spirit*, *African American Lectionary*, *Insight*, *Signs of the Times*, *Ministry*, *Message*, and *Celebration*.
- Served in the Southern New England Conference of SDA as a senior pastor and campus chaplain, developing campus ministries for SDA students on college campuses in the Boston, Massachusetts area.
- In the late 1980s, an associate pastor for public evangelism at Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland.
- 10 years as an adjunct professor at Loma Linda University and Andrews University.
- Educator (through London Polytechnic Institute, England) and worldwide public speaker.
- Groundbreaking counseling.
- First black female pastor and first female senior pastor in the SDA Church.
- Served as a women's editor/talk show host for a radio station and the field school supervisor for the Boston University School of Theology.
- Spoke at the Women's Ministry Congress on HIV/AIDS Self-worth and Relationship Building in Botswana.
- Her "spiritual journey" chronicled in the "2005 Damascus Road: Hyveth Williams' Conversion Story" aired on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN).
- First non-Episcopalian to receive the prestigious Fellowship from the Episcopal College of Preachers, National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.
- Andrews University Alumni of the Year (2000).

- Association of Adventist Women & NAD Women's Ministries Department Adventist Woman of the Year (1995).
- Citizen of the Year for 2007 for Loma Linda and San Bernardino County by the Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce and California State Senate & Assembly.
- Recipient of the 2008 California Assembly Woman of Distinction.
- Widely applauded for her television series "A Painted World: Portraits of Illusions and Reality."

Noting the long tenure of Williams as pastor at Loma Linda, reminds us of the tendency for pastors to remain at the same church for many years, especially in the larger or mega SDA churches and outside our denomination. What does God say on this matter?

The Paulson Collection of Ellen G. White Letters, p. 108

God would have men of talent who will not deviate from the principles of righteousness to stand in defense of the truth in the tabernacle at Battle Creek. One man should not be stationed in Battle Creek for a long time. After he has faithfully proclaimed the truth for a time, he should leave to labor elsewhere, and some one else be appointed who will give the trumpet a certain sound.

There are others today like Williams who continue to be applauded by the world and follow their colleagues no matter what is taught. In general, pastors are popular today because they are not teaching the whole truth.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 113

But in the end his [Saul's] education and prejudices, his respect for his former teachers, and his pride of popularity braced him to rebel against the voice of conscience and the grace of God.

What should God's leaders be doing instead?

The Review and Herald, October 13, 1891

Here are given the characteristics of those who shall be reformers, who will bear the banner of the third angel's message, those who avow themselves God's commandment-keeping people, and who honor God, and are earnestly engaged, in the sight of all the universe, in building up the old waste places. Who is it that calls them, The repairers of the breach, The restorers of paths to dwell in? It is God. Their names are registered in heaven as reformers, restorers, as raising the foundations of many generations.

<http://www.hopetv.org/media-library/media-story/ml/gc-session-focus-on-pastors/wednesday-june-30-hyveth-williams>

At the 2010 SDA General Conference Session, Williams gave a sermon on "Pastoral Formation: The High Calling of Ministry," which included the following:

- Promoted two popular non-SDA pastors/authors.

- Quoted Aristotle (a Greek philosopher who believed in mysticism).
- Quoted the Bible once in a while, but never asked the attendees to open their Bibles and follow along (a growing habit by pastors).
- Quoted a phrase from Ellen White only one time.
- Shared “daunting data” from *Ministry* magazine and “apostasy” statistics (meaning those who physically leave the SDA Church, not the apostasy of false ideas in the Church).
- The need for less emphasis on promoting our own works and to stop looking at our own selves and reach out to others. (Is she ignoring the need to examine ourselves in order to become like Jesus?)
- Quoted the definition of grace by Donald Barnhouse (a Presbyterian pastor who believed differently on grace and righteousness by faith than what is in God’s Word).
- The importance to “be” more than “do” (New Age concept).
- Ended her sermon with a shouting display, and Mark Finley stated, “powerful sermon, touches our hearts.”

In an interview afterwards, Williams stated that she believed conference presidents should let their pastors know when they are doing a good job and that she likes it when they tell her she is doing a good job.

<http://www.theevidence.org/article.php?id=101>

This information comes from a Faith For Today website. As you read Williams’ testimony of how she became a Christian, one has to wonder who was leading her. Following are points as she lists them:

- Was not happy with her life and “inside of me I was a very angry, hurt, bitter, person.”
- Saw a psychiatrist to get help.
- She “attempted to commit suicide on three occasions.”
- She recalls that she began to hear voices and thought she was having a mental breakdown and “falling apart.” The more she heard these voices, the more she drank. Later she claimed the voices in her head were God calling her.
- Because of the stresses she was facing, she began to use marijuana to try and put on weight.
- She stated she wanted to be the first black female Mayor in the United States. It was her goal and dream. There was nothing that she would not do to have that. Instead of becoming the first black female Mayor in the United States, she instead became the first black woman pastor in the SDA Church.
- She had an out of body experience. In her own words she says, “I felt that...at that moment, I saw myself dying and I knew...I felt that I had stepped outside of my body and I was standing outside of my body looking at myself laying there. And I knew I was not going to be reconnected with that body. I knew this was it.”
- While in this out of body experience, she recalls that she saw all the ice cream that she had never eaten. She kept screaming about it and stated

"That's what I saw pass before me because I am that kind of a crazy person perhaps." As she "watched this happening," she realized that she was "never going to be reconnected." She then heard a voice say, "Come with me and I will give you peace and joy forevermore." She "knew then it was God" but did not know why she knew this voice was God. "And I can never explain it to anyone. But it was in that moment that I knew I heard God."

- The voice she thinks was God said to her, "You will know that I spoke to you because three things will happen: Number one someone is going to come to you and they will say to you: 'I have come to take you home.' And when they do, you must go with them. And the second time, for the rest of your life, as long as you live on this earth, no matter what the weather, no matter where you are, you will always see flowers... And the third one was something that I needed to do with this encounter, that was not for public consumption and I have never shared."
- Later she had an encounter with God and wrestled all night with Him and finally gave in and told Him, "I will go with you. But if you ever, ever, ever let me down, if you ever lie to me, if you ever turn me into something that I'm not, I will spend the rest of my life telling people that you are not to be believed." That is how she says she became a Christian.

The Bible says that we are to become "New Creatures" in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:17) and that we are to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2). Our old life of sin, our old ways to ruling our life are to be surrendered to God and He will make us a new person. In this sense, God makes us something we are not. God is able to call people from all walks of life. It doesn't matter how sinful they have been. However, Williams' testimony has many elements that are demonic, such as the voice in her head, the out of body experience, along with the drugs and alcohol. It makes one wonder who was speaking to her.

Interestingly, on page 152 of her book *Anticipation*, Williams writes, "After two weeks in this state, I remembered a brochure that had been sent to our office from Gonzaga, a retreat center run by Jesuit priests, announcing an upcoming 'silent retreat.' I had never been to anything of the sort, but I sensed that the Spirit was directing me to go." Again, we have to wonder what spirit was directing her to a Jesuit retreat that teaches the spiritual disciplines of Ignatius Loyola.

<http://www.easternpoint.org>

According to the Gonzaga Eastern Point Retreat House website, the retreat tries to help men and women grow in their relationship with God through a "variety of retreats and spiritual direction." It is based on both "Christian values and experiences" and the "Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola." The retreat welcomes all people from all traditions and backgrounds who are "seeking God in their lives."

Some SDAs are concerned that Williams continues to make unbiblical statements. If the students who are being mentored by Williams are looking for wise advice and guidance, they should look elsewhere.

The Signs of the Times, June 22, 1882

Is it safe to trust our youth to the guidance of those blind teachers who study the sacred oracles with far less interest that they manifest in the classical authors of ancient Greece and Rome?

Ángel Rodríguez

<http://www.gcsession.org/2010/04/the-general-conference-session-delegates-and-theology.html>

On April 6, 2010, Ángel Rodríguez (a former director of the SDA Biblical Research Institute) wrote about "The General Conference Session, delegates and theology."

- "Expressing the Catholicity of the church." Rodríguez defines "catholicity" as meaning the "universal nature and multifaceted expression of the church as the body of Christ" and manifesting itself in the "cultural and ethnic diversity of the delegates." "They come together . . . to stand by what is best for the global church as the body of the Christ. Therefore the catholicity of the church should transcend the geographical and potentially narrow concerns of the delegates without necessarily ignoring them." Is the word "catholicity" being used just as the words celebration, community, etc. to get SDAs used to Rome's terminology? When the word is capitalized it means being in conformity to Catholicism. Also notice his use of the word "diversity."
- "Expressing the apostolicity of the church. By 'apostolicity' I mean the nonnegotiable commitment of the church to the totality of the Scripture as the standard of faith and practice. . . . During the General Conference Session the church models and demonstrates through the decisional processes and the pastoral, doctrinal and theological discussions the supremacy of the Scripture in the life of the global community of faith. In other words, the centrality of the Bible in the different local expressions of the church around the world becomes particularly visible during the Session. On such occasions, the Scripture becomes the norm that determines all elements of doctrine and faith, and its principles are used to define and establish policies and to configure global missiological activities. In order for the centrality of the Scripture to rule, it is necessary for the delegates to be well versed in the Scripture and be open to the illuminating influence and work of the Spirit." Notice there is no mention of Ellen White's writings. Additionally, Rodríguez writes in such a scholarly fashion that the average SDA struggles to understand what he is saying. He must have known this, because he continues to define what he says. Why not just write it in a simpler format to begin with? Many use complicated words to show their great knowledge. True Christians are not impressed with that, and neither is God.

The Review and Herald, December 16, 1909

Our work is to be done in simplicity. The most effective appeals can be made in the most simple language. Thus the Lord speaks to us in his Word. In the Bible there are some names difficult to pronounce, but there are few words difficult to be understood.

All who have taken knowledge of Jesus Christ will imitate Him in their manner of instruction. They will not have hard words, difficult to understand, but will aim to do no surface work, be short in every address, and not labor to exhibit themselves but to come directly to the point to inculcate ideas which are of value, and every word used should be so plain that the children need not go home and get a dictionary and search out the meaning of the words used by teachers and superintendents. The strength of the educator is in being understood, that he shall not need an interpreter. The less there is of machinery and forms that are really not necessary, the better it will be for the [Sabbath] school.

Rodríguez continues his article by repeating the words “community.” He also stresses the authority of the SDA General Conference Session and about the importance of its unity, oneness, and working together “as one body, free from a potentially divisive spirit based on personal concerns or self-interest.” Regrettably, while the majority of the SDA Church leadership and members are in apostasy, its General Conference Session is not the voice of God and unity is not possible.

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 2, p. 159

It is working upon wrong principles that has brought the cause of God into its present embarrassment. The people have lost confidence in those who have the management of the work.

Yet we hear that the voice of the conference is the voice of God. Every time I have heard this, I have thought that it was almost blasphemy. The voice of the conference ought to be the voice of God, but it is not, because some in connection with it are not men of faith and prayer; they are not men of elevated principle. There is not a seeking of God with the whole heart; there is not a realization of the terrible responsibility that rests upon those in this institution to mold and fashion minds after the divine similitude.

The following explains Rodríguez and the “triple six theory.” The NAD Adult Sabbath School lessons for the second quarter of 2002 were entitled “Great Apocalyptic Prophecies.” Rodríguez was the principal contributor. The lesson for June 6 contained the following:

The number of the beast. The mark, the name, the number of the beast are closely related (Rev 13:17). Many suggestions have been made to explain the meaning of 666. Here we must be very careful. The Bible does not say that the number is the added numerical value of the letters of a name. Some see in the meaning of 666 a symbol of humanity separated from God. Humans were created on the sixth day, and the number can stand as a symbol for humanity without divine rest (the seventh day). Humans have claimed ultimate independence from God (the cause of their fall), and even now they do not want to find rest in Christ.

Over the years, numerous Bible students have come up with various explanations for the 666. Some found significance in the fact that if you added up the number of letters in the name of a former president of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan, it came to 666; others saw

meaning in that, years ago, all the buses in Jerusalem had 666 on the license plates. This is futile speculation that adds nothing toward understanding truth. The important point is that God's Word has given us enough information to know what the key issues are and who the players will be in the last days, even if we do not know all the details for now, such as the precise meaning of 666.

The beginning of this "triple six theory" came from Volume 2 of the book *God Cares* by Mervyn Maxwell. In that book he uses the Revised Standard Version of the Bible (RSV), which translates Revelation 13:18 as follows: "This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six." Compare this with the King James Version (KJV): "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." As you can see, this is a major difference. The focus of the RSV is very different from that of the KJV. The KJV focuses on a specific entity, but the RSV focuses on all humanity.

Rodríguez has succeeded in going against God's prophet, Ellen White, regarding the 666, as can be noted below.

A Word to the Little Flock, p. 19

I saw all that "would not receive the mark of the Beast, and of his Image, in their foreheads or in their hands," could not buy or sell. [Revelation 13:15-17.] I saw that the number (666) of the Image Beast was made up; [Revelation 13:18.] and that it was the Beast that changed the Sabbath, and the Image Beast had followed on after, and kept the Pope's, and not God's Sabbath. And all we were required to do, was to give up God's Sabbath, and keep the Pope's, and then we should have the mark of the Beast, and of his image.

Rodríguez has also gone against what Uriah Smith wrote in the book *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, which was promoted by Ellen White.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 21, p. 444

The grand instruction contained in Daniel and Revelation has been eagerly perused by many in Australia. This book has been the means of bringing many precious souls to a knowledge of the truth. Everything that can be done should be done to circulate Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation. I know of no other book that can take the place of this one. It is God's helping hand.

Daniel and the Revelation (1897), p. 626 [Ellen G. White Writings, Comprehensive Research Edition 2008/Words of the Adventist Pioneers]

...As the pope passed him in procession, splendidly dressed in his pontifical robes, the gentleman's eye rested on these full, blazing letters in front of his miter: "VICARIUS FILLII DEI," the Vicar of the Son of God....

Here we have indeed the number of a man, even the "man of sin," and it is a little singular, perhaps providential, that he should select a title

which shows the blasphemous character of the beast, and then cause it to be inscribed upon his miter, as if to brand himself with the number 666. The foregoing extract doubtless refers to a particular pope on a particular occasion. Other popes might not wear the title emblazoned on the miter, as there stated. But this does not affect the application at all; for the popes all assume to be the "Vicar of Christ" [see Standard Dictionary under "vicar"], and the Latin words given above are the words which express that title, in the form "vicar of the Son of God;" and their numerical value is 666.

Why would we think that God gave one version of this important truth to the founders of the SDA church and a different version to those living today?

The Signs of the Times, July 2, 1896

Professed theologians seem to take pleasure in making that which is plain, mysterious. They clothe the simple teachings of God's word with their own dark reasonings, and thus confuse the minds of those who listen to their doctrines.

Jan Paulsen

<http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=1427>

When Jan Paulsen was still the president of the General Conference of SDAs, the *Adventist Review* included an article with his sermon at the 2007 Autumn Council. Details follow.

- "We are bonded in unity, and we have to trust each other to do right."

There is a continuous trend to call for unity and to trust each other. Again, as long as there is apostasy, we cannot all be in unity or trust each other.

- He told church leaders that although "people write to me about a great variety of things they want me to fix, if there are issues really in need of fixing, it is not going to work for me to try to do it; I have to trust others to do it, as must you. I trust you."

The Signs of the Times, April 21, 1881

Those who occupy responsible positions as guardians of the people are false to their trust, if they do not faithfully search out and reprove sin. Many dare not condemn iniquity, lest they shall thereby sacrifice position or popularity. And by some it is considered uncharitable to rebuke sin.

As long as leaders are taught to just let others take care of the problems, they will not get fixed. To look the other way is not being responsible and the apostasy continues. To just throw out compliments about trusting others accomplishes nothing.

- "Mavericks who act independently and by their own wisdom do not make good administrators in this church."

This is obviously referring to those who are wise enough to follow God, not man.

- Paulsen also stated that the continuing controversy over the nature of Christ will not be reevaluated while he is president. He went on to explain, “I think there is a reason for why we have chosen generous language in describing our position as a church on the nature of Christ. The uniqueness of Jesus Christ (Wholly God and wholly man – no one else matches the ‘only-begottenness’ of that One) leads us to say that. I have to tell you I just cannot imagine a post-modern person in Europe, a business man in Asia or Latin America, any more than a farmer in Africa will care one iota whether Christ had the nature of man before the fall or after the fall. The realities of the world in which we live have other concerns which occupy us.” He then added that such discussions often focus on living a victorious Christian life, but that such victory will not be attained by “settling the precise human nature of Christ or by the power of His example; it will be by experiencing the ‘power of His resurrection’ to live a new life.”

While Paulsen cannot imagine a post-modern, a business man, and a farmer caring one iota about the nature of Christ, there are those who do care about it, because the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writers cared enough about it to explain its importance. If Paulsen and those who agree with him never have a concern for the truth on Christ’s nature, then sadly they will never be a part of those who stand without Christ as their Mediator in the Most Holy Place at the end of this earth’s history. Others will take their place of living a victorious Christian life and following Christ’s example. It is interesting that Christ’s resurrection is emphasized instead, because of the fact that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday to commemorate Christ’s resurrection.

- He also urged that church leaders take the pulse of pastors and members to get their input on vital issues and decisions. “If we do not get it right in the local church, it cannot be fixed anywhere else. So, let us listen carefully to what the local pastors say to us as leaders . . . about the flow of ideas, about diversity and unity, about the needs of our people, what they say to us about standards, and about the use of tithe. Their voice must be heard, or our decisions as leaders will not be safe.”

It is perplexing that Paulsen would care about getting members’ opinions on vital issues, since the hierarchy that exists today in the Church does not really care about those opinions, unless, of course, the opinions agree with the leaders. How about heeding the counsel in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy regarding vital issues and decisions.

<http://news.adventist.org/2010/01/paulsen-honored-at-l.html>

In January 2010, Adventist News Network reported: “Paulsen Honored at Loma Linda with Festschrift, President’s Medal: Adventist, other scholars contribute essays to celebrate world church president’s decades of denominational service.” The recognition “came during Saturday morning worship services at Loma Linda University (LLU) Church.” Paulsen was honored with a Festschrift, which is German for “celebration writing” and a collection of essays and articles written by many authors to honor a colleague. Paulsen received one for his

“notable achievement” and his 75th birthday. The 463-page book was edited by two of his colleagues and friends, one being Reinder Bruinsma. The contributors included Bert Beach and retired University of Tübingen missiology professor Peter P.J. Beyerhaus, a Lutheran, “under whom Paulsen studied while earning his doctorate.” The University of Tübingen includes Protestant and Catholic theology in its curriculum. Additionally, the current pope (Benedict XVI) is an alumnus of that university. Why would an SDA be willing to attend such a school? Paulsen was also presented with a Presidential Medal by LLU President Richard Hart. Among the six lessons Paulsen said came from “his decades of denominational leadership is that the leader ‘is not the owner of this business; God is.’ ” He is very close to the truth when he uses the word “business,” since that is the direction in which the church is heading. How far will our leaders fall to be accepting such honor, especially during Sabbath morning worship? Worship and honor is to be reserved for God, not man.

Ted Wilson

Following are the opening comments by Ted Wilson at the 2010 General Conference Session regarding a letter which he read to those in attendance.

I have the great privilege of reading a letter, a letter which you will find of great interest. It has at the top of its letterhead, “The White House, Washington.”

Here are excerpts from that letter:

It [faith] also brings us together to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, make peace where there is strife, and lift up those who have fallen on hard times.

As we face the challenges and opportunities of this unique moment in history, may faith move us to unite in common cause, to serve our fellow brothers and sisters.

I hope that as you gather on this special occasion, you are reminded of the abiding truth that each of us has the power to create a better world for ourselves and our children when we do God’s work here on earth.

Barack Obama, President of the United States [applause]

[Wilson]: I want to take this opportunity to thank the government of the United States and so many other governments around the world for their defense of religious freedom, freedom of conscience. Thank God for religious liberty. [applause]

Again, what does the Bible say about crying, “Peace”?

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.

Additionally, while it is good to feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted, the statement that faith “brings us together” and unites us “in common cause” is completely ecumenical. The terms “common good,” “public welfare,” “equality

for all," etc. are used by Roman Catholicism, communism and fascism. The letter focuses on a social gospel (socialism) that stresses community work ("good deeds" that are characteristic of Catholicism) and mixes politics and the liberal Kingdom Now theology (a better world now) which is popular with the Purpose Driven and emerging church movements. A better world will only be when this earth is made new again by its Creator, but never before that. Paganism teaches to be "in tune with the earth and nature." Those who are fooled by this belief will not be a part of the New Earth which God creates.

Wilson thanked the U.S. and world governments for religious liberty. We can appreciate our religious freedoms, however, please notice the following:

The Great Controversy, (1888), p. 564

The pacific [peaceful] tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O'Connor: "Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world."

The U.S. Supreme Court currently consists of six Roman Catholics and three Jews. Not only is the majority of the U.S. Supreme Court of the Roman Catholic faith, there are no Protestants. What message does this send?

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 566

Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see, and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism, and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2 Peter 3:17

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

Yes, the White House letter is of "great interest," especially in light of the ecumenical movement and the words of prophecy regarding the image to the beast.

Wilson stated repeatedly to "go forward." However, we cannot successfully go forward as a Church until we go back to the "old paths," start over, and then go forward. We are reminded of Jeremiah 6:16 that reads: "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." The Church needs to go back to "primitive godliness," to

the true worship of the God of heaven, not the false god of this world. The Church needs to go back, not forward, to reassess where it went wrong.

Isaiah 58:12

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Jude 1:3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

The Faith I Live By, p. 326

It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among His professed people.

While God's faithful can agree with much of Wilson's General Conference Session sermon of July 3, 2010, will actions follow his words? He counseled that we are to test everything according to God's Word and the writings of Ellen White, and that we are not to be involved in the megachurch or emerging church movements. He further counseled that we are to rely on "humble pastors, evangelists, Biblical scholars, leaders, and departmental directors who can provide evangelistic methods and programs that are based on solid Biblical principles and 'The Great Controversy Theme.'"

This all sounds good; however, the Church is still in trouble. Those who continue to promote megachurch purpose driven, emerging church ideas are not being disfellowshipped. Those who have been disfellowshipped because they stood for right should be reinstated. The SDA Church likes to talk about those who are "in good and regular standing" with the Church. Yet that "standing" is not necessarily "good and regular" in God's eyes. Many in the Church say that we should not try to fix the problems but just leave it to God. However, if individuals ignore the problems, they will be held accountable. Where are the humble leaders who are teaching the whole truth?

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, pp. 269-270

The plain, straight testimony must live in the church, or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it did upon ancient Israel because of their sins. God holds His people, as a body, responsible for the sins existing in individuals among them. If the leaders of the church neglect to diligently search out the sins which bring the displeasure of God upon the body, they become responsible for these sins. But to deal with minds is the nicest work in which men ever engaged. All are not fitted to correct the erring. They have not wisdom to deal justly, while loving mercy. They are not inclined to see the necessity of mingling love and tender compassion with faithful reproofs.

Child Guidance, pp. 235-236

Those who have too little courage to reprove wrong, or who through indolence or lack of interest make no earnest effort to purify the family or the church of God, are held accountable for the evil that may result from their neglect of duty. We are just as responsible for evils that we might have checked in others by exercise of parental or pastoral authority, as if the acts had been our own.

There is a great need for strong Church leaders and pastors that will “not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall” (*Education*, p. 57) and will lead in repentance and reformation through to its completion. We need leaders who will actively work to clean up the churches, book centers, schools, hospitals, etc. It is sad to say that the majority of SDA leaders today cannot be depended on for the whole truth. Each must study and pray individually to know all truth.

Revival and reformation

Wilson called for the forming of a revival and reformation committee, and many of God’s faithful in the SDA Church hoped that finally something would be done about the apostasy in the Church. As we can see in the information that follows, it does not reveal the proper changes needed. How very unfortunate that the emerging church ideas continue to increase at a rapid rate.

<http://www.euroafrica.org/news/detail/datum/2010/11/11/first-session-of-the-new-eud-executive-committee-focuses-on-unity-and-identity>

The Euro-Africa Division (EUD) held its first session of their new executive committee on October 31-November 3, 2010. Much of the session was about revival and reformation with two main points being identity and unity—identity “found in Jesus Christ” and “unity in the church, unity in the Spirit and unity in goals and action.”

Revival, reformation, and unity will come to God’s Church, but not through the majority and not while errors are taught and practiced.

<http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com/churchnewstext.php?id=3096>

The NAD website included a feature on the “Strategic Plan Adopted for North American Division,” which described the discussions presented during the General Conference Autumn Council and the NAD Year-end Meeting in late 2010 to “impact church life and its mission” during the next five years. Emphasis was placed on revival and reformation and a “renewed emphasis to come together in love and unity to reclaim missing members and to reach our communities with the gospel.” The initiative “REACH North America” was adopted as a “guideline and measuring device” for personal and corporate revival, nurturing, and outreach. It was resolved that by 2015, the Church in North America “will have become transformed by the Holy Spirit and moved to action” in the ways listed below. One must wonder why the Church is time-setting the event of being “transformed by the Holy Spirit.”

- “Reach Up (Revival and Reformation)”
- “Reach Across (Unity in Diversity),” with mention of the terms catalyst, reconnect, and leadership.

- “Reach Out (Evangelism, Community, Discipleship),” with a focus on large cities.

Selected Messages, Book 1, pp. 204-205

The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work.

- The term “wonderful work” means that people will think it is a wonderful work, but it is not of God.

Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- “Reach In (Growing Disciples/Adventist Education),” with mention that the Church finds “a way to help strengthen and build a system of Adventist higher education.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 130

There is no time now to fill the mind with theories of what is popularly called “higher education.” The time devoted to that which does not tend to assimilate the soul to the likeness of Christ is so much time lost for eternity. This we cannot afford, for every moment is freighted with eternal interests.

- “Reach Forward (A Focus on Leadership),” with mention of the terms stewardship, member donations, and culture.

<http://www.revivalandreformation.org/assets/42023>

The new General Conference Revival and Reformation Committee includes the initiative ‘777’ Worldwide Holy Spirit Prayer Fellowship in which SDAs are to pray seven days a week at 7:00 a.m. or p.m. for the “outpouring of the Holy Spirit’s power and presence” to bring unity. As stated before, unity will not come while the Church is in apostasy.

There was also the “New Year’s Eve/Day Worldwide Day of Prayer” with a week-long series of television programs on Hope Channel, which allowed every church member around the world “to participate in seeking God for a revival experience in 2011.” That is a nice idea; however, does that not leave out those who do not have the Hope Channel? Will they not receive a “revival experience” because of it?

Then there is the “Worldwide Days for Prayer and Fasting” on the first Sabbath of each quarter “designated as days of prayer and fasting for the world church.” It was also encouraged that everyone “establish the first day of each month and one day a week as normal or partial fast days.” “Support information and helps” are being developed by the Prayer and Fasting Subcommittee.

The Revival and Reformation Committee now endorses Operation Global Rain, with the "ten-day worldwide prayer/spiritual emphasis" held on January 5-15, 2011, which was a follow-up to the January 1 day of prayer and "serves as a foundation for all *Tell the World* initiatives."

All these initiatives, committees, programs, and helps are beginning to sound much like a business.

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 1, pp. 202-203

Now, some will tell you, and they will begin to reckon, and reckon, and reckon when the latter rain is coming. I would rather that you would reckon right now whether you have brought eternity into your reckoning concerning your individual self. Consider whether you have brought eternity daily to view. If you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today. What we need is Christ formed within, the hope of glory.

The Review and Herald, December 23, 1890

The True Witness declares, "I know thy works." "Repent, and do the first works." This is the true test, the evidence that the Spirit of God is working in the heart to imbue you with his love. "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." The church is like the unproductive tree which, receiving the dew and rain and sunshine, should have produced an abundance of fruit, but on which the divine search discovers nothing but leaves. Solemn thought for our churches! solemn, indeed, for every individual! Marvelous is the patience and forbearance of God; but "except thou repent," it will be exhausted; the churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from cold formality to deadness, while they are saying, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." The True Witness says, "And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Will they ever see clearly their condition?

<http://www.revivalandreformation.org/assets/41959>

The Creative Family Ministry Series included the following for family worship: "Get together with other families and plan a Walk Through the Bible Trail, where different family groups act out Bible stories along the way. Invite neighbors and friends to walk along your trail, enjoying the dramas."

<http://www.revivalandreformation.org/seeking-rojas>

In this video, José Rojas advises SDAs to not "cry aloud," that those who do are not winning souls to Christ, and that we should just let God take care of the church.

<http://www.revivalandreformation.org/assets/41892>

[https://central-california-conference-prayer-ministries-](https://central-california-conference-prayer-ministries-563.adventistfaith.org/site_data/563/assets/0022/0609/Themes_For_Prayerwalking.pdf)

[563.adventistfaith.org/site_data/563/assets/0022/0609/Themes_For_Prayerwalking.pdf](https://central-california-conference-prayer-ministries-563.adventistfaith.org/site_data/563/assets/0022/0609/Themes_For_Prayerwalking.pdf)

As if everything so far is not enough, the committee also endorses prayerwalking by instructing "How to Get Started Prayerwalking" and providing

"Themes For Prayerwalking." Ideas were taken from a book on prayerwalking by Steven Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick (Creation House). The following link includes a recommendation for books by non-SDA authors, including *The Promise of God's Power* by Jim Cymbala.

<http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=200>

http://www.adventistworld.org/issue_pdf.php?issue=2011-1001

In the January 2011 issue of *Adventist World*, the "Revival & Reformation Resources" pages 20 and 21 include the following, which are supposed to help bring revival and reformation into our lives and churches:

- *40 Days - Prayers and Devotions*, by Dennis Smith.
- *Coming Together Series*, by the Center for Creative Ministry.
- *Hunger, Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul*, by Jon Dybdahl.
- Disciple Tree (www.discipletree.com) - A Website produced by Jim Park, professor of evangelism and mission at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (the General Conference university for the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific divisions). According to this website it "is dedicated to the Biblical understanding and practice of discipleship in contemporary and international culture." Its definition of discipleship is that "Discipleship really encompasses all the aspects of the positive spiritual formation of an individual and a group which will lead to a lifetime of growth, maturity and fruitfulness."

Early and latter rain (also discussed in chapter 7)

Wilson and the Revival and Reformation Committee are promoting prayer for the latter rain. However, the false latter rain comes before the genuine. With all the facts and evidence, the counterfeit is here today, not only in the world but the SDA Church as well. There has not been a great movement of repentance, which must precede the latter rain. There has not been evidence of a corporate putting away of worldliness or a great calling for the early rain. When these things take place first, then we can truly rejoice that the latter rain will fall.

Last Day Events, p. 158

Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. ...The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work, and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest...

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 507

Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own

necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.

The reason the latter rain will be falling and SDAs will not know it is because they think it already happened. How can a sincere Christian expect the latter rain in the midst of ecumenism, celebrating, New Age practices, and emerging church ideas? If the Church would do away with the apostasy, the latter rain would fall and thousands would come to hear present truth. There would no longer be a need for myriads of initiatives, committees, programs, etc. When the simple gospel is preached, the end will come.

Joel 2:23

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

The Faith I Live By, p. 333

The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection....

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 463

Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to Bible truth, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a sensational character, it has no attractions for them. A message which appeals to unimpassioned reason, awakens no response. The plain warnings of God's Word, relating directly to their eternal interests, are unheeded.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 187

Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True

Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.

Counsels for the Church, p. 334

Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

Worldwide leadership

The following information came from an email to the For My People Ministry regarding the SDA members in the South American countries of Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil:

- The SDA Church leaders are not interested in medical missionary work, because it does not bring in lots of money.
- Non-SDAs are invited to preach on Sabbath, sometime because the regular SDA pastors do not have new ideas for sermons.
- Sermons about prophecy are rare, since the pastors are counseled to preach only about the love of God. Ninety percent of church members do not know about prophecy or Ellen White.
- The poor people are baptized quickly and are handled like an unwanted obligation, because they will not be able to pay much tithe.
- Church pastors do not always include the marriage vows at weddings, because that is the modern way. They are also surprised when married couples do not wear wedding rings.
- Most church members and pastors label a person a fanatic if they mention about not eating meat. Some, even pastors, partake of unclean meat, such as pork.
- SDAs, even pastors, drink "mate" tea that is high in caffeine.
- Most church members do not know about the dangers of eating too much sugar, so most do not have teeth by 30 to 40 years of age. The churches do not warn against it and if someone does, again they are labeled a fanatic.
- In March 2009, the person who emailed had attended the Youth Leaders Congress for all South American countries. The event went as follows:

It started Friday evening, and they expected about 500 leaders. At sundown just 40 had arrived and we held a short service. The responsible pastor told the leaders that there would not be control like in other conferences because they were all leaders and they should have the ability to control themselves. The rest of the 500 leaders arrived by motorbike until the early morning. They drove their bikes between the tents, shouted, and assembled their tents while playing loud rock music. Some were definitely drunk. When I admonished some of them, I was told to keep quiet. The shower rooms looked like total destruction, and we could not use them. I never had seen anything like it in my life. My wife said that in all her years as a Free Methodist she never had seen such un-Christian behavior as with these SDA leaders. I had hoped that the

pastors would soon control the situation, but they did not want to leave their comfortable hotel rooms. Only about 5 out of 500 attended the early morning devotions. During the late morning service, instead of listening to the pastors, many kept busy with their cell phone, Nintendo Game Boy, and ladies put on their makeup. I will not mention how they were dressed! There was no discipline from the pastors all day. At lunch time the youth made a mess and did not help with the cleanup. It resembled a mountain of garbage. At sundown I met the responsible pastor whom I knew for years. I asked him what was going on with the leaders and why they would behave like this. I also told him that we could not sleep that night. He just laughed and said: "Why do you worry, brother? It is always like this--everywhere! These are youngsters and we are not their parents." This experience explained to us why most of the younger Adventists do not even know what obedience is. Their parents do not educate them properly. Almost all the children work on Sabbath. Many leave church and go to work. Nobody explains to the youth and to the parents the right biblical ways. It is a terrible situation.

- The doctrine of the un-fallen nature of Christ is taught all over South America. The book that was most advertised and published is Roy Adams' *The Nature of Christ*. Because of this false doctrine, many do not feel obliged to obey. If you preach obedience, you are called a fanatic.
- It is taught that Ellen White spoke for her time and that today it is just counsel. It is also taught that the Bible is just a poetic book and that the prophets used their own language that confounded almost everything, and we should not take their accounts too "literally."
- They teach that Jesus did not really starve in the desert, but that the desert of Israel would have been like our farms in Paraguay full of different fruit trees, and that the fasting was just abstaining from meat. It is stated that because Jesus was much stronger than we, He could resist, so therefore we don't have to abstain from eating meat. And it goes on and on like this. All has nothing to do with Adventism. I talked frequently with the leader in charge and asked him how he could allow his pastors to teach such false doctrines. He never even tried to correct them.
- The SDA churches do not like to disfellowship anyone who is in open public sin. We have many members and even elders living together with their partners without being married.
- The SDA apostasy is also in Russia and Ukraine. Praise music, hand clapping, and dancing are the big evangelization methods used there.
- And so it could go on and on. It is the same apostasy as in other countries. The "creeping compromises" and the false doctrines are destroying our SDA churches. It is time for us and Jesus to act. Let this be our prayer for the coming surely difficult times.

The following description comes from another email about SDA apostasy in Germany:

- The sanctuary and 1844 messages are rarely taught.
- Many do yoga courses, and Pilates is very popular. They also use magnets and reflexology. Germany's large SDA university teaches that

those are all perfect healing methods, and pastors and elders keep silent. Evolution is supported at the university and many pastors believe in it.

- You cannot talk about overcoming sin or they see you as a heretic.
- One pastor was very controlling with his church members and strongly stated that he is no longer willing to accept "extreme" members who stand for the Spirit of Prophecy, because it is not on a level with the Bible and only gives advice not requirements. He wrote a church member and requested that they no longer discuss doctrine but that he wanted to spend time talking about hobbies. When questioned about going to church and not being able to discuss our beliefs, the pastor said that we should love each other and agree with everyone's beliefs. It is interesting that the pastor tells those who teach the three angels' messages not to share, yet advises to agree with everyone's beliefs.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 217

Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 122

We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world.

Matthew 15:14

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 9, p. 168

Will the ministers awake? Will the presidents take the "Testimonies" of mercy which God has given them? Will they do something, and do it now? Will they heed the prayer of Jesus, "I sanctify myself that they may be sanctified"? Generally, the people rise no higher than the minister or the president. If he is a devoted man, losing self and selfish interest in Jesus Christ, his example will have a telling power in that direction on the people.

The Signs of the Times, January 11, 1883

"Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord." The church will rarely take a higher stand than is taken by her ministers. There is need of a converted ministry and a converted people. Shepherds who watch for souls as they that must give account will lead the flock on in paths of peace and holiness. Their success in this work will be in proportion to their own growth in grace and knowledge of the truth. When the teachers are sanctified, soul, body, and spirit, they can impress upon the people the importance of such sanctification.

Christ is looking today for pastors who will feed the sheep, not starve them.

The Review and Herald, September 6, 1892

The charge given to Peter should come home to every minister. Again and again, the voice of Christ is heard repeating the charge to his undershepherds, "Feed my lambs, Feed my sheep."

Faith and Works, p. 86

When errors arise and are taught as Bible truth, those who have a connection with Christ will not trust to what the minister says, but like the noble Bereans, they will search the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 143

Our ministers need a transformation of character. They should feel that if their works are not wrought in God, if they are left to their own imperfect efforts, they are of all men the most miserable. Christ will be with every minister who, although he may not have attained to perfection of character, is seeking most earnestly to become Christlike. Such a minister will pray. He will weep between the porch and the altar, crying in soul anguish for the Lord's presence to be with him; else he cannot stand before the people, with all heaven looking upon him, and the angel's pen taking note of his words, his deportment, and his spirit.

Last Day Events, p. 189

I tell you that there must be a thorough revival among us. There must be a converted ministry. There must be confessions, repentance, and conversions. Many who are preaching the Word need the transforming grace of Christ in their hearts. They should let nothing stand in the way of their making thorough work before it shall be forever too late.

Where are all the courageous leaders who will show us what truth really is and unite to stand up against the torrent of apostasy and spiritualism that is taking over our beloved remnant church? God is searching for those faithful leaders, pastors, and members who will raise their voices against the backsliding and heresy. If we do not faithfully do our part, when Christ returns the third time to this earth, we will find ourselves outside the walls of the Holy City. Let us not make that fatal mistake.

Jeremiah 2:8; 10:21; 12:10; 22:22; 23:1-2

The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit. [10:21] For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered. [12:10] Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. [22:22] The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness. [23:1-2] Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered

my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

God has seen how His church has degraded His blueprint through irreverent and evil worship services, how many do not worship Him, and how many have been deceived. However, we have these promises.

Jeremiah 3:15; 23:3-4

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. [23:3-4] And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

Let us praise God that very soon He will give only His pastors to His church. His people have been spiritually starved, but they will then be fed. God will gather His remnant from around the world and they will increase.

Know your enemy

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The Review and Herald, January 11, 1887

The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 295

Satan hopes to involve the remnant people of God in the general ruin that is coming upon the earth. As the coming of Christ draws nigh, he will be more determined and decisive in his efforts to overthrow them.

The Signs of the Times, April 20, 1876

Satan is at work in secrecy and darkness. Cunningly he draws away the followers of Christ from the cross, and brings them into self-indulgence and wickedness.

Satan is opposed to everything that will strengthen the cause of Christ and weaken his own power. He is diligently laying plans to undermine the work of God. He never rests for a moment when he sees that the right is gaining the ascendancy. He has legions of evil angels that he sends to every point where light from Heaven is shining upon the people. Here he stations his pickets to seize every unguarded man, woman, or child, and pass them over to his service.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 12, p. 201

Satan's purpose is, through his devices, to make of none effect the testimonies of the Spirit of God. If he can lead the minds of the people of God to see things in a perverted light, they will lose confidence in the messages God sends through His servants; then he can the more readily deceive, and not be detected.

Ibid., Vol. 8, p. 399

Satan will use every opportunity to seduce men from their allegiance to God. He and the angels who fell with him will appear on the earth as men, seeking to deceive. God's angels also will appear as men, and will use every means in their power to defeat the purposes of the enemy.

Selected Messages, Book 3, pp. 410-411

I have been shown that evil angels in the form of believers will work in our ranks to bring in a strong spirit of unbelief. These powers of evil will assemble in our meetings, not to receive a blessing, but to counterwork the influences of the Spirit of God.... In this time evil angels in the form of men will talk with those who know the truth. They will misinterpret and misconstrue the statements of the messengers of God.

Have Seventh-day Adventists forgotten the warning given in the sixth chapter of Ephesians? We are engaged in a warfare against the hosts of darkness. Unless we follow our Leader closely, Satan will obtain the victory over us.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 8, No. 345

There will be seducing spirits and doctrines of devils in the midst of the church, and these evil influences will increase; but hold fast the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end.

Satan and his angels will appear on this earth as men, and will mingle with those of whom God's Word says, 'Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.' (1 Timothy 4:1).

Spalding and Magan Collection (1985), p. 307

The enemy works untiringly to deceive human beings, and lead them away from God. He and his angels will in the future assume the shape of human beings, and work to make the truth of God of no effect.

Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 12, p. 9

...I must warn all our churches to beware of men who are being sent out to do the work of spies in our conferences and churches,--a work instigated by the father of falsehood and deception. Let every church-member stand true to principle. We have been told what would come, and it has come.

The Signs of the Times, April 13, 1888

Those who are used as agents of Satan have an appearance of sanctity; and nothing but the law of God, which is a discernor of the thoughts of the heart, can discover of what spirit they are, and in whose cause they are engaged; but why not employ this unailing test in proving every

man's teaching and spirit. There is no need of being deceived, for the word of God is truth, and God has promised to give to those who desire truth, the Spirit of truth, that they may be guided into all truth. Let us seek earnestly for wisdom, and divine enlightenment, that we may know the truth, and be instrumental in God's hands of rescuing men and women from the snares of the evil one.

SDA pillars of faith

For decades SDAs have been giving up doctrines that stand as the pillars of faith, such as:

- The nature of Christ; righteousness by faith; victory over sin.
- The Sanctuary, atonement, and the Investigative Judgment.
- The Spirit of Prophecy.
- The Three Angels' Messages (exposing the papacy, Babylon, apostate Protestantism, ecumenism, spiritualism, and the Sabbath-Sunday question; exalting the law of God, the health message, etc.).
- The true state of the dead.

Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 30-31

The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God's people upon the earth, [also] the first and second angels' messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, "The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. The nonimmortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks.

The Upward Look, p. 152

In a representation which passed before me, I saw a certain work being done by medical missionary workers. Our ministering brethren were looking on, watching what was being done, but they did not seem to understand. The foundation of our faith, which was established by so much prayer, such earnest searching of the Scriptures, was being taken down, pillar by pillar. Our faith was to have nothing to rest upon--the sanctuary was gone, the atonement was gone....

Do you wonder that I have something to say, when I see the pillars of our faith beginning to be moved? Seductive theories are being taught in such a way that we shall not recognize them unless we have clear spiritual discernment.

Counsels to Writers and Editors, p 52.

As a people we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith.

The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation. They have made us what we are. The lapse of time has not lessened their value.

The Great Controversy (1888), pp. 45-46

There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance. This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan, so that false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful in ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ.

Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 204

I was shown a platform, braced by solid timbers—the truths of the Word of God. Someone high in responsibility in the medical work was directing this man and that man to loosen the timbers supporting this platform. Then I heard a voice saying, “Where are the watchmen that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? Are they asleep?” This foundation was built by the Master Worker, and will stand storm and tempest. Will they permit this man to present doctrines that deny the past experience of the people of God? The time has come to take decided action.”

Ibid., p. 196

My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth. Unmask the pretentious sophistries which, if received, will lead ministers and physicians and medical missionary workers to ignore the truth. Every one is now to stand on his guard. God calls upon men and women to take their stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. I have been instructed to warn our people; for many are in danger of receiving theories and sophistries that undermine the foundation pillars of the faith.

Confrontation, p. 68

Vain philosophy, false creeds, and infidelity are on the increase. And many who bear the name of Christ's followers are, through pride of heart, seeking popularity, and are drifting away from the established landmarks. The plain commands of God in His Word are discarded because they are so plain and old-fashioned, while vain and vague theories attract the mind and please the fancy. In these scenes of church festivities there is a union with the world that the Word of God does not justify. Christians and worldlings are united in them.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 137

Now is the time when we should closely connect with God, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If

the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?

Cry aloud

After learning about the apostasy and spiritualism in the SDA Church, what must the Church members do now?

Isaiah 58:1

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 211

Thus "Peace and safety" is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.

Ibid., p. 187

Shake off your spiritual lethargy. Work with all your might to save your own souls and the souls of others. It is no time now to cry, "Peace and safety." It is not silver-tongued orators that are needed to give this message. The truth in all its pointed severity must be spoken. Men of action are needed--men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church and the warning of the world.

Education, p 90

Of the rebuke that is love, of the blow that wounds to heal, of the warning that speaks hope, they have need to learn.

The Great Controversy, p. 165

To this appeal Luther answered: "The gospel of Christ cannot be preached without offense....Why then should the fear or apprehension of danger separate me from the Lord, and from that divine word which alone is truth? No; I would rather give up my body, my blood, and my life."

Early Writings, pp. 269-270

I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward.

Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

God is looking for those who will "cry aloud" about the apostasy in the SDA Church and give the straight testimony. However, those who do and those who emphasize the law of God are accused of being critical, judgmental, negative, legalistic, etc. We are reminded of an analogy in which someone is shouting to their neighbors in the middle of the night that their house is on fire. If those in the burning house told the neighbor to be quiet and went back to sleep, they would not live to see the next day. There are those who say to not worry about the apostasy, that it is not that bad and to let God take care of it. If this was true, He certainly would have done something long before this. God will hold us responsible if we say nothing or do nothing about this crisis. It is the same principle as speaking up when the Sunday laws come. Of course, there are members today who no longer believe there will be Sunday laws. God's Word instructs us what to do in this dire situation. We see history repeating itself in the following quotes.

Battle Creek Letters, p. 79

Few can see the meaning of the present apostasy. But the Lord has lifted the curtain, and has shown me its meaning, and the result that it will have if allowed to continue. We must now lift our voices in warning.

Selected Messages, Book 1, pp. 194-195

The battle is on.... Where are His watchmen? Are they standing on the high tower, giving the danger signal, or are they allowing the peril to pass unheeded?

Will the men in our institutions keep silent, allowing insidious fallacies to be promulgated to the ruin of souls? ... Is it not time that we asked ourselves, Shall we allow the adversary to lead us to give up the work of proclaiming the truth?

Vigilant action is called for. Indifference and sloth will result in the loss of personal religion and of heaven.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 280

What astonishing deception and fearful blindness had, like a dark cloud, covered Israel! This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly; it had come upon them gradually as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. And now, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous priests and the apostate king, they remained neutral. If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.

The Review and Herald, December 12, 1893

The salvation of sinners demands that every Christian shall act his part, and put forth a certain measure of positive power....The word must be spoken in season and out of season to those who are beguiled by Satan, and led to do evil things. Satan is working through his agents, and shall the soldiers of Christ exert no positive influence to save souls that are walking in the broad road to death?

Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 174

Keep the warning message of truth before the people; for the end is at hand. We are to cry aloud and spare not. Some will pay no heed, but others will repent and be converted.

In Heavenly Places, p. 328

It is time now to gather strength from the Source of all strength, to cry aloud and spare not, to press back the clouds of darkness, that the light of heaven may be revealed.

Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 2, pp. 283-284

By some there is shunning of the living testimony. Cutting truths must not be shunned. It needs something besides theory to reach hearts now. It needs the stirring testimony to alarm and arouse; that will stir the enemy's subjects, and then honest souls will be led to decide for the truth. There has been and still is with some a disposition to have everything move on very smoothly. They see no necessity of straight testimony.

Sins exist in the church that God hates, but they are scarcely touched for fear of making enemies. Opposition has risen in the church to the plain testimony. Some will not bear it. They wish smooth things spoken unto them. And if the wrongs of individuals are touched, they complain of severity, and sympathize with those in the wrong. As Ahab inquired of Elijah, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" they are ready to look with suspicion and doubt upon those who bear the plain testimony, and like Ahab overlook the wrong which made it necessary for reproof and rebuke. When the church depart from God they despise the plain

testimony, and complain of severity and harshness. It is a sad evidence of the lukewarm state of the church.

Selected Messages, Book 1, pp. 205-206

Shortly before I sent out the testimonies regarding the efforts of the enemy to undermine the foundation of our faith through the dissemination of seductive theories, I had read an incident about a ship in a fog meeting an iceberg. For several nights I slept but little. I seemed to be bowed down as a cart beneath sheaves. One night a scene was clearly presented before me. A vessel was upon the waters, in a heavy fog. Suddenly the lookout cried, "Iceberg just ahead!" There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. An authoritative voice cried out, "Meet it!" There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collisions, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, "Meet it!" I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come. I must without delay obey the command, "Meet it!"

The SDA Church is in a crisis and the majority of its members do nothing about it. Some state that they do not see a problem where they are at. Is this a good enough excuse to ignore it elsewhere and quietly go along in their little sphere of the world? Some state that because the wheat and tares grow together in the Church that we do not need to cry aloud. Have they forgotten Cain's excuse when he asked God if he was his brother's keeper?

Christian Service, p. 13

Brethren and sisters in the faith, does the question arise in your hearts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" If you claim to be children of God, you are your brother's keeper. The Lord holds the church responsible for the souls of those whom they might be the means of saving.

Child Guidance, pp. 235-236

Those who have too little courage to reprove wrong, or who through indolence or lack of interest make no earnest effort to purify the family or the church of God, are held accountable for the evil that may result from their neglect of duty. We are just as responsible for evils that we might have checked in others by exercise of parental or pastoral authority, as if the acts had been our own.

So many have made excuses for not speaking up about the apostasy that the unsanctified have been and are taking over our churches, schools, hospitals,

publications, media, and worst of all, the administration, while the majority remain silent. How tragic that this is a worldwide problem.

Joel 2:17

Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

Ephesians 5:11-12

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, p. 3

Every Christian is a standard-bearer of righteous principles. Let there be no lowering of the standard, no countenancing of wrong movements. It was while men slept that the enemy sowed tares among the wheat. It is the unwatchful, sleeping condition of God's servants that implicates them with their associates in guilt. The only way to escape being an unfaithful watchman is to watch and not allow to continue the evils that can be checked. To sustain by silence a work that God cannot approve is to abet Satan's work, and this results in the loss of souls. No one should be at ease until he has done all that it is possible for him to do to counterwork evil.

Ibid., Vol. 2, pp. 230-231

As the end approaches, the testimonies of God's servants will become more decided and more powerful, flashing the light of truth upon the systems of error and oppression that have so long held the supremacy. The Lord has sent us messages for this time to establish Christianity upon an eternal basis, and all who believe present truth must stand, not in their own wisdom, but in God, and raise up the foundations of many generations. These will be registered in the books of heaven as repairers of the breach, the restorers of paths to dwell in. We are to maintain the truth because it is truth, in the face of the bitterest opposition. God is at work upon human minds; it is not man alone that is working.

The Bible Echo, April 23, 1894

Love for one another is not to be manifested by praise and flattery, but by true fidelity. The love of Christ will lead us to watch for souls; and if we see one in danger, we shall tell him so plainly and kindly, even at the risk of his displeasure. The religion of Christ is not to be controlled by impulse. We need to pray much, and lean wholly upon God. We need to hold the truth with firmness, and in all righteousness; but while we speak the truth with fidelity, we should speak it in love, as it is in Jesus.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 16, p. 114

When God speaks to men, commanding them to bear His message to the people, it means something. Those who are commanded to bear a

message must move out although obstacles of a forbidding character are in the way. Those who claim to know the truth, and yet lay every obstacle in the way so that light shall not come to the people, will have an account to settle with God that they will not be pleased to meet. God manages His own work, and woe to the man who puts his hand to the ark of God.

Many have accused those who cry aloud of fitting the following description. This is how Satan would have it. It actually refers to those who are tearing down the SDA pillars of faith, the historical beliefs that made up the SDA Church from its early days. It perfectly describes emergents.

Counsels for the Church, p. 243

Those who start up to proclaim a message on their own individual responsibility, who, while claiming to be taught and led of God, still make it their special work to tear down that which God has been for years building up, are not doing the will of God. Be it known that these men are on the side of the great deceiver. Believe them not.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 261

Those whom God has chosen for an important work have ever been received with distrust and suspicion. Anciently, when Elijah was sent with a message from God to the people, they did not heed the warning. They thought him unnecessarily severe. They even thought that he must have lost his senses because he denounced them, the favored people of God, as sinners and their crimes as so aggravated that the judgments of God would awaken against them. Satan and his host have ever been arrayed against those who bear the message of warning and who reprove sins. The unconsecrated will also be united with the adversary of souls to make the work of God's faithful servants as hard as possible.

Those who cry aloud are in good company with Elijah, and Jesus, and others. However, those who do not learn to speak up now as apostasy runs rampant in our beloved Church, when it is time for the loud cry, they will be silent.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 267

In the case of Achan's sin God said to Joshua: "Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you." How does this instance compare with the course pursued by those who will not raise their voice against sin and wrong, but whose sympathies are ever found with those who trouble the camp of Israel with their sins? Said God to Joshua: "Thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." He pronounced the punishment which would follow the transgression of His covenant.

Many SDAs are saying that we are not in the last days. It is those very ones who are not faithful watchmen on the walls. It is those very sentiments that show we are in the last days. The proof is not just because there are worldwide calamities, but because of the thoughts and actions of the majority in the Church who do not cry aloud except when they are partying and "... that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming" (Matthew 24:48).

Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers, No. 6, p. 11

I raise my voice of warning against the mingling in our institutions, of the worldly element with those who believe; we have the danger signal to sound. If in our institutions persons are placed in positions of trust, they are educators. Others are taught to look to these persons for instruction, and in this is a snare to the unwary; their ideas become confused in regard to righteousness and truth. They hear those persons who have no respect for the truth, sneer and speak disparagingly of the truth, which should be held firmly and sacredly as truth.... And when men in the highest responsible positions make no difference between those who serve God and those who serve him not, they evidence that their eyes are not single to the glory of God; therefore their whole body is full of darkness.

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 953

I now raise my voice in warning; for you are in danger. The people are to know when peril is threatening them; they are not to be left in darkness.

Ezekiel 3:17-21

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Christian Service, pp. 77-79

Let us arouse! The battle is waging. Truth and error are nearing their final conflict. Let us march under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, and fight the good fight of faith, and win eternal honors; for the truth will triumph, and we may be more than conquerors through Him who has loved us. The precious hours of probation are closing. Let us make sure work for eternal life, that we may glorify our heavenly Father, and be the means of saving souls for whom Christ died....

We are nearing the close of this earth's history. We have before us a great work,—the closing work of giving the last warning message to a sinful world. There are men who will be taken from the plow, from the vineyard, from various other branches of work, and sent forth by the Lord to give this message to the world.

Sound an alarm throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Tell the people that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. Let none be left unwarned. We might have been in the place of the poor souls that are in error. We might have been placed among barbarians. According to the truth we have received above others, we are debtors to impart the same to them....

We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare. From the light given me of God I know that the powers of darkness are working with intense energy from beneath, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do; but soon it will be more difficult than we can imagine. God help us to keep in the channel of light, to work with our eyes fastened on Jesus our leader, and patiently, perseveringly press on to gain the victory.

God's people must unite in one voice to "clear the King's highway" by putting away every sin and purifying the Church of those who continue to destroy it.

Isaiah 40:3-4

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.

Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 250

We are not to be satisfied because the message of warning has been once presented. We must present it again and again.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 90

Only as they were united with Christ could the disciples hope to have the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit and the co-operation of angels of heaven. With the help of these divine agencies they would present before the world a united front and would be victorious in the conflict they were compelled to wage unceasingly against the powers of darkness. As they should continue to labor unitedly, heavenly messengers would go before them, opening the way; hearts would be prepared for the reception of truth, and many would be won to Christ. So long as they remained united, the church would go forth "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." Song of Solomon 6:10. Nothing could withstand her onward progress. The church would advance from victory to victory, gloriously fulfilling her divine mission of proclaiming the gospel to the world.

That is what the For My People Ministry will continue to do as long as God wills.

Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 2, pp. 284-285

Just as long as God has a church, he will have those who will cry aloud and spare not, who will be his instruments to reprove selfishness and sins, and will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear. I saw that individuals would rise up against the plain testimonies. It does not suit their natural feelings. They would choose to have smooth things spoken unto them, and have peace cried in their ears. I view the church in a more dangerous condition than they ever have been. Experimental religion is known but by a few. The shaking must soon take place to purify the church.

Let the truth cut. I have been shown that why ministers have not more success is, they are afraid of hurting feelings, fearful of not being courteous, and they lower the standard of truth, and conceal if possible the peculiarity of our faith. I saw that God could not make such successful. The truth must be made pointed, and the necessity of a decision urged. And as false shepherds are crying, Peace, and are preaching smooth things, the servants of God must cry aloud, and spare not, and leave the result with God.

Loma Linda Messages, July 15, 1904

...we must cry aloud and spare not, lest our silence be interpreted to mean consent. The time has come when each one must stand in his lot and place, prepared to call sin, sin, and righteousness, righteousness.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 267

Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel.

Ibid., Vol. 5, pp. 209-210

The haven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world.

Testimonies on Sabbath School Work, p. 56

The Lord will raise up men to bear the message of truth to the world and to His people. If those in responsible positions do not move onward in the opening providences of God, bearing an appropriate message for this time, the words of warning will be given to others who will be faithful to their trust. Even youthful Christians will be chosen to "cry aloud and spare not."

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 506

With the growing contempt for God's law there is an increasing distaste for religion, an increase of pride, love of pleasure, disobedience to parents, and self-indulgence; and thoughtful minds everywhere are anxiously inquiring, What can be done to correct these alarming evils? The answer is found in Paul's exhortation to Timothy, "Preach the word."

The Review and Herald, November 26, 1861

God's people will be tested and proved. The plain and pointed testimony must act a prominent part in this work. In these days of darkness and peril who is able to stand and speak the whole truth? Multitudes of teachers prophesy smooth things. They see no special cause of alarm in the present condition of the professed people of God. The people are asleep, and the teachers are asleep. They cry, Peace, peace, and the multitude that hear believe their report and are at ease. This makes the necessity greater for faithful teachers to bear the pointed, faithful testimony.

Crying aloud also means living a godly life.

General Conference Daily Bulletin, March 2, 1899

God requires things to be set in order. He calls for men of decided fidelity. He has no use in an emergency for two-sided men. He wants men who will lay their hand upon a work, and say, This is not according to the will of God. It is this miserable thing in dealing with wrongs that God has condemned.... When the work of seeking God with all the heart commences, there will be many confessions made that are now buried. I do not at present feel it my duty to confess for those who ought to make, not a general, but a plain, definite confession, and so cleanse the Lord's institutions from the defilement that has come upon them.

No one is "abiding in Christ" when they are "celebrating" and "emerging."

The Review and Herald, September 24, 1908

The message I have to bear is that a much higher standard must be reached by God's people. I entreat all to heed this warning. I dare not cease to "cry aloud," and "spare not," and show God's people "their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." It is time that we all understood our true position, and that we give, in righteous characters, the evidence that we possess the truth.

In Heavenly Places, p. 299

There are many wrong things which we allow to pass by unnoticed, when by our godly conversation we might set an example of rightdoing that would be a standing rebuke to the evildoers. We cannot afford by our example to seem to sanction wrongdoing. There is a heaven to win and a hell to shun.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 254

It is not enough to merely profess to believe the truth. All the soldiers of the cross of Christ virtually obligate themselves to enter the crusade against the adversary of souls, to condemn wrong and sustain righteousness. But the message of the True Witness reveals the fact that a terrible deception is upon our people, which makes it necessary to come to them with warnings, to break their spiritual slumber, and arouse them to decided action.

Are you awake? If so, you will be active in following Christ and will "cry aloud," "spare not," and show God's people "their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

It is time

This is not the time to be toning down our messages. It is not the time to be celebrating. It is not the time to be ashamed of our historic SDA beliefs. It is not a time to be afraid of being called a cult or a lunatic fringe. There is a strong movement today, even in the SDA Church, to minimize Protestantism. It is time to protest, to bring back the Protestant Reformation. It is time to be courageous when most are cowards. It is time to repent of our sins, reform our ways, and reach the world with the present truth for today. It is time to carry the cross of Christ, before receiving the crown of life.

The Great Controversy (1888), p. 201

The papists determined to put down what they termed daring obstinacy. They began by endeavoring to cause divisions among the supporters of the Reformation, and to intimidate all who had not openly declared in its favor.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 385

I was told that men will employ every policy to make less prominent the difference between the faith of Seventh-day Adventists and those who observe the first day of the week. In this controversy the whole world will be engaged, and the time is short. This is no time to haul down our colors.

A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner or sign which makes us a distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation. In describing the remnant people of God, John says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of

God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). This is the law and the gospel.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 289

When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists. "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."

We are not here for a popularity contest; we are not here to be politically correct. We are not here to be lazy, have it easy, and party. We are here to vindicate the truth of God's Word in our own lives and warn others of Satan's tactics. While Bible truth is not popular on this planet, it is in the rest of the universe. So when you follow the Lord, you have much more for you than against you.

Romans 8:31

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

God is waiting for a people who will conduct His worship services, play and sing His type of music, read His books, watch His type of videos, do His kind of recreation, keep His health message, be His type of teachers, pastors, and leaders, and keep His doctrines. God is waiting for us to be like Jesus—to speak His words, think His thoughts, and duplicate His actions. Yes, we can be like Him through God's power when we surrender self to Him each moment, study His Word, keep all His commandments, and pray His prayers. It is all about Him. When you replace self with Jesus, He will turn it into eternal life. What are we waiting for? Let us do it and go home.

May God help us as a people to come up to a higher standard. Let us pray toward that end so that God may be glorified and Christ can return. We must pray not only for ourselves, our families and our friends, but for our Church's leaders, for those who have left the truth that they will come back, and for our enemies. We must pray for true repentance, revival, and reformation, and that we will be spiritually cleansed in preparation for the early and latter rain and the loud cry.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Christian Service, p. 42

Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.

Division is in the SDA church, because the wheat and tares are together. Truth and error cannot be in unity. Two parties are developed because of this, as shown in Ernie's dream, "Two Cars." We must each decide which car we will be in—the one that goes to the left with the majority whose leader is Satan, or the car with the minority—a small remnant—that go to the right with Jesus as the Driver. It is our choice, and it is an eternal choice.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 124

If the professed followers of Christ would accept God's standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His Holy Word, there will be divisions and dissension.

A remnant

Romans 9:27

Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 76

I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience. I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue. No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds.

The Signs of the Times, March 12, 1894

There will be a remnant who will do the will of God.

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 878

God will have a remnant people who will be purified, made white, and tried.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, pp. 445-446

...but a small number of those now professing to believe the truth would eventually be saved—not because they could not be saved, but because they would not be saved in God's own appointed way. The way marked out by our divine Lord is too narrow and the gate too strait to admit them while grasping the world or while cherishing selfishness or sin of any kind. There is no room for these things; and yet there are but few who will consent to part with them, that they may pass the narrow way and enter the strait gate.

The Signs of the Times, February 8, 1910

Under the symbols of the great red dragon, a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamblike horns, the earthly governments which would be especially engaged in trampling upon God's law and persecuting His people, were presented to John. Their war is to be carried on till the close of time. The people of God, symbolized by a holy woman and her children, are represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days, only a remnant still exists. John speaks of them as those that "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 535-536

Looking down through the ages to the close of time, Peter was inspired to outline conditions that would exist in the world just prior to the second coming of Christ. "There shall come in the last days scoffers," he wrote, "walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." But "when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." 1 Thessalonians 5:3. Not all, however, would be ensnared by the enemy's devices. As the end of all things earthly should approach, there would be faithful ones able to discern the signs of the times. While a large number of professing believers would deny their faith by their works, there would be a remnant who would endure to the end.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 368

When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

The Signs of the Times, April 22, 1889

Although the law of God will be almost universally made void in the world, there will be a remnant of the righteous that will be obedient to God's requirements.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 608

...I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved. Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world.

Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 1, pp. 174-175

I saw the rapidity with which this delusion [spiritualism] was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board. Then he showed me the conductor, who looked like a stately fair person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed, and asked my attending angel who it was. Said he, It is Satan. He is the conductor in the

form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. They are given over to strong delusions, to believe a lie that they may be damned. His agent, the next highest in order to him, is the engineer, and others of his agents are employed in different offices as he may need them, and they are all going with lightning speed to perdition. I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, and bound together by the truth.

This little company looked care-worn, as though they had passed through severe trials and conflicts. And it seemed as if the sun had just appeared from behind the cloud, and shone upon their countenances, and caused them to look triumphant, as though their victories were nearly won.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 231

The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. Those who will be true to God and to duty will be betrayed "both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends." [Luke 21:16]

That I May Know Him, p. 355

Satan will bring in pleasing fables to meet the minds of all who love not the truth. With angry zeal he will accuse commandment keepers.... Satan claims the world, but there is a little company who withstand his devices and contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. Satan sets himself to destroy this commandment-keeping company. But God is their tower of defense. He will raise up for them a standard against the enemy. He will be to them "as an hiding place from the wind," and "as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land" (Isaiah 32:2). He will say to them, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" (Isaiah 26:20, 21). "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 136

Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by

opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers. The promise is: "Them that honor Me I will honor."

Church militant vs. church triumphant

Malachi 3:7

Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 10:20-21

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

The General Conference Bulletin, July 1, 1900

"O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help." "Return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously.... I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 114

Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.

In spite of the fact that Christ commanded to let the wheat and tares grow together, it is not an excuse for SDAs to allow open apostasy in the Church. We cannot know a person's motives, but we can know the "fruits." If the Church leaders truly wish to have a revival and reformation, it would necessitate removing many leaders, pastors, teachers and laypeople from the Church, if they do not repent.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 46

There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God.

Counsels for the Church, p. 338

But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel.

The Review and Herald, June 3, 1880

What the church needs is to be cleansed of those who defile it. The spirit of reformation must be kindled among us, and this class must be converted or be separated from the church. We entreat those who have a connection with God to pray earnestly and in faith, and not to stop here, but to work as well as pray, for the purification of the church. The present time calls for men and women who have a moral fixedness of purpose,

men and women who will not be molded or subdued by any unsanctified influences. Such persons will make a success in the work of perfecting Christian character through the grace of Christ so freely given.

Sermons and Talks, Vol. 2, p. 193

The church militant is not the church triumphant. Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). We must meet human beings of power and influence who are on Satan's side of the controversy; and we must also meet unseen agencies of evil. Let us be found in the right position.

Reflecting Christ, p. 226

In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God. An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Immanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried out with a loud voice: "Come into line. Let those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ now take their position. Come out from among them, and be ye separate."

The battle raged. Victory alternated from side to side. Now the soldiers of the cross gave way, "as when a standardbearer fainteth" (Isaiah 10:18). But their apparent retreat was but to gain a more advantageous position. Shouts of joy were heard. A song of praise to God went up, and angel voices united in the song, as Christ's soldiers planted His banner on the walls of fortresses till then held by the enemy. The Captain of our salvation was ordering the battle and sending support to His soldiers. His power was mightily displayed, encouraging them to press the battle to the gates. He taught them terrible things in righteousness as He led them on step by step, conquering and to conquer.

At last the victory was gained. The army following the banner with the inscription, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," was gloriously triumphant....

Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.

There are two groups in the Church today--those in the majority (the tares), who are celebrating and those in the minority (the wheat), who cry aloud and become the church that will not fall.

Evangelism, p. 707

The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant.

The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 600-601

The church is God's agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine grace. If she will be true to her allegiance, if she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her....

If the church will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God's promise to her will stand fast forever. He will make her an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Truth, passing by those who despise and reject it, will triumph. Although at times apparently retarded, its progress has never been checked. When the message of God meets with opposition, He gives it additional force, that it may exert greater influence. Endowed with divine energy, it will cut its way through the strongest barriers and triumph over every obstacle.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 15, p. 130

Many have the idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and their experience independent of Christ's acknowledged body in the world. But this is condemned by Jesus Christ in His teachings and in the examples of facts given to us for our instruction. Here was Paul directly brought into the presence of Christ--One whom Christ was to fit for a most important work, one who was to be a chosen vessel unto Him--yet He does not teach him the lessons of truth he must learn; He arrests his course, He convicts him. He asks Christ, "What wilt Thou have me to do?" The Saviour does not tell him directly but places him in His direction in connection with His church--They will tell thee what thou must do.

God's church mentioned here can only be those in the church who are serving Him. We cannot acknowledge those who continue in apostasy. Notice the following quotes.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 361

I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger. "I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people." He who has God's law written in the heart will obey God rather than men, and will sooner disobey all men than deviate in the least from the commandment of God. God's people, taught by the inspiration of truth, and led by a good conscience to live by every word of God, will take His law, written in

their hearts, as the only authority which they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme.

The Paulson Collection of Ellen G. White Letters, p. 124 (January 27, 1903)

At present, I most decidedly dread to attend either camp meetings or Conferences. When present at such meetings, I am reigned up to speak plainly and strongly in regard to matters; for I dare not do otherwise than to tell the truth. The burden that comes upon me at such times is very heavy. The experiences I have passed through in attending meetings since returning to America, have been most afflicting; for it seems as if my efforts are of none effect. The testimonies borne bring upon me a great burden of soul, and seem to accomplish so little to change the order of things. The testimonies are speculated upon, and do not reform existing evils.

Just now my courage is not the best. Since the Fresno camp meeting, I have carried the burden of the Southern field in direct opposition to the plans of leading brethren. I have lost confidence in some of these men as being taught and directed of God. If they are thus taught and directed, I am not teaching the way of the Lord. Therefore I am convinced that my place is at home. I can continue to write, if I avoid the crushing burdens that overwhelm me. And these burdens come upon me whenever I attend a meeting where there are men whom I know are not walking in the counsel of God. I care not to face such matters any longer; for it seems useless.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 17, p. 64

I have a work to do, and I am now making decisions. I must remain away from conference meetings. I must not attend camp meetings. The spirit of drawing apart, as the result of judging one another, has become so common, and the churches are becoming so leavened with this spirit, that I have no desire to attend these meetings. After returning from them, it is often weeks before I am able to take up my neglected work.

Because those in positions of responsibility have for years left the Southern field unworked, notwithstanding the most decided testimonies urging them to take up this work; because they continue to neglect this field and use every manner of device in trying to uproot the confidence of the people in those who have done the hardest and most self-sacrificing work in the South, I have but very little confidence that the Lord is giving these men in positions of responsibility spiritual eyesight and heavenly discernment. I am thrown into perplexity over their course; and I desire now to attend to my special work, to have no part in any of their councils, and to attend no camp-meetings, nigh nor afar off. My mind shall not be dragged into confusion by the tendency they manifest to work directly contrary to the light that God has given me. I am done. I will preserve my God-given intelligence.

My voice has been heard in the different conferences and at camp meetings. I must now make a change. I cannot enter the atmosphere of strife and then have to bear testimonies that cost me

much more than those to whom they are sent can imagine. When I attend the different meetings, I am compelled to deal with men, standing in responsible places, who I know are not exerting an influence that God can endorse. And when I bear a testimony in reference to their course of action, advantage is taken of this testimony. These men have not clear understanding. Should I say the things that I know, they would not, with their present experience, use this instruction wisely, and would bring upon me inconceivable burdens.

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 692

You know that I have not done any of my book writing to speak of since I came from Europe because of this terrible burden upon my soul of seeing men who are connected with our institutions so blinded by the enemy they cannot distinguish the voice of the True Shepherd from that of a stranger. They gather about their souls garments of unbelief and walk in the sparks of their own kindling. This has nearly broken my heart. With this is accompanied a spirit of iron. There is not the sympathy and love and tenderness of Christ, but an unfeeling heartlessness that is surely satanic in its character. All this has been so presented before me that I no longer feel it to be my duty to labor and wear out my life for this satanic spirit to come in and work with might and main to counteract all that I should attempt to do, either by pen or in letter writing or by voice. When my brethren decide to stand by me and second my efforts, and call things by their right name, then I shall feel that God will have me attend the large gatherings.

A spirit has come in among us that is bold, defiant, persevering, to resist the Spirit of God.

Australasian Union Conference Record, December 30, 1907

As you present the Word to your hearers, claim this promise of Christ's presence. There is no day, no hour of the day, when He will not be near you by His Holy Spirit. He is in every meeting that is held in His name [not Satan's]. His promise is given for as long as time shall last.

Disfellowshipping

The Review and Herald, January 3, 1893

The reason is plain why Christ has said, "Judge not;" for it is natural for man to exalt his own goodness, to shun a candid examination of his own heart, and depreciate others. If we looked upon things in the right light, we should see that we need mercy from Christ every moment, and should render the same to our brethren. Jesus has not placed man upon the judgment-seat; for he knew human nature too well to give man the power to judge and condemn others. He knew that in their fallible judgment, they would root up some as tares, who were worthy of their sympathy and confidence, and would pass by others who deserved to be dealt with in a decided manner. When there are cases in the church which need to be dealt with decidedly, let the rule of the Bible be carried out. If the influence of erring members has an influence that corrupts others,

they should be disfellowshipped; and heaven will ratify the action. It is the work of the enemy to sow tares among the wheat; and there will be men found in the church whose influence, as far as we can discern from outward appearance, is no blessing to the church. But even in cases of this character we are to move cautiously; for Christ and heavenly agencies are at work to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 9, pp. 196-197

Now the messengers of God must seek wisdom and know how to treat each individual case. Not all must be treated alike. By close examination it will be seen that individual cases differ. Some are to be borne with longer than others, but if one is living in disobedience to the commandments of God, the church must act and must separate them from them. And for other sins it will often be necessary to disfellowship souls if they continue in their sins; yet great care should be used and great patience and forbearance exercised.

I saw that Brother _____ had tried to do right and just as well as he knew how, yet he has failed at times. I saw that judgment and caution must be used. The messengers must all move out unitedly and with decision and energy, yet they must have meekness and patience, and in love for souls fulfill their duty. They must all go among the people with the power and Spirit of God with them, and must have energy that will arouse the stupid and those who are off their watch and cause them to awake and get ready.

Ibid., Vol. 5, p. 201

I then saw Brother J. He had wounded and torn the hearts of God's people. I saw he had been stubborn and rebellious, and unless he changed his course entirely, the church should disfellowship him, for he has been a dead weight to the church....

Ibid., Vol. 15, p. 167

If there are those in the church who are walking contrary to the word of God, who give no evidence that they are seeking to live the life of Christ, faithful shepherds are to labor for them. If they refuse to come out from the world and be separate, if they continue to walk contrary to Bible rules, they should be suspended from church fellowship, that they may not be stumbling blocks to sinners. If after being earnestly labored with, they refuse to repent and humble themselves before God, let them be separated from the church.

S.D.A. Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, p. 1096

The names of those who sin and refuse to repent should not be retained on the church books, lest the saints be held accountable for their evil deeds. Those who pursue a course of transgression should be visited and labored with, and if they then refuse to repent, they should be separated from church fellowship, in accordance with the rules laid down in the Word of God....

Those who refuse to hear the admonitions and warnings given by God's faithful messengers are not to be retained in the church. They are to be disfellowshipped; for they will be as Achan in the camp of Israel--deceived and deceiving.

Who, after reading the record of Achan's sin and punishment, can think it according to the will of God that those who do wickedly, refusing to repent, are to be retained in the church? To retain them would be an insult to the God of heaven (Letter 215, 1902).

The purified SDA Church

Who and what will purify the SDA Church?

The Publishing Ministry, p. 170

The Lord will work to purify His church. I tell you in truth, the Lord is about to turn and overturn in the institutions called by His name. Just how soon this refining process will begin I cannot say, but it will not be long deferred. He whose fan is in His hand will cleanse His temple of its moral defilement. He will thoroughly purge His floor.

The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 524-525

God's care for His heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon His children but such as is essential for their present and eternal good. He will purify His church, even as Christ purified the temple during His ministry on earth. All that He brings upon His people in test and trial comes that they may gain deeper piety and greater strength to carry forward the triumphs of the cross.

Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 2, p. 284

The shaking must soon take place to purify the church.

Early Writings, p. 270

The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 216

I have been shown that the Lord is reviving the living, pointed testimony, which will develop character and purify the church.

Ibid., Vol. 4, p. 210

He [Satan] seeks by all the means in his power to shake the confidence of God's people in the voice of warning and reproof through which God designs to purify the church and prosper His cause.

Ibid., Vol. 5, p. 109

Every man must purify his soul through obedience to the truth, and with an eye single to God's glory he must abase self and exalt Jesus and His grace.

One master

We can only serve God or Satan, one or the other. We must choose who we will serve. We cannot have more than one master. Truth and error mixed equals error. We must serve God 100 percent or we are serving Satan and self. If Satan serves as our master, he is only serving himself. He is of no use to us.

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [Satan].

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 76

Many of those who have had great light, great opportunities, and every spiritual advantage praise Christ and the world with the same breath. They bow themselves before God and mammon. They make merry with the children of the world, and yet claim to be blessed with the children of God. They wish to have Christ as their Saviour, but will not bear the cross and wear His yoke.

Christ is to serve as the Master of the Church, just as the husband is to be the master of his home. Just as the wife submits to her husband and the husband serves his wife, so as we submit to Christ, He serves us. That is the perfect relationship. However, just as a wife who does not submit to her husband and he does not serve her, when we do not submit to Christ, He cannot serve us.

Ephesians 5:22-32

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Christ cannot serve in a church where there is apostasy and spiritualism.

Joshua 7:11-13

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled [a hypocrite] also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not

stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

When each member of the Church serves only Christ, then He can serve each member and it will be the perfect relationship and the perfect church. The SDA organization has been focused on relationships, but there can be no true relationships until Christ is the Master. The Church has been focused on self and Satan. It has served many gods. When the Church accepts Christ as its Master, true Church growth will bring in true Christians.

Will you focus on Christ and let Him be your Master?

Ezekiel 33:11

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his ways and live: turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Ye Shall Receive Power, Ellen G. White, p. 190

Put Thy church in order, O Lord, that they may labor for souls. My Saviour, reveal Thyself to this people. Let Thy love be expressed. Oh, let it be revealed! Hold Thy people, that Satan may not have his will and way with them. Help them to press through all opposition, that at last they may lay their crowns at the feet of Jesus in the city of God; and Thy name shall have all the glory. Amen.

Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 108

Not one cloud has fallen upon the church that God has not prepared for; not one opposing force has risen to counterwork the work of God but He has foreseen. All has taken place as He has predicted through His prophets. He has not left His church in darkness, forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and through His providence, acting in its appointed place in the world's history, He has brought about that which His Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell. All His purposes will be fulfilled and established. His law is linked with His throne, and satanic agencies combined with human agencies cannot destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; it will live, and will succeed, although it may appear at times to be overshadowed. The gospel of Christ is the law exemplified in character. The deceptions practiced against it, every device for vindicating falsehood, every error forged by satanic agencies, will eventually be eternally broken, and the triumph of truth will be like the appearing of the sun at noonday. The Sun of Righteousness shall shine forth with healing in His wings, and the whole earth shall be filled with His glory.

Joshua 24:15

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

Summation

Below is a summary of what has been covered in this chapter on the apostasy and spiritualism that has entered the SDA Church.

- Pantheism and panentheism.
- School accreditation.
- New Theology.
- Worship services that are irreverent and include:
 - dramatic lighting, drums, rock and rap music, contemporary gospel, modern praise, jazz, country, and opera
 - drama and mimes
 - liturgical dancing
 - hand raising and applause
 - casual communion that tries to copy the Eucharist
 - dressing improperly
 - irreverent sermons and baptisms.
- Ministry using clowns, face painting, puppets, etc.
- Rushing baptisms.
- Forms of hypnotism.
- Practicing New Age, mystical ideas such as meditation and contemplative prayer.
- Prayer walking, prayer warriors, prayer stations, prayer labyrinth, and other unbiblical forms of prayer.
- Ecumenical and interfaith relations, including a focus on the ecology movement and politics.
- Love of money, popularity, worldly power and success, entertainment, comedy, sports, and competition.
- Using the wrong type of humor.
- A false belief regarding the Godhead, such as there is no Holy Spirit as a separate Person.
- The Moral Influence theory that God does not kill or destroy.
- The belief that God cannot be called by that name.
- Using slang expressions with God's name.
- Not having the fruits of the Holy Spirit and not hearing His voice.
- Being a hypocrite full of pride.
- Reading books of a "new order," including magazines, websites, etc.
- Using unreliable Bible versions.
- Misapply and misinterpret God's Word.
- Not looking for Christ's imminent return.

- Breaking the Ten Commandments, such as not keeping the Sabbath holy.
- Worshiping gods of this world, including the Hollywood-type actors.
- Having “cherished idols.”
- Calling evil good and good evil.
- Keeping Jewish traditions, holidays, feast days, and lunar Sabbaths.
- Adding man’s opinions to God’s Word.
- Setting dates for Christ’s Second Coming.
- Rejecting Ellen White as God’s messenger and ignoring her writings.
- Rejecting God’s other prophets and messengers.
- Compromising standards.
- Arguing over finite details.
- The Bible Code.
- The study and practice of unbiblical ancient rituals.
- Wasting valuable time examining old studies of the seven thunders, (Jeff Pippenger) etc., which are not important to salvation.
- Not following the health message.
- Misuse of money, time, and talents.
- Following leaders or peers rather than personal study and following Jesus.
- Not warning others of sin.
- Honor of men; awards.
- Disfellowshipping the faithful instead of those who continue in sin.
- Pastors not visiting or praying with church members.
- Focusing on trivia and trivial matters that are not important to salvation.
- Living a homosexual lifestyle.
- Familiarity with the opposite sex outside of marriage.
- Divorcing for unbiblical reasons.
- Calling the SDA Church “Babylon.”
- Reapplying past events in the Bible to the future, such as a prophetic day equaling one literal day after 1844.
- Participating in a counterfeit latter rain.
- Promoting or practicing magic.
- Dancing.
- Use of secular psychology and counseling, personality typing, philosophy and theosophy.
- Promoting and using worldly resources and programs.
- Wrong type of confessing to others.
- Evolution.
- Charismatic “speaking in tongues” and “holy laughter.”
- Improper use of laying on of hands.

- Small group meetings that use wrong practices.
- False healings, miracles, and "deliverance."
- Love of feasts, parties, festivals, and worldly celebrations, such as Lent.
- Focus on modern art.
- Special offers and sales.
- Focus on the wrong type of community service and social justice.
- Downplaying doctrines for the sake of unity, etc.
- The belief that there will be no Sunday laws.

Until these have been repented of, the SDA Church cannot receive the latter rain. As SDAs, if we value our assurance of living throughout eternity with God, it is imperative that we question sources and resources. Because something comes from SDA institutions does not make it safe for our spirituality.

Conclusion

Lamentations 1:10

The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.

The Desire of Ages, p. 489

The True Witness says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Rev. 3:20. Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God or through His messengers is a knock at the door of the heart. It is the voice of Jesus asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, the disposition to open becomes weaker. The impressions of the Holy Spirit if disregarded today, will not be as strong tomorrow. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of life, and of the great eternity beyond. Our condemnation in the judgment will not result from the fact that we have been in error, but from the fact that we have neglected heaven-sent opportunities for learning what is truth.

Those involved in the For My People Ministry and the various authors of this book have learned much in the process. We pray the same for those who have read it.

The Signs of the Times, August 27, 1894

You have many things to learn, and much to unlearn. You will have to sit at the feet of the great Teacher and learn of him concerning themes that are higher and nobler than the themes which now engage your attention. I am free to address you who have shut yourselves away from the light, because I know that a higher Teacher than man is calling you. You have lost much in your religious life, because you have failed to improve the opportunities that have been presented to you from the Father of lights. Fresh rays of light from heaven are always given that the character may be transformed, that the soul may be able to contemplate truth in a new relation. When Jesus is welcomed into the heart, he will

refine and mould and fashion the character. Those who receive him more fully, will not have less energy in their religious life, but their religion will be of a higher, holier type than ever before. They will work in such a way that their usefulness will be increased. God would have his professed children reach a higher standard, and ever go on, still reaching up to that which they have not attained. They should cherish every divine inspiration, for as his property he requires this of them.

Our prayer is that in this generation God will guide His faithful home. We pray that those who are guilty of the sins described not only in this chapter but the rest of this book will repent before the chance is lost. Yes, it will be difficult, but the Creator of the universe waits with open arms to accept you back. He does not want any of His children to die the eternal death. He wants you home. Will you respond to His invitation? We pray that you have been blessed as you have read *the TRUTH, the whole TRUTH, and nothing but the TRUTH!*

(Please note: See Appendix A and B for a concise list of some of the apostasy that pervades the leadership, institutions and publications within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.)

Chapter 2

Ernie Knoll's Fall and Repentance

Introduction

Conflict and Courage, p. 368

The pen of inspiration, true to its task, tells us of the sins that overcame Noah, Lot, Moses, Abraham, David, and Solomon, and that even Elijah's strong spirit sank under temptation during his fearful trial. Jonah's disobedience and Israel's idolatry are faithfully recorded. Peter's denial of Christ, the sharp contention of Paul and Barnabas, the failings and infirmities of the prophets and apostles, are all laid bare. . . . There before us lie the lives of the believers, with all their faults and follies, which are intended as a lesson to all the generations following them. If they had been without foible they would have been more than human, and our sinful natures would despair of ever reaching such a point of excellence. But seeing where they struggled and fell, where they took heart again and conquered through the grace of God, we are encouraged, and led to press over the obstacles that degenerate nature places in our way.

Signs of the Times, July 27, 1882

It may at times be necessary for the servant of God to vindicate his own character, and to defend his course, that the Lord's name may be glorified, and the truth be not reproached. Let all who are treated with neglect or injustice, follow the example of Samuel, taking care not to make self prominent, but to maintain the honor of God. Let the injured one, instead of dwelling upon the wrongs which he has suffered, show the people how they have wounded Christ in the person of his servant. Many hearts would thus be led to humiliation and repentance, when if personal feelings were aroused, they would be as hard as stone.

This study would not be complete without addressing the fall and repentance of Ernie Knoll. In July 2009, it was revealed that Ernie Knoll had resorted to falsehood to convince people his ministry was God ordained. In November 2007, he made up a story about a prostitute named Candace who had an encounter with an angel and was told to read Ernie's dreams. In September/October 2008, Ernie made up another testimony of Candace and a Great Commission Council that were supposed to be concerned church leaders that saw nothing wrong with the dreams. This was all done because of the

opposition to the dreams and a lack of faith that God would take care of His ministry.

These lies led many to conclude that Ernie's dreams could not have originated from God. However, as we are about to see, many of the Bible prophets were not without their faults.

Prophets are human

God says:

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Fact

Prophets are capable of sinning, just like the rest of us. We often have a misconception that a prophet will never sin and if they do, this proves they are not a prophet. Yet the Bible repeatedly reveals that men like Moses, David, Abraham, Jacob, Jonah and Peter all struggled with sin just like we do. This does not mean they can be excused, for there can be no excuse for sin, but it does show us that often our expectation of a prophet is higher than it ought to be. The following illustrations are just a few of what can be gleaned from the Bible.

Abraham's lies to Pharaoh and Abimelech

God says:

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 130

During his stay in Egypt, Abraham gave evidence that he was not free from human weakness and imperfection. In concealing the fact that Sarah was his wife, he betrayed a distrust of the divine care, a lack of that lofty faith and courage so often and nobly exemplified in his life. Sarah was fair to look upon, and he doubted not that the dusky Egyptians would covet the beautiful stranger, and that in order to secure her, they would not scruple to slay her husband. He reasoned that he was not guilty of falsehood in representing Sarah as his sister, for she was the daughter of his father, though not of his mother. But this concealment of the real relation between them was deception. No deviation from strict integrity can meet God's approval. Through Abraham's lack of faith, Sarah was placed in great peril. The king of Egypt, being informed of her beauty, caused her to be taken to his palace, intending to make her his wife. But the Lord, in His great mercy, protected Sarah by sending judgments upon the royal household. By this means the monarch learned the truth in the matter, and, indignant at the deception practiced upon him, he reproved Abraham and restored to him his wife, saying, "What is this that thou hast done unto me?"

Genesis 20:3-7

But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the

integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

Fact

On both of these occasions Abraham resorted to deception.

Summation

Abraham distrusted God's power to save his life. Through a lack of faith, he decided to take matters into his own hands. He reasoned that his deception was not a sin because it was only a half lie. Amazingly, he did this not once, but on two separate occasions.

Conclusion

Even after Abraham lied, God still called him a prophet and there is no record that God rebuked him for his deception.

Jacob deceives his father

God says:

Christ Triumphant, p. 86

Jacob thought to gain a right to the birthright through deception, but he found himself disappointed.

Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 3, p. 115

Rebekah was acquainted with Isaac's partiality for Esau, and was satisfied that reasoning would not change his purpose. Instead of trusting in God, the disposer of events, she manifested her lack of faith by persuading Jacob to deceive his father. Jacob's course in this was not approbated by God. Rebekah and Jacob should have waited for God to bring about his own purposes, in his own way, and in his own time, instead of trying to bring about the foretold events by the aid of deception.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 180

No sooner had Esau departed on his errand than Rebekah set about the accomplishment of her purpose. She told Jacob what had taken place, urging the necessity of immediate action to prevent the bestowal of the blessing, finally and irrevocably, upon Esau. And she assured her son that if he would follow her directions, he might obtain it as God had promised. Jacob did not readily consent to the plan that she proposed. The thought of deceiving his father caused him great distress. He felt that such a sin would bring a curse rather than a blessing. But his scruples were overborne, and he proceeded to carry out his mother's suggestions. It was not his intention to utter a direct falsehood, but once in the presence of his father he seemed to have gone too far to retreat, and he obtained by fraud the coveted blessing.

Fact

Jacob lied to his father.

Summation

Jacob thought that by lying to his father and gaining the birthright through deception and falsehood, he was fulfilling the word of God.

Conclusion

Jacob's heart was in the right place, but he lacked faith in God and trusted to human reasoning. Once he had started out in the path of deception, he found he could not turn back.

David's deception and sin with Bathsheba**God says:**

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 690-691

David and his men had not taken part in the battle between Saul and the Philistines, though they had marched with the Philistines to the field of conflict. As the two armies prepared to join battle the son of Jesse found himself in a situation of great perplexity. It was expected that he would fight for the Philistines....

David was caused to feel that he had missed his path. Far better would it have been for him to find refuge in God's strong fortresses of the mountains than with the avowed enemies of Jehovah and His people. But the Lord in His great mercy did not punish this error of His servant by leaving him to himself in his distress and perplexity; for though David, losing his grasp on divine power, had faltered and turned aside from the path of strict integrity, it was still the purpose of his heart to be true to God. While Satan and his host were busy helping the adversaries of God and of Israel to plan against a king who had forsaken God, the angels of the Lord were working to deliver David from the peril into which he had fallen. Heavenly messengers moved upon the Philistine princes to protest against the presence of David and his force with the army in the approaching conflict....

Thus Achish was forced to yield, and calling David, said unto him, "Surely as Jehovah liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day. Nevertheless the lords favor thee not. Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines."

David, fearing to betray his real feelings, answered, "But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

The reply of Achish must have sent a thrill of shame and remorse through David's heart, as he thought how unworthy of a servant of Jehovah were the deceptions to which he had stooped. "I know that thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God," said the king: "notwithstanding, the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle. Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up

early in the morning, and have light, depart." Thus the snare in which David had become entangled was broken, and he was set free.

Ibid, p. 718

Every effort which David made to conceal his guilt proved unavailing. He had betrayed himself into the power of Satan; danger surrounded him, dishonor more bitter than death was before him. There appeared but one way of escape, and in his desperation he was hurried on to add murder to adultery. He who had compassed the destruction of Saul was seeking to lead David also to ruin. Though the temptations were different, they were alike in leading to transgression of God's law. David reasoned that if Uriah were slain by the hand of enemies in battle, the guilt of his death could not be traced home to the king, Bathsheba would be free to become David's wife, suspicion could be averted, and the royal honor would be maintained.

Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 4A, p. 86

His crime in the case of Uriah and Bathsheba was heinous in the sight of God. A just and impartial God did not sanction or excuse these sins in David, but sends a reproof, and heavy denunciation by Nathan, his prophet, which portrays in living colors his grievous offense. David had been blinded to his wonderful departure from God. He had excused his own sinful course to himself, until his ways seemed passable in his own eyes. One wrong step had prepared the way for another, until his sins called for the rebuke from Jehovah through Nathan.

Fact

David resorted to deception on one occasion and adultery and murder on another.

Summation

Through a lack of faith, David, like so many before him resorted to deception because his life was in danger. Even worse than this, he took a man's wife and had her husband killed in battle. He then excused his sinful course until he believed that what he had done was "passable in his own eyes."

Conclusion

Although David was a chosen messenger of God (see *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 575) he still lost his grasp on divine power and fell into sin. Yet God knew his heart, and although he had committed such heinous sins, he was forgiven. David's repentance is possibly the most well known in the Bible (see Psalm 51). It shows us that God is able to forgive any sin, no matter how bad it may be, and that genuine repentance is possible even when the sinner repents after their sin has been revealed. Many people have a hard time believing a sinner has genuinely repented after their sin has been found out. Does this mean that every time a parent discovers their son or daughter has sinned and that child says they are sorry that they are never truly repentant? Remember that David did not confess his sin until it was revealed to him by Nathan the prophet. Could it be that God chose Ernie as His messenger because he would be an example to everyone regarding the lessons of repentance and forgiveness, because his ministry is the Elijah message for today?

Peter the cowardly apostate?

God says:

The Desire of Ages, p. 712

Attention was called to him the second time, and he was again charged with being a follower of Jesus. He now declared with an oath, "I do not know the Man." Still another opportunity was given him. An hour had passed, when one of the servants of the high priest, being a near kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked him, "Did not I see thee in the garden with Him?" "Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilean, and thy speech agreeth thereto." At this Peter flew into a rage. The disciples of Jesus were noted for the purity of their language, and in order fully to deceive his questioners, and justify his assumed character, Peter now denied his Master with cursing and swearing. Again the cock crew. Peter heard it then, and he remembered the words of Jesus, "Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice." Mark 14:30

Ibid., p. 713

He [Peter] reflected with horror upon his own ingratitude, his falsehood, his perjury...

That I May Know Him, p. 180

Peter, when brought to the test, sinned greatly. In denying the Master he had loved and served, he became a cowardly apostate. But his Lord did not cast him off; He freely forgave him. . . . Henceforth, remembering his own weakness and failures, he would be patient with his brethren in their mistakes and errors. Remembering the patient love of Christ toward him, affording him another opportunity to bring forth the fruit of good works, he would be more conciliatory toward erring ones. . . .

Pastoral Ministry, p. 56

Some assert that if a soul stumbles and falls, he can never regain his position; but the case before us contradicts this. Before his denial Christ said to Peter, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." In committing to his stewardship the souls for whom He had given His life, Christ gave to Peter the strongest evidence of His confidence in his restoration. And he was commissioned to feed not only the sheep, but the lambs--a broader and more delicate work than had hitherto been appointed him. Not only was he to hold forth the Word of life to others, but he was to be a shepherd of the flock.

Fact

Peter denied his Lord with cursing and swearing and resorted to falsehood and perjury.

Summation

In a moment of weakness, Peter lost his faith and became a cowardly apostate. He denied his Lord after declaring he would never forsake Him.

Conclusion

Peter had no excuse for his deception, for he had been called to the office that "was the most important to which human beings had ever been called..." *The*

Desire of Ages, p. 291. Yet, even after he denied the Lord three times, Peter was forgiven. "But his Lord did not cast him off; He freely forgave him...Remembering the patient love of Christ toward him, affording him another opportunity to bring forth the fruit of good works, he would be more conciliatory toward erring ones. . . ." *That I May Know Him*, p. 180

Moses dishonors God

God says:

Signs of the Times, July 12, 1905, par. 3

Moses set about his work by trying to obtain the favor of his people by redressing their wrongs. He killed an Egyptian who was ill-treating an Israelite. In this he manifested the spirit of him who was a murderer from the beginning, and proved himself unfit to represent the God of mercy, love, and tenderness. He made a miserable failure of his first attempt. Like many another, he immediately lost confidence in God and turned, his back on his appointed work. He fled from the wrath of Pharaoh. He concluded that because of his mistake, his sin in taking the life of the Egyptian, God would not permit him to have any part in the work of delivering His people from their cruel bondage. But the Lord permitted him to make this mistake in order that He might be able to teach him the gentleness, goodness, longsuffering, that is necessary for every worker for the Lord to possess.

Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 417-418

The water gushed forth in abundance to satisfy the host. But a great wrong had been done. Moses had spoken from irritated feeling; his words were an expression of human passion rather than of holy indignation because God had been dishonored.... His lack of patience and self-control was evident. Thus the people were given occasion to question whether his past course had been under the direction of God, and to excuse their own sins. Moses, as well as they, had offended God. His course, they said, had from the first been open to criticism and censure. They had now found the pretext which they desired for rejecting all the reproofs that God had sent them through His servant.

Moses manifested distrust of God. "Shall we bring water?" he questioned, as if the Lord would not do what He promised. "Ye believed Me not," the Lord declared to the two brothers, "to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel." At the time when the water failed, their own faith in the fulfillment of God's promise had been shaken by the murmuring and rebellion of the people....

...Wearyed with the continual murmuring and rebellion of the people, Moses had lost sight of his Almighty Helper, and without the divine strength he had been left to mar his record by an exhibition of human weakness. The man who might have stood pure, firm, and unselfish to the close of his work had been overcome at last. God had been dishonored before the congregation of Israel, when He should have been magnified and exalted.

Fact

Moses murdered an Egyptian, thinking he was doing God's service. He then lost confidence in God and the mission he had been called to do. Toward the end of his life, Moses again fell into sin by assuming the glory of God.

Summation

In God's great plan of providence, He permitted Moses to murder the Egyptian so that he could learn valuable lessons to lead His people. Satan had hoped to discourage Moses and thwart God's great plan of delivering Israel from bondage. Later, when on the borders of the Promised Land, Moses distrusted God and in a moment of weakness committed a sin that although doesn't seem that grievous, was worse than his first sin. In taking upon himself the glory and losing his patience, Moses gave the rebellious children of Israel a reason to believe that he was not chosen of God. This is just what the Devil had hoped to achieve.

Conclusion

Although Moses was led to sin against God in both situations, God did not forsake him for He knew the heart of Moses. This is an important point. What made those who fell into sin and were forgiven different from those who fell into sin and were killed was the condition of their hearts.

Solomon wanders far from God**God says:**

Prophets and Kings, p. 51

But after a morning of great promise his life was darkened by apostasy. History records the melancholy fact that he who had been called Jedidiah,--"Beloved of the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:25, margin),--he who had been honored by God with tokens of divine favor so remarkable that his wisdom and uprightness gained for him world-wide fame, he who had led others to ascribe honor to the God of Israel, turned from the worship of Jehovah to bow before the idols of the heathen.

Ibid., p. 55

So gradual was Solomon's apostasy that before he was aware of it; he had wandered far from God. Almost imperceptibly he began to trust less and less in divine guidance and blessing, and to put confidence in his own strength. Little by little he withheld from God that unswerving obedience which was to make Israel a peculiar people, and he conformed more and more closely to the customs of the surrounding nations...

Fact

Solomon joined the ranks of heathen worship and led Israel into apostasy.

Summation

Solomon started out as a humble servant of God who was given great wisdom. Yet slowly he was led to wander away from God, and before he knew it, he had fallen into open rebellion and apostasy.

Conclusion

Few in the Bible could equal Solomon's fall into disobedience. Yet even after falling so far into sin, and for so long, God still accepted Solomon when he chose to repent at the end of his life.

Jonah the disobedient prophet

God says:

Prophets and Kings, p. 266

As the prophet thought of the difficulties and seeming impossibilities of this commission, he was tempted to question the wisdom of the call. From a human viewpoint it seemed as if nothing could be gained by proclaiming such a message in that proud city. He forgot for the moment that the God whom he served was all-wise and all-powerful. While he hesitated, still doubting, Satan overwhelmed him with discouragement...

In the charge given him, Jonah had been entrusted with a heavy responsibility; yet He who had bidden him go was able to sustain His servant and grant him success. Had the prophet obeyed unquestioningly, he would have been spared many bitter experiences, and would have been blessed abundantly... Yet in the hour of Jonah's despair the Lord did not desert him. Through a series of trials and strange providences, the prophet's confidence in God and in His infinite power to save was to be revived."

Fact

Jonah disobeyed the word of God and sought to flee in the opposite direction.

Summation

Jonah is one of the few examples in the Bible where we learn of a prophet who willingly chose to disobey God and lived to tell the story. He was entrusted with a great responsibility, and yet through lack of faith he was led into disobedience.

Conclusion

Even though Jonah disobeyed God, the good news is that God did not forsake him for his disobedience. This shows that God is still able to use a prophet that has fallen into sin. Praise God, it also shows that He can use all of us, despite how sinful we might be.

Ernie's fall

God says:

Proverbs 24:16

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

From Ernie's dreams:

Two Cars, March 12, 2010

As we round a corner, we notice a military blockade. They signal us to stop and a soldier walks over and orders me to step out of the car. Stepping out I notice I am now in mud. I try to clean it off, but it does not come off. The soldier hands me a rag to use, but as I do my shoes become dirtier and now have grease on them as well. I get back into the car and the soldier informs us that we have come the wrong way, that we should have taken the other road. He states that this road is not the right road and that we should turn around. Our driver now leans forward, looks at the soldier and tells him to raise the gate, because we are going to proceed on, since that is the way we must go.

Ibid.

I notice that each step I take is softer on the hard pavement. The Herald tells me that there will be things that are hidden from my view that will cause me to trip and fall. I look down for just a brief moment and notice that my right foot falls through the now hard pavement. As I trip and fall, my hand is pulled from the Herald's hand. I roll down the bank on the right and plunge deep into a muddy river. There is a hard covering over the water and I must swim further out to climb up out of the water. I swim along close to the bottom of the river and now swim between two large concrete pillars. I barely squeeze through and as I do, my mind is instantly brought to the cloud and how it looked just like Jesus. I pray in my mind that Jesus would again extend His hand and help me. As I make my way through the small opening, I grab hold of the bottom of a ladder and feel a hand take hold of mine. It has a strength which I cannot describe. I feel myself pulled quickly from the depths of the water and gently placed on a dock. I turn to see Jesus standing there. He calls me by my heavenly name and we begin walking together. He says there is somewhere He wants to take me.

In the Heart of Jesus, September 12, 2009

The Herald explains the following. "I have waited to return to you but as before I had to wait till I was told to return. I come to you as a messenger. I am here to show you many things that you are to show to all. I know you wanted confirmation of what was happening. I watched as Satan began to deceive you. He shared great truth with you in some of your unpublished, private dreams, but there was always a little wrong along with all of the truth. I watched as he deceived you more and more. You were convinced that this was direction from the Father of all truth, but I watched as you received direction from the father of all lies. Our Father could have stopped him, but He allows things to happen when He knows it is for the betterment of all. Remember He knows the beginning to the end. He already knew that Satan would deceive you. He already knew that many close friends you had would one day desert you. He already knew that you would stand alone through a time of utter desolation. He already knew that you would have your walk through the wilderness. He already knew that you would go to your own Garden of Gethsemane. He already knew that many would discount you as a messenger, but this was also a test to see if you could overcome. Our Father allowed this to happen because He already knew the outcome. God does indeed hate sin, but He loves the sinner. He loves you. Remember in the first dream when you were reclining at the table? You were told that the Great Host would have done all that was necessary to have you there."

How Ernie Knoll fell

1. Ernie was affected emotionally because so many people were not accepting the messages he was asked to give to God's people.
2. The false statements that were written about him also troubled him.

3. Instead of taking these issues to God, Ernie became discouraged.
4. His discouragement led to a lack of faith.
5. As a result, Ernie made up the testimony of Candace.
6. As Ernie created the story, he noticed the words flowed easily. This led him to believe that God must have inspired him to write it like a parable.
7. Once he had posted the testimony, Ernie was sorry he did it, but he didn't know how to get out of it.
8. Ernie then began to beg God to stop giving him the dreams as he felt unworthy.
9. As time went on, Ernie began to justify that God was inspiring him to write about Candace.
10. When opposition to the dreams grew and websites started to appear that were against the dreams, Ernie made up the Great Commission Council.
11. For a few months before Ernie was found out, he had been sending emails to friends and the board of the ministry as "Candace" asking them to pray for Ernie as Satan was attacking him and Becky (his wife).

Fact

Ernie allowed discouragement and the words of others to get between himself and God. He resorted to falsehood and deception to try to prove the messages He was receiving were of God.

Summation

Just like many of the prophets of old, the Devil found a weakness in Ernie that he was able to manipulate and cause Ernie to fall. There are particular similarities between Ernie's fall and that of Jacob and David. These include:

Jacob	Ernie
Jacob believed that God had promised him the birthright.	Ernie believed God had called him to be a messenger.
Fearing he would lose his chance of gaining the birthright, Jacob took matters into his own hands to secure it.	Ernie reasoned in his mind that by making up Candace, he would be promoting the dreams.
Jacob should have believed God's promise, but his human weakness got in the way.	Ernie should have trusted in God, but his human weakness got in the way.
At first, Jacob didn't like the idea of deceiving his father, but he proceeded to carry out his mother's suggestions anyway.	As Ernie created the story of Candace he was convinced that God was directing him to do so.
It was not Jacob's intention to utter a direct falsehood, but once he had begun, he could not get out of it.	Ernie did not set out to deceive anyone. However, once he had started, he found he couldn't get out of it.

See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 180 and *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p. 115 for the points relating to Jacob’s fall.

David	Ernie
David was led by Satan to commit adultery with Bathsheba.	Satan deceived Ernie to make up Candace.
To avert dishonor, David sank deeper into sin by having Bathsheba’s husband killed.	Ernie did not stop with Candace, but made up the Great Commission Council to prove his story of Candace was true.
Instead of repenting, David began to excuse his sin until his ways seemed plausible in his own eyes.	Although Ernie knew what he did was wrong, he also felt that God had led him in what he had done.
One wrong step had prepared the way for another.	One wrong step led Ernie to make another.
David only confessed his sin when confronted by the prophet Nathan.	Ernie only confessed his sin when the board of his ministry came to him with the evidence that he had sinned.

See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 718, *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 4A, p. 86 and *Conflict and Courage*, p. 179 for the points relating to David’s fall.

Pray for Protection

It is interesting that the last dream Ernie had before he made up Candace was dream 25, “Pray for Protection.” In the dream he was being tortured. When he wakes, he finds that he is pinned down and cannot speak. It is only when Becky wakes and offers to call on the name of Jesus that he is released. God gave Ernie a warning of his imminent fall, but Ernie did not recognize this warning.

Conclusion

It is easy to condemn Ernie Knoll and dismiss him as a messenger of God for the deception he practiced. However, would we have made the same conclusions of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah and Peter if we had lived in their day and found out about their sins? The Jews of Jesus’ time openly confessed they believed in the prophets which had been in the past, but if they had lived in the prophets’ day, they would have rejected them because they rejected the One who sent them, Jesus. Are we the same today? We read the words of Moses, David and Peter and believe they are of God, but when someone like Ernie comes and falls into the same sins as they fell into, many reject him. After Ernie’s sin was revealed, those who walked away did not follow God’s instructions found in *Desire of Ages*, pages 440 and 441. See Appendix C for details regarding this counsel.

Ernie’s repentance

Ernie says:

As you may know, I have sinned against God and His people. However, God accepted my repentance and I am now striving to be like

Christ. By God's grace, this ministry will continue. We will see God's church cleansed and the chaff separated from the wheat. His church will stand as a beacon on a hill.

God says:

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 51:1-13

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Psalms 32:5

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

From Ernie's dream:

In the Heart of Jesus, September 12, 2009

The Herald puts both of his hands on my shoulders and says, "Make sure you understand and remember He has done everything and continues to do all that He can to have you at the table to serve you." I try to tell him how sorry I am and that I want to tell him all the sins again and how I am so sorry. However, this is the first time the Herald interrupts me and says, "Stop. You need to realize that our Father seeks a repentant heart. He wrote in the book of Jeremiah 31:34 'And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.' He says He will remember their sin no more. He has forgiven you as you have been shown in other private dreams. You should not bring up what happened when He no longer remembers it.

You can find these private dreams in Appendix D.

Fact

Ernie Knoll has repented of his sin.

Summation

Just like many of the prophets in the Bible who were led into sin, repented and were forgiven, so Ernie Knoll has repented of his sin. Many feel that because of his sin, God could not use him anymore. Yet, who are we to say who God can and cannot use? Moses brought dishonor upon God, but he still remained God's messenger. Jonah disobeyed the word of God, but he was still used to warn the people of Nineveh. And the life of Peter shows that he was called of God, he experienced God's blessings, but in a moment of weakness he fell. Yet after he had confessed his sin, he was afforded "another opportunity to bring forth the fruit of good works." *That I May Know Him*, p. 180. Peter was commissioned to "feed the sheep and lambs of the flock." *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 537.

Conclusion

The good news of the gospel is that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us. Many have thought that because Ernie only confessed his sin after he was found out, that his confession was not genuine, that it was similar to Achan's confession. However, David only confessed his sin after he was confronted about it and yet he was forgiven.

Chapter conclusion

The Bible teaches that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. It reveals that many of the great men of faith sometimes fell into sin. However, even though they brought dishonor upon God, He still forgave them and used them to achieve His purposes.

Because of the promise of forgiveness and the way God has led in the lives of men such as Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah, Peter, and every other prophet that fell into sin, we see no reason why God could not forgive Ernie Knoll and reinstate him as His messenger.

It is significant that, even though Ernie did fall into sin, God in His providence ensured that Ernie's published dreams remained free from error. If these dreams were not God-given, we would expect to see error mixed in with the truth.

God always sends a prophet/messenger to warn His people before important events take place. He did it before the Flood, before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians, before the public ministry of Christ, before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, and before the opening of the investigative judgment. Should we not expect God to also send a messenger today to warn of Jesus' imminent return? The messages Ernie Knoll has received to give to God's people include a call to repentance, a message to live by faith, a message to trust in Christ's righteousness instead of our own, a message to prepare for the greatest event in this world's history.

Will we, like the majority of those who lived at the time of these great events, also reject God's message to repent and prepare? The choice is ours. Their example is written for our admonition. Will we learn from their mistakes?

Appendix A

Corrupt SDA Leaders & Others

Below is a summary of influential yet corrupt Seventh-day Adventist leaders and others who are mentioned in chapter 1. Some new information is included, and this is certainly not a complete list.

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
General Conference of SDAs		
Ángel Rodríguez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Biblical Research Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • There is no precise meaning of 666 • Tithe can go only to conferences (See volume 1, chapter 2)
Bert Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Honor of men • States that we should be careful how we speak about the Catholic Church, since he believes it has changed
Jan Paulsen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former president 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of Christ not important • Received honor of men • Contemporary music http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=379
José Rojas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Volunteer Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish traditions • Emerging church/postmodernism, such as GODencounters and Go Fish Conference • States that we should not “cry aloud”
Kleber Goncalves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant, Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging church/postmodernism
Matthew Gamble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant, Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies • Senior Consultant for the Center for Creative Ministry • Advisor to the Adventist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation/contemplative prayer • Contemporary worship services • Enjoys secular music, especially the alternative rock band Incubus

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	Christian Fellowship board and the NAD Young Adult Advisory • VagaBondservant International (Gamble's personal website) • Speaker at GODencounters events	• Recommends <i>The Ragamuffin Gospel</i> and <i>Signature of Jesus</i> books by Brennan Manning, which promote contemplative prayer
Miroslav Pujic	• Director, Global Mission Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies (GC) • Director, Media Ministry for the Trans-European Division (TED) of SDAs	• Emerging church/postmodernism, such as use of drama and popular music • Spiritual formation
Nikolaus Satelmajer	• Associate Secretary, Ministerial Association • Past editor, <i>Ministry</i> magazine	• Spiritual formation • Ecumenism
Rey Descalso	• Associate Director, Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies • Youth/Associate Pastor, Markham Woods SDA Church, Longwood, Florida	• Emerging church/postmodernism • Recommends the book <i>Post-Modern Pilgrims: First century passion for a 21st century world</i> by Leonard Sweet
North American Division of SDAs		
A. Allan Martin	• Professor and pastoral practitioner, "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation," Andrews University	• Spiritual formation • Discipleship • Drama and humorous speakers • Curriculum coach for GODencounters • Emerging church
Alan Reinach	• Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, Pacific Union Conference of SDAs	• Jewish feasts • Ecumenism
Alan Woodson	• Adult Choir director, Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church, Riverside, California • Organizes "Soulful Messiah" concerts yearly	• Drama • Praise dance • Competition • Contemporary gospel/praise music

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Served six years as the church's minister of creative music and arts 	
Andy McRae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, Celebration Center SDA Church, Redlands, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian rock, hand raising, and drama Celebrate Recovery 12 step program Candles on communion table Stated in prayer in reference to the communion emblems: "These gifts of bread and wine, make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ" Church members came forward to receive the communion emblems
Andy Nash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former assistant editor for the <i>Adventist Review</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends visiting Willow Creek Leads a contemporary, informal worship service at Collegedale SDA Church, Tennessee, where music is a priority and includes a worship ballet. A Purim celebration, an Esther drama, and Jewish dancing were some activities used to supplement a sermon about Esther
Ann Roda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging church IGNITION to foster discipleship http://www.plusline.org/article.php?id=5832 Does not see it as a sin to drink coffee
Anthony DeMore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder, Co-op City SDA Church, Bronx, New York Yahweh's People website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gospel hip-hop
Arnold Trujillo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice President, Pacific Union Conference of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jewish feasts Ecumenism
Barry Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed Chaplain to the U.S. Senate in 2003 Board member, Phipps' U.S. Dream Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed the Dalai Lama as "his holiness" Speaker at Adventist Urban Congress

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Received honor of men
Ben Clausen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientist, Geoscience Research Institute, Loma Linda, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2007/February/faith-and-science-a-personal-story.html
Ben Maxson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor, Paradise SDA Church, California • Former Stewardship Director, GC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation/disciplines • Produced the "Learning to Care" course • Produced the "Steps to Discipleship" course
Bill Bossert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor, The Edge Christian Worship Center, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota • Former pastor, The Shepherd's House: An Adventist Community of Love, SDA church, Wausau, Wisconsin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging church • Contemporary Christian music
Bill Knott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editor and executive publisher, <i>Adventist Review</i> and <i>Adventist World</i> • Professor and pastoral practitioner, "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation," AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation • Discipleship • Ecumenism
Bobby Moore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor, Highline SDA Church, Burien, Washington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation/disciplines
Brenda Billings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan SDA Church, Hyattsville, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Charismatic church services
Brian Wight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Director and Producer, New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland • Former chaplain, Washington Adventist Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Gospel music • Emerging church • Sports
Carlton Byrd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Atlanta Berean SDA Church, Georgia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging church • Received honor of men • Contemporary praise music

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Speaker/Director, Breath of Life 	
Carol Tasker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professor, Religious Education, Spiritual Life and Family Ministries, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Recommends these books that support contemplative spirituality: Jon Dybdahl's <i>Hunger</i>, Richard Foster's <i>Celebration of Discipline</i>, and Gary Thomas' <i>Sacred Pathways</i> http://dialogue.adventist.org/numbers/20.2_English.pdf
Charles Tapp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Pastor, Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary worship services, puppets, drama Philip Yancey Celebrate Recovery 12 step program Lighting of the Advent candle Sports, competition International Christmas Festival
Cheryl Doss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Institute of World Mission, Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism (attended Edinburgh 2010)
Chris Estay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate/Youth Pastor, Pleasant Hill SDA Church, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rick Warren's ideas
Clifford Goldstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editor, Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide Former editor, <i>Liberty</i> magazine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology
Danny Chan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead pastor, Renovatus ministry Young adult pastor, Eagle Rock SDA church, Los Angeles, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary worship services and music Postmodernism/emerging church Spiritual disciplines Tony Campolo
Dany Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor for Collegiate and Young Adult Ministries, Forest Lake SDA Church, Apopka, Florida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports contemporary worship services and drama Emerging church
Dave Gemmell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor for Young Adults, New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging church Discipleship, small groups http://www.nadadventist.org/sit

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Director, NAD Church Resource Center • Senior Consultant, Center for Creative Ministry 	e/1/docs/gemmell_workshops_available.pdf
David Larson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics Professor, School of Religion, LLU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homosexuality (co-edited <i>Christianity and Homosexuality: Some Seventh-day Adventist Perspectives</i>) http://www.sdagayperspectives.com/index.htm
David Pendleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former pastor, Waiola Worship Center (SDA), Kaneohe, Hawaii 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God accepts all types of worship with contemporary drama
David Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writer/producer, Voice of Prophecy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received honor of men
Debbie Higgins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor, SAU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation/direction • Spent much of her career studying and teaching about C. S. Lewis
Delcy Kuhlman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjunct Professor, Spiritual Formation, AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation
Denis Fortin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean, AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation
Dennis Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor, New Haven SDA Church, Connecticut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary worship services/music • Promotes the book <i>Fresh Power</i> by Jim Cymbala who is the leader of a non-SDA charismatic church • Wrote <i>40 Days - Prayers and Devotions</i>
Derek Morris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjunct Professor, Spiritual Formation, AU and SAU • Editor, <i>Ministry</i> magazine • Former pastor, Forest Lake SDA Church, Apopka, Florida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation
Diane Forsythe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served as an SDA college Bible teacher, pastor, and chaplain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation http://www.charistis.blogspot.com
Dick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Duerksen	<p>president, Maranatha Volunteers International as a professional storyteller and weekly television show host for Maranatha Mission Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former director, Mission Development, Florida Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phillip Yancey • Promotes reading Billy Graham's autobiography • Received honor of men • Discipleship
Duane Covrig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor of Leadership and Educational Administration and religion and ethics, AU • Taught religion, LLU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation • Gathered resources for Partners in Innovation conferences
Dúane Schoonard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate pastor, Collegedale Church of SDAs, Tennessee • Associate ministerial secretary, NAD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation
Dwight Nelson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Pioneer Memorial SDA Church, Berrien Springs, Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His church's website promotes prayer walking, Lectio Divina, silence and popcorn prayer (tiny seed words and thoughts) • Emerging church • Contemporary worship services
Earl Canson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor, Fresno Westside SDA Church, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Emerging church • Laid hands on and prayed over the Fresno mayor and police chief
Ed Reid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Stewardship Director, NAD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tithe can go only to the conference (See chapter 1)
Eric Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Riverside Community Church (SDA), California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary worship service • Natural Church Development/Purpose Driven • Celebrate Recovery 12 step program
Errol Stoddart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Miracle Temple Worship Center (SDA), Baltimore, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging church
Fredrick Russell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President, Allegheny West Conference of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charismatic worship services • Influenced by Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City—

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former senior pastor, Miracle Temple Worship Center (SDA), Baltimore, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a non-SDA charismatic church Prayer warriors Refers to a book by Jim Collins who believes in Eastern mysticism
Fritz Guy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former University Professor of Theology and Philosophy, LSU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolution Progressive Adventism Homosexuality (co-edited <i>Christianity and Homosexuality: Some Seventh-day Adventist Perspectives</i>) http://www.sdagayperspectives.com/index.htm
Ganoune Diop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Adventist Church's Global Mission Study Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism (attended Edinburgh 2010) Shalom board member/Jewish traditions
Gary Krause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Office of Adventist Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism
Gary Swanson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editor, Collegiate Quarterly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorses Steve Daily's book <i>Adventism for a New Generation</i>
Gaspar Colon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor of Theology, and director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry, WAU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker at Adventist Urban Congress
Geoffrey Blake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Pastor, Paradise Valley SDA Church, National City, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition supporting homosexuality. The website is no longer available. It is archived at http://replay.waybackmachine.org/20090624235941/http://asollemnappeal.org Evolution
George Knight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emeritus professor of church history, AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology
Gianluca Bruno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, Village Church (SDA), Mason, Ohio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition
Glenward Alexander Bryant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive secretary, NAD Associate Secretary, GC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports church <i>cafés</i> http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2011-03-18-

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former president, Central States Conference of SDAs 	<i>Adventists_17_ST_N.htm?sms_ss=facebook&at_xt=4d83baf44a17b35b%2C3</i>
Heather Crews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, Church Life, Keene SDA Church, Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Henry Sookra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tunapuna SDA Church, Trinidad & Tobago 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose Driven movement
Hyveth Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor, Homiletics, AU Former senior pastor, Campus Hill Church (SDA), Loma Linda, California Former senior pastor and campus chaplain, Southern New England Conference of SDAs Former associate pastor for public evangelism, Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging church/postmodernism Quoted the definition of grace by Donald Barnhouse (a Presbyterian pastor who believed differently on grace and righteousness by faith than what is in God's Word)
Jack Sequeira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former senior pastor, Walla Walla City Church (SDA), Washington State Former senior pastor, Capital Memorial Church (SDA), Washington, D.C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology
James Coffin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior pastor, Markham Woods Adventist Church, Longwood, Florida Directed Center for Secular/Postmodern Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging Church/Postmodernism
James Londis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Ethics and Corporate Integrity, Kettering Medical Center Network, Dayton, Ohio Former pastor, Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented at Partners in Innovation Emerging church Contemporary worship services
Jami Keller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual Formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	Team Leader, Oasis Church (SDA), Boise, Idaho	
Jared Wright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arlington SDA Church, Riverside, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality http://spectrummagazine.org/node/696
Jason Decena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Pastor, Escondido SDA Church, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition
Jeff Zaremsky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads two Jewish Adventist congregations, New Port Richey and St. Petersburg, Florida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jewish traditions
Jeffrey Gang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, CrossWalk SDA Church, Redlands, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition
Jennifer Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, Shelton SDA Church, Washington State Former senior pastor, Riverside Community Church (SDA), California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging church First ordained woman pastor http://www.press-enterprise.com/newsarchive/2000/04/23/956469663.html
Jerry Moon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professor and Chair, Church History Department, AU Teacher of Spiritual Formation Practicum course, AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Jim Appel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate, Center for Secular and Postmodern Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging church/postmodernism Recommended the book <i>A New Kind of Christian</i> by Brian McLaren
JoAline Olson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice president of Innovations, Adventist Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism New Age movement
Joe Grider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, Bellfort SDA Church, Houston, Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wears a robe decorated with what resembles Maltese or Iron crosses Drama
John Jenson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, South Bay-Redondo Adventist Church, Torrance, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Contemporary worship services

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	California	
John McLarty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, North Hill Adventist Fellowship, Edgewood, Washington State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality http://www.gladventist.org/lead/wwjs.htm
John McVay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Testament scholar and president, WWU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism (attended Edinburgh 2010)
John Solomon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former associate pastor, Yakima SDA Church, Washington State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses small groups to transition a church into more contemporary music
Jon Dybdahl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor, World Mission, AU Pastoral practitioner, Doctor of Ministry concentration entitled "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation" Former president, WWU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual Formation/spiritualism (authored <i>Hunger: Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul</i>) Discipleship Ecumenism
Jon Paulien	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor of New Testament Interpretation, AU Dean, Faculty of Religion, LLU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners in Innovation
Joseph Kidder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor and pastoral practitioner, "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation," AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Discipleship Required his students to read <i>The Divine Conspiracy</i> by Dallas Willard
Julius Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate professor, LLU School of Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality http://www.sdakinship.org/en/newsnotesarchives/beyondirony.html A principal in organizing the 2007 scholarly conference on the 50th anniversary of the publication of <i>Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine</i>
Keavin Hayden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Evangelism, Union Springs, New York 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casts doubt on the Spirit of Prophecy Jewelry http://www.adventistreview.org/2001-1538/story2-1.html
Kenley Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjunct professor, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	Research and Writing, AU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship
Kermit Netteburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor, Beltsville SDA Church, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas movie, auction, football • Stated that we should not look for signs of Christ's return in disasters and should not warn people that the end is near • Emerging church
Larry McCloskey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former chair, biology department, LSU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution
Lawrence Geraty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President emeritus of LSU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Open to other interpretations of the literal 6-day creation week http://letsfocusonlife.com/?p=2728
Leland Kaiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder and president, Kaiser Consulting • Sought after motivational speaker • Co-founder, Kaiser Institute and Two Worlds Wisdom School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes Gnostic teachings • Spiritualism/Occult • Our health system must change – we need to hire non-SDAs and serve meat to patients • Views Catholic hospitals as important allies since they have the most outstanding examples of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ • Partners in Innovation • Focused on money
LeRoy Froom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former associate secretary, Ministerial Association, GC • Founding editor, <i>Ministry</i> magazine • Former field secretary, GC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New theology • A primary contributor to the book <i>Questions on Doctrine</i> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Questions_on_Doctrine
Lyle Arakaki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Roseburg SDA Church, Oregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation/direction
Lynn Mallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former President, Southeastern California Conference of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorses Steve Daily's book <i>Adventism for a New Generation</i> • Voted for and allowed women's ordination despite the GC decision http://www.press-enterprise.com/newsarchive/20

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		00/04/23/956469663.html
Maria Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wife of SDA Pastor, Ryan Long, Burleson SDA Church, Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sings popular Christian rock/pop
Martin Feldbush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Martin Weber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editor, <i>Outlook</i> magazine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology
Marvin Moore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editor, <i>Signs of the Times</i> magazine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate Recovery 12 step program
Michael Edward Dunn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual director, Angwin, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation/direction
Mike Agidius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz ensemble director, WWU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz, swing, rock, funk, ballad and Latin music
Mike Mennard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English professor, UC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrote and composed a musical comedy entitled <i>That's What Makes Them Pirates!</i> Contemporary gospel music
Mike Tucker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation, Jesus101 Biblical Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Monte Sahlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Research & Special Projects, Ohio Conference of SDAs Professor and pastoral practitioner, "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation," AU Senior consultant, Center for Creative Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Discipleship Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) http://ministrymagazine.org/archive/1992/June/are-adventist-pastors-teaching-hypnotism Promotes "Learning to Care" course Speaker at Adventist Urban Congress
Morris Venden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former pastor, CrossWalk SDA Church, Redlands, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology
Norman Gulley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research professor, School of Religion, SAU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology http://www.adventistarchives.org/docs/RH/RH19900125-V167-04__C.pdf <i>Systematic Theology: Prolegomena</i> book promoted by non-SDA university leaders,

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		including a spiritual formation professor http://www.atomorrow.com/discus/messages/1780/3518.html?1073755793
O. Jane Thayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professor of Religious Education and professor and pastoral practitioner, "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation", AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Discipleship
Paul Richardson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Center for Creative Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging church
Phil Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor, Portsmouth SDA Church, New Hampshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose Driven movement
Raj Attiken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President, Ohio Conference of SDAs Director for Mission & Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture of innovation in worship Concerned that church members will become too self-absorbed in "protecting truth" and "preserving tradition" Emerging church
Rajkumar Dixit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate pastor over Community Development and Administration, New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary worship services including drama and dance Teaches not to speak negatively against homosexuality Emerging church
Randal Wisbey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President, LSU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Supports evolution taught at LSU Endorses Steve Daily's book <i>Adventism for a New Generation</i>
Randy Fishell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editor, <i>Guide</i> magazine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes "The Lads," a Christian Rock/pop band Speaker at Go Fish--Putting Families First, a convention which included presentations on the postmodern child, discipleship, drama, puppets
Raymond Pichette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice President, Pastoral Ministries, Potomac Conference of SDAs, Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisor and reader for projects and dissertations on spiritual formation
Ricardo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President, Pacific Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecumenism

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Graham	Conference of SDAs	
Richard Coffen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former vice president of editorial services, Review and Herald Publishing Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casts doubt on Spirit of Prophecy http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archives/2000/MIN2000-02.pdf
Richard Davidson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor and pastoral practitioner, "Discipleship & Spiritual Formation", AU Chaired the Old Testament department, AU Former president, Adventist Theological Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Discipleship
Rick Anderson, Jr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor for Worship and Creative Arts, New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary worship music Emerging church Sports
Rob Robinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founding Pastor, Hillside Community Church (SDA), San Francisco, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition
Robert Kurtz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean of men, Newton Hall, PUC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual disciplines
Roger Dudley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor emeritus of Christian Ministry and director, Institute of Church Ministry, AU Director, Adventist Information Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Roger Hernández	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Ministries Director, Oregon Conference of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discipleship http://scc.adventist.org/events/249495
Ron Halvorsen, Sr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retired, Southern Union Evangelist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer walking Warfare praying (prayer warriors)
Ron Whitehead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant to the president for spiritual life and director of the Center for Youth Evangelism, AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrumental in the development of the Easter Passion Play
Roy Adams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former associate editor, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New theology

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<i>Adventist Review</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism
Roy Naden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor emeritus of religious education, AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New theology
Ryan Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Hollywood Adventist Church, California • Board member of Creative Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition • Contemporary worship services, drama, contemporary band, casual dress • Promotes missional church • Emerging church • Ash Wednesday service in a darkened room with candles and incense burning, pastor placed a cross of ashes on the members' foreheads
Samir Selmanovic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served as teaching pastor at CrossWalk SDA Church, Redlands, California • Speaker, 2010 Innovation conference • Founder and co-leader, FaithHouse Manhattan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging church • Ecumenism/interfaith • Witchcraft • Wearing of jeans to church • Coffee drinking • Worldly movies and music • Competition, raffles, circus shows • Communion as the Eucharist • Quotes C. S. Lewis
Sandra Roberts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive secretary, Southeastern California Conference of SDAs • Former Co-pastor/associate pastor, Corona SDA Church, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation
Somer Penington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaplain, Redlands Adventist Academy, California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer labyrinth
Steve Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author and international speaker to youth and youth leaders • President, Involve Youth • Taught "CHMN 720 Current Issues in Youth and Young Adult Ministry", AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes rap music, skits, familiarity with the opposite sex, sports and competition, tournaments, senseless games, amusement parks, joking, downplaying the health message, prayer walks, and small group solitude • Spiritual formation
Steve Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	chaplain and faculty member, LSU • Former pastor, Celebration Center SDA Church, Redlands, California • Senior pastor, Kingdom Life Fellowship, Redlands, California	• Emerging church • Contemporary worship services • Believes in unintelligible tongues • Dance and drama • Homosexuality • Humans can't stop sinning • Wrote <i>Adventism for a New Generation</i> , which is endorsed by Desmond Ford • Ellen White did not "have it all right" • Small groups, contemplative prayer
Susan Zork	• Professor of Religion, AU	• Spiritual formation
Thomas Macomber	• Adjunct professor, LSU • Owns a music production company called <i>Walkin' on the Water Records</i>	• Turns the classroom into a start-up music company • His music production company includes blues, jazz, rock, and bluegrass music
Tim Goff	• Central Region Ministerial Field Secretary, Florida Conference of SDAs • Former Associate pastor, Forest Lake SDA Church, Apopka, Florida	• Promotes spiritual formation http://www.adventistreview.org/2004-1519/story2.html
Tim Mitchell	• Pastor, PUC (SDA) Church, Angwin, California	• Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition
Tony Parrish	• Associate Pastor, Norwalk SDA Church, California	• Homosexuality – signed the solemn appeal website petition
V. Bailey Gillespie	• Coordinator for Valuegenesis Research Project	• Endorses Steve Daily's book <i>Adventism for a New Generation</i>
William Johnsson	• Former editor, <i>Adventist Review</i>	• New theology
William Loveless	• Former pastor, LLU Church, California • Founder, Adventist Student Mission program	• Endorses Steve Daily's book <i>Adventism for a New Generation</i>
Winston	• Adjunct Professor,	• Spiritual formation

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Ferris	Religious Education & Spiritual Formation, AU	
Wintley Phipps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior pastor, Palm Bay SDA Church, Florida • Founder and president of U.S. Dream Academy, Inc. • Founder of Songs of Freedom Publishing Company and Coral Records Recording Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary music • Emerging church/postmodernism, such as Go Fish Conference • Promotes Oprah Winfrey • Performed for the 1984 and 1988 National Democratic Conventions; Robert Schuller's Hour of Power Telecast; the Billy Graham Crusades; the Vatican; Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Diana Ross' wedding; Saturday Night Live; Sunday Live; Oprah Winfrey Show; CBS Nightwatch and non-SDA churches and other events
Woodrow Whidden, III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor, systematic and historical theology, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New theology
Yat Ang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of 2005 In-Residence Cohort for Global Mission Leadership (for doctor of ministry at AU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathered resources for Partners in Innovation conferences while in the leadership program at AU • Spiritual formation
Zdravko Plantak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAU Theology Department chair and religion professor • Served as president, Adventist Society for Religious Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter at Partners in Innovation • Speaker at Adventist Urban Congress
Inter-American Division of SDAs		
Victor Figueroa Villareal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor of Theology, University of Montemorelos (SDA), Mexico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisor and reader for projects and dissertations on spiritual formation
Trans-European Division of SDAs		
Don McFarlane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Mission/Stewardship director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes "One Hope Street" (a soap opera style production)

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Eddie Hypolite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Youth Director, South England Conference of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warned leaders not to make church doctrines “a yoke and burden,” that they are “teaching the traditions of men” as “commands of God” Speaker at the World Youth Prayer Congress
Paul Clee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field secretary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Reinder Bruinsma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retired church administrator, Netherlands Union of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denies the papacy is the antichrist
Iceland Conference of SDAs		
Gavin Anthony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Youth and Discipleship, Iceland Conference of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation Discipleship Recommends a website that promotes Emerging Church leaders
South Bavarian Conference of SDAs, Germany		
Wolfgang Dorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth pastor, South Bavarian Conference of SDAs, Germany 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postmodern/Emerging church
South Pacific Division of SDAs		
Allan Walshe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past president, New Zealand Pacific Union Conference of SDAs Former director, family ministries, South Queensland SDA Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation (Taught “The Personal Practice of Spiritual Formation” and “CHMN 720 Current Issues in Youth and Young Adult Ministry” at AU) Discipleship
Arthur Patrick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retired historian, theologian and honorary senior research fellow, Avondale College Founding director of the Ellen G. White/SDA Research Centre, located within the Avondale College library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casts doubt on Spirit of Prophecy http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2004/rec06-04_02_21.pdf - p. 9-10, http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2004/rec07-04_02_28.pdf - p. 10-11
Brendan Pratt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Personal Ministries and Sabbath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	School, Greater Sydney Conference of SDAs	
Bruce Manners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former editor, <i>Record</i>, South Pacific Division of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casts doubt on Spirit of Prophecy http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2004/rec06-04_02_21.pdf - p.5 Spiritual formation/disciplines
Colin Renfrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Discipleship and Spiritual Development, South Queensland Conference of SDAs Editor of <i>Spiritually Formed</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation/disciplines, discipleship Emergent/postmodernism
Daryl Murdoch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate national director of Adventist Schools Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports Ben Maxson's spiritual formation Encounter program
David Potter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator of general studies, Avondale College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2008/rec38-08_10_04.pdf - p.10
Graeme Bradford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retired professor, Theology Department, Avondale College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casts doubt on Spirit of Prophecy (authored <i>More than a Prophet</i> and <i>Prophets Are Human</i>) http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/books/bradford/prophet-22.htm
Leighton Heise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate pastor, Coastlife SDA Church, Gold Coast, Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary gospel music http://aliandleighton.com/yearofthehome/index.php
Lloyd Grolimund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior pastor, Wahroonga SDA Church, Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets Ellen White by his wrong understanding of the Bible instead of allowing Ellen White's writings to plainly reveal themselves (<i>Record</i>, December 4, 2010) Does not believe we can completely overcome sin (<i>Record</i>, Dec 4, 2010)
Nathan Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editor, <i>Record</i>, South Pacific Division of SDAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuality http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2008/rec38-08_10_04.pdf - editorial, p.2 Casts doubt on Spirit of Prophecy

Name	Position/Location	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		http://link.adventistconnect.org/record/2004/rec06-04_02_21.pdf - p.5 • Reviews C. S. Lewis's "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" • FaithHouse Manhattan
Wes Tolhurst	• Senior pastor, Coastlife SDA church, Gold Coast, Australia	• Discipleship http://coastlifeadventist.com/ministries/worship/
Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions of SDAs		
Jim Park	• Professor of evangelism and mission, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies	• Produced the website Disciple Tree which promotes discipleship and spiritual formation
Other		
Marcel Schwantes	• Online editor, <i>Adventist Today</i> • Certified life and leadership coach • Certified trainer of the PeopleMap System	• Instrumental in organizing Unite99 and Unite2000 • Self-help, psychology • PeopleMap System
Steve Varro	• SDA illusionist	• Illusionist http://www.plusline.org/organization.php?id=1314 • Drama • Comedy, magic
Tom and Delcy Kuhlman	• Founding Directors, Still Waters retreat house, Buchanan, Michigan	• Ecumenism • Prayer labyrinth • Taizé Evensong service • Still Waters provides a place of silence, solitude and spiritual companionship

Key to Abbreviations

AU – Andrews University
 GC – General Conference
 LLU – Loma Linda University
 LSU – La Sierra University
 NAD – North American Division
 PUC – Pacific Union College
 SAU – Southern Adventist University

SDA – Seventh-day Adventist
 TED – Trans-European Division
 UC – Union College
 WAU – Washington Adventist University
 WWU – Walla Walla University

Appendix B

Corrupt SDA Institutions, Publications and Ministries

Below is a summary of corrupt Seventh-day Adventist institutions, publications, and ministries which are mentioned in chapter 1. Some new information is included, and this is certainly not a complete list.

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Abu Dhabi SDA Church, United Arab Emirates	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miming • Contemporary music
Adventist Book Centers (ABC)	Stores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GODencounters</i> • Business like: special offers/items for sale
Adventist Health/West corporate office, Roseville, California	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-through Meditation: icons; candles; finger prayer labyrinth; New Age music, etc.
Adventist HealthCare, Maryland	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga • Acupuncture • Hypnosis
Adventist Midwest Health, Illinois	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga • Meditation
Alhambra SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Known as “The Grace Place” • Christian rock music • Mimes
Anacortes Adventist Fellowship, Washington	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Small groups • Ecumenism
Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postmodernism • Festivals • Books from progressives like Steve Daily, Dallas Willard, and other religions such as Buddhism and Islam • Partners in Innovation • CMRadio: plays modern praise and Christian rock music

Corrupt SDA Institutions

Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation • Sidewalk prayer stations and prayer tag • Easter Passion Play • Broadway tunes • Center for Youth Evangelism: think tank; creative ministries; links to non-SDA resources; discipleship; small groups; GODencounters; contemporary music • Creative Arts Festival: drama performances; awards; concerts including jazz, reggae, and Christian rock • Worship services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mosaic – interactive cafés; concerts; creative prayer experiences ○ Impact – a “power-packed” vespers and a place to be “on your feet all night long” ○ New Life – “dynamic” church service, “energetic” gospel choir and praise band ○ Pioneer Memorial – traditional to contemporary worship ○ Roman Catholic priest as a guest speaker • Campus activities include: sports and talent competitions; all-night volleyball; Super Bowl party; opera production; drama ministries • Leland Kaiser • 321 Improv Comedy (non-SDA)
Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of SDAs, Shreveport, Louisiana	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian rock/pop music • World Youth Prayer Congress
Arlington SDA Church, Texas	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GODencounters • Youth contemporary worship service “highlighting multimedia, upbeat music, and timely, creative messages” • Kids in Discipleship
Atlanta Berean SDA Church, Georgia	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging/charismatic church: celebration services; NAD’s 2009 Innovative Church of the Year;

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		hosted Spring Into Praise Choir Festival • The Mark Thompson Show: “fun” show; Christian ventriloquist; puppets; contemporary music
Atlantic Union Conference of SDAs, South Lancaster, Massachusetts	Conference	• Golf Tournament • GODencounters • Dare2Do Youth Congress: drama, illusionist
Australian Union Conference of SDAs, Victoria, Australia	Conference	• Pathfinder Camporee: “exciting” activities; “awesome” music and drama
Avondale College, Australia	Education	• Competitive sports • Drama • Talent night – men dressed in skimpy female clothes dancing to rock music • Back Dorm Boys: rock music, sexually provocative moves • Hosted a convention of the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology (a theistic evolutionary organization that attacks biblical Creation) • Two Avondale College lecturers wrote a chapter for a book on Australia’s first Catholic saint.
Avondale Memorial SDA Church, New South Wales, Australia	Church	• Contemporary music • Drama
Bahamas Conference of SDAs, Nassau, Bahamas	Conference	• Contemporary music • Irreverent worship services • Discipleship • Football/competition
Beltsville SDA Church, Maryland	Church	• Christmas movie • Redskins football, church basketball teams • Sermon and scripture skits, puppets
Bonnerdale SDA Church, Arkansas	Church	• Christian rock/pop music
Brighton SDA Church, Colorado	Church	• Leland Kaiser

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Burbank SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 step Celebrate Recovery program, small groups, meets late at the Solid Rock Café to socialize over coffee and dessert • Purpose Driven movement • Family Fun Festival with carnival-type games and prizes; Halloween magic show by Pete McLeod with “magical mystical sticks”
Burnt Mills SDA Church, Silver Spring, Maryland	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent show entertainment: skits, popular music, contest
Campus Hill SDA Church, Loma Linda, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men’s 12 Step Group; Al-Anon Program (Spanish) • Folk music, pop guitar, drumming, and cultural dances including hula dancing • The Majesty of Christmas program with sheep on the platform and camels walking down the aisle
Canadian University College, Canada	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary music • Drama • Sports • Discipleship, small groups
Canoga Park Community SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventist-Jewish Ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jewish liturgical elements ◦ Jewish theological traditions ◦ Authentic Jewish worship experience ◦ Sense of community ◦ Jewish culture, religion, and traditions ◦ Havdalah service ◦ Celebrate Yom Kippur, etc.
Carmichael SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren • Contemporary music • Movies • Sports • Discipleship, small groups • C.S Lewis • Non-Sabbath activities on Sabbath
Celebration Center SDA Church,	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian rock, hand raising • Drama

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Redlands, California		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 step Celebrate Recovery program • Communion service: lit candles on communion table; thanksgiving prayer; members came forward to receive the emblems; pastor stated in prayer: "These gifts of bread and wine, make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ."
Centura Health, Colorado	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic executives
City Temple SDA Church, Dallas, Texas	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won the federation and conference level Bible Bowl championships since they began • Plays/mimes
Coastlife Adventist Church, Queensland, Australia	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday family fun days in the park • Worship bands • Revolution: a weekend of spiritual transformation, barn dance, puppets
College View SDA Church, Lincoln, Nebraska	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next ADVENTure (young adult Sabbath School class): lively and progressive • Member attendance at Baptist church worship hour on Sunday to hear a contemporary southern gospel quartet • Concert by non-SDA southern gospel group at an SDA church on Sabbath evening • Adventure Club registration party: "awards, cool stories and silly games"
Collegedale SDA Church, Tennessee	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate recovery • Spiritual Abilities Inventory: ability to perform, act, magic. • Small groups: links to spiritual formation, spiritual disciplines, discipleship • Connect: contemporary, informal worship service, including worship-ballet, drama, Purim celebration, Jewish dancing • SonRise Resurrection Pageant on

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		Sabbath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Life/GroupLink with non-SDA links to websites containing spiritual formation and discipline resources • Collegedale Adventist Youth in Action: ballgames that include soccer and volleyball tournaments; links to Sunday School curriculum, small groups, discipleship
Columbia Union Conference of SDAs, Columbia, Maryland	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners in Innovation sponsor • Leonard Sweet • Discipleship • Football • Talent show: skits, entertainment, popular music
Community Praise Center SDA Church, Alexandria, Virginia	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Basketball • 2006 eChurch of the Year Winner • 2nd Base Ministry: discipleship • Ellington's Christian Café: dancers, mimes, drama, comedy, contemporary music
Connections SDA Church, Yakima, Washington	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Contemporary music and casual dress • Sports on Sabbath
Eagle Rock SDA Church, Los Angeles, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday night multi-sensory worship experience • Contemplation, silence • Agape feast: sit on floor in the dark, incense, modern worship band • Mimes
Eight Mile Rock SDA Church, Bahamas	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent show • Drama
Elmshaven SDA Church, St. Helena, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer labyrinth
Escondido SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Drama • Discipleship • No dress code

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Florida Conference of SDAs, Winter Park, Florida	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GODencounters • Go Fish Convention: fun-filled stories, clown acts, balloon animal classes, magic tricks, puppetry • Ecumenical Sunrise Service
Florida Hospital SDA Church, Orlando, Florida	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Contemporary worship, worship arts
Florida Hospital, Orlando, Florida	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrek; Walt Disney • Leland Kaiser • Very excessive executive wages; Health Village building project costing more than \$90 million: medical office, research center, 200-unit apartment complex, retail, parks • Ecumenism
Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Florida	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Prayer Room: candles, cushions, music, art supplies, prayer stations; prayer journal • Competitive sports • Swing, jazz, and Big Band music • Drama/acting
Forest Lake SDA Church, Apopka, Florida	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • DEEPER (collegiate/young adult class): "passionately seeking an encounter with God," no dress code, theatrical skits • Contemporary music
Foster SDA Church, Asheville, North Carolina	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Discipleship, small groups • Live band with drums, dramatic lighting, casual dress • Drama/acting
Fresno Westside SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism • Charismatic movement • Laying hands on community/government dignitaries
General Conference of SDAs, Silver Spring, Maryland	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism; do not point out flaws in other denominations

Corrupt SDA Institutions

Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventist Recovery Ministries/Regeneration Ministries Christ-centered 12 step recovery program for addictions; Ephesians Life Ministries (combines biblical teachings and modern psychology) • Interactive Christmas play • Says worship style is not important and that all Adventist congregations worship the same God • Community Services: “incarnational” • Spiritual formation • Discipleship • 1993 General Conference Annual Council: recommended youth leaders implement activities such as forums, agape suppers, drama, mimes, puppets, “spiritual” weekends • IMPACT Atlanta 2010: Adventist Leaders invited to Discipleship and Habitudes Training • <i>College and University Dialogue</i>: breath prayers • <i>The Children's Ministries Coordinator</i> handbook recommends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children's Music Festival with musical mimes; puppet ministry ○ Easter dramas; Christmas plays • Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department: dramatic presentations, skits • Leland Kaiser • Life insurance • Operation Global Rain • Prayerwalking • and more
Georgia-Cumberland Conference of SDAs, Calhoun, Georgia	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose Driven movement • Natural Church Development • Discipleship • GODencounters • U.S. Dream Academy • Go Fish Conference: Craig Jutila as keynote speaker (served as

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		Children's Pastor at Saddleback Church)
Ghana Union Conference of SDAs, Ghana, Africa	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners in Innovation
Glendale Adventist Medical Center, California	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somatic therapy • Alcoholics Anonymous • Psychologists • Leland Kaiser
Glendale SDA Church, Phoenix, Arizona	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passover Seder (Jewish ritual feast); Jewish liturgy • Casual, contemporary worship services; worship band • Small groups • Drama team; talent show
Glenvale SDA Church, Queensland, Australia	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary music • Drama • Web links to ecumenical TV channels
Grace Adventist Group, National City, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha course • Small groups • Contemporary music • Spiritual disciplines; confession to someone "trustworthy" • iFollow discipleship • Natural Church Development
Grace Temple SDA Church, Ft. Worth, Texas	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted Bible Bowl competition
Hawaii Conference of SDAs, Honolulu, Hawaii	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth leaders training weekend: drama, fun, honors • Link to discipleship training with José Rojas • Golf tournament
Hillcrest SDA Church, Nashville, Tennessee	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose Driven Youth Ministries • Rock/contemporary gospel
Hollywood SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship services: drama, contemporary band, casual dress, congregation on a "missional journey" • Ash Wednesday service: darkened room; candles; incense burning; pastor places cross of ashes on

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		members' foreheads • Celebrate: Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost • Actors/Writers Workshop • Community partners included Emergent Village and Allelon • Recipient of the 2010 Innovation of the Year Award and Innovative Church of the Year Award
Iceland Conference of SDAs, Iceland	Conference	• Spiritual formation • Discipleship
Keene SDA Church, Texas	Church	• Spiritual formation • Spiritual disciplines
Kettering Adventist Healthcare, Dayton, Ohio	Health	• Contributed \$3,000 as "Innovation of the Year" award; criteria included: innovation, missional impact, entrepreneurship • Partners in Innovation sponsor
La Mesa SDA Church, California	Church	• Member of Willow Creek Association • Promise Keepers • Contemporary music
La Sierra University, Riverside, California	Education	• Evolution • Competitive sports • Drama, comedy • Prayer labyrinth • Ecofeminism • Hosted 2007 Empower Ministry Group's 5th National Leadership Conference (spiritual formation) • eXcite 98 (bands and entertainment)
Lifesource Community SDA Church, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Church	• Member of Willow Creek Association • Upbeat contemporary worship, praise band • Drama, dance • Discipleship, small groups • Purpose Driven movement
Living Stones SDA Church, La Crescenta, California	Church	• Small groups/cell groups/crash groups; core values include these typical emerging church terms: discipleship; fellowship; unity

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<p>through diversity; authenticity; God matures us within community; cultural relevancy; innovative; creativity; praise; and a friendly and accepting environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence, meditation, online prayer labyrinth, prayer exercises (both modern and ancient)
Living Water Fellowship, Henderson, Nevada	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former member of Willow Creek Association • Discipleship • Drama
Loma Linda University, California	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama; Emmy Awards • Myers-Briggs • Quantum (vibrational) energy book • Yoga • Leland Kaiser
Loma Linda University Medical Center, California	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parade float • Santa Claus • Baseball players, superheroes
Longburn Adventist College, New Zealand	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive self-talk • Yearly outing to a play
Madison Mission SDA Church, Alabama	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charismatic services: contemporary gospel/praise music, clapping, shouting, raising of hands, swaying • Drama • Sports
Madison SDA Church, Nashville, Tennessee	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purity Ball with ballroom dancing • Celebrate Recovery program • Discipleship
Manassas SDA Church, Virginia	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Sports/competition
Metropolitan SDA Church, Hyattsville, Maryland	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woman pastor • Charismatic services • Ecumenism • Puppets • Competition • “Rollicking, hand-clapping, foot-stomping gospel choir” using a “contemporary musical alternative”

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Minnetonka SDA Church, Minnesota	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha course • Passover Seder (Jewish ritual feast) • Drama • Contemporary music
Miracle Temple Worship Center, Baltimore, Maryland	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charismatic movement • 12-Step Recovery • Discipleship, small groups • Praise dancing; Turkey Roll Gospel Skating Party; Havdalah Ceremony • Prayer meetings: miracles; healings; financial breakthroughs; addictions stopped; imprisoned set free; prayer warriors • Harvest Festival Concert: liturgical dance and music • Innovative Impact Pastor's Leadership Conference
Mosaic SDA Church, North New Zealand	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren • Small groups • Contemporary music
Mountain View SDA Church, Las Vegas, Nevada	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former member of Willow Creek Association • Alcoholic's Anonymous 12 Step Group • Drama • Candlelit communion • Drumming • Newsletters: joking; comic style artwork; humor from C. S. Lewis; movie review section; link to ecumenical website
Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church, Riverside, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charismatic services; liturgical dance; drama • Pathfinder drill team: senseless marching and tap dancing
New Haven SDA Church, Connecticut	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laying on of hands misused • Contemporary praise music • Pastor Dennis Smith promotes <i>Fresh Power</i> by Jim Cymbala (leader of Brooklyn Tabernacle charismatic non-SDA church)

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
New Hope SDA Church, Fulton, Maryland	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Laying on of hands misused • Prayer warriors • Liturgical dance • Drama; dramatic lighting • Church logo means “to live and work in ways that protect and replenish the environment” • Restore: food and fellowship at Restore Café with coffee and a band • GODencounters: At Encounters Café, a worship band filled with “Jesusness” plays Christian rock music
New Jersey Conference of SDAs, Lawrenceville, New Jersey	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GODencounters
Newbold College, United Kingdom	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports/competition • Drama, skits, dancing • Contemporary music • Art festival: celebration of creativity • Diversity seminar includes lecture entitled “The God Delusion” • Website devotional quoted from Morris Venden’s book, <i>Faith That Works</i> • Media Arts course includes Shakespeare on Film as an approved elective
Newday Christian SDA Church, Parker, Colorado	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Small groups • Drama
North American Division of SDAs, Silver Spring, Maryland	Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventist Single Adult Ministries resource: Boundless Webzine promoting C. S. Lewis; Saddleback Church; <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren • Sponsored ecumenical urban congress • Evangelism Institute: uses emerging church resources and

Corrupt SDA Institutions

Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<p>techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Claim It congress activities included: biblical drama, a Sabbath biblical floats parade, children's worship festival, sports teams, prayer journey, prayer/devotional walks, prayer rooms, 24 hour prayer chapel • Go Fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Creative ministries" like puppetry, clowns, drama ○ Teacher certification topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Post Modern Child ▪ Kids in Discipleship ▪ History of Clowns/Clown Ethics ▪ Making Simple Puppets; Starting a Puppet Ministry ▪ Stages, Lighting, Special Effects ▪ Writing Skits ▪ Basic Ballooning ▪ Silent Comedy ▪ Face Paint Lab ▪ Gospel Illusions ▪ History of Drama/Use of Drama in the Church ○ Christian magic ○ Saddleback Church tour • SONscreen sponsor • Leland Kaiser • REACH North America: includes unity in diversity, community, discipleship
Northern Asia-Pacific Division of SDAs, Korea	Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel singing contest/festival • AMiCUS festival • Bible Olympiad • Musical play with dancing • The Golden Angels: contemporary praise music
North German Union Conference of SDAs, Germany	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism: voted to join the German Council of Churches as a guest member in 1997; guest members obliged to donate part of their funds to this ecumenical council

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
North Wembley Community SDA Church, United Kingdom	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drumming • Drama • Mimes • Community fun day including rap music and sports
Northeastern Conference of SDAs, Jamaica, New York	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purity Ball with ballroom dancing • Pathfinders: march to a hypnotic, syncopated beat • Sports/competition
Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary music • Focused on increasing membership figures
Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports/competition (including Miss Oakwood University pageant); awards • Guest speakers: non-SDA university presidents and professors, Baptist ministers, film and television celebrities • Contemporary music • Praise dancing
Oasis SDA Church, Boise, Idaho	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Spiritual formation • Contemporary music • 50-day Jubilee spiritual growth experience
Ohio Conference of SDAs, Mount Vernon, Ohio	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners in Innovation sponsor: new ways of doing ministry and missions, culture of innovation, missiology, other disciplines • Innovation of the Year award (criteria included: innovation, missional impact, entrepreneurship) • Discipleship
Orangevale SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic small groups
Pacific Press Publishing Association, Nampa, Idaho	Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published discipleship book, <i>GODencounters: Pursuing a 24/7 Experience of Jesus</i>
Pacific Union College, Angwin, California	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern praise and worship, wide variety of bands, contemporary

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> music • Sports/competition • Prayer labyrinth • Spiritual disciplines • Radio station, The Candle, plays Christian rock • The Grind coffee shop: tournament/game night including Bingo; mini talent show; movie night
Pacific Union College SDA Church, Angwin, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.S. Lewis • School football tournament advertised
Pacific Union Conference of SDAs, Westlake Village, California	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventist-Jewish Ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jewish liturgical elements ◦ Jewish theological traditions ◦ Authentic Jewish worship experience ◦ Sense of community ◦ Jewish culture, religion and traditions ◦ Havdalah service ◦ Celebrates Yom Kippur, etc.
Palm Bay SDA Church, Florida	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary music • Innovation
Palo Cedro SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • En Route: Christian rock band • The Journey Service: for “progressive” members • Service titles included “God: Out of the Box” and “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” (named after a television show)
Paradise SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to Discipleship: holy habits or spiritual disciplines, practicing the presence, journaling and meditation • God accepts us “even in our sin” • Self-talk
Patchogue SDA Church, New York	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer walking; prayer warriors • Natural Church Development • Small groups
Pennsylvania	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GODencounters

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Conference of SDAs, Reading, Pennsylvania		
Pioneer Memorial SDA Church, Berrien Springs, Michigan	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Models for Small Groups: silence, prayer walking, lectio divina • Easter Passion Play • Praise dancing
Placerville SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Small groups • Contemporary music • Drama • Brennan Manning
Pleasant Hill SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose Driven movement
Portsmouth SDA Church, New Hampshire	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren
Potomac Conference of SDAs, Staunton, Virginia	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation • Discipleship
Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Maryland	Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced "years of mounting financial losses" • 2010 Vacation Bible School program entitled "Kids' and God's Communication Network": skits, drama, puppets
Riverside Community Church (SDA), California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose Driven movement • Contemporary worship service: "come-as-you-are casual" • Celebrate Recovery 12 step program • Solid Rock Café
Rocklin-Sunset Oaks SDA Church, California (now Gracepoint)	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Drama/acting • Retreats with non-SDA speakers
Roseville SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to Discipleship; Pathways • Spiritual direction
Sanitarium Health Food Company, New South Wales, Australia	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon • Awards

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Maryland	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Age therapies: Yoga, Tai Chi, hypnotherapy • Contemplative prayer
Singapore Mission of SDAs, Singapore	Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell groups
Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park, Maryland	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Yancey • 12 step recovery/regeneration program • Drama, mimes, puppets, face painting, balloon sculpting, clowning • Celebration services, Christmas festival • Coffee • Basketball
Sonora Regional Medical Center, California	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A nun from St. Patrick's Catholic Church ◦ Thanatologist and founder of Dawn's Light
South American Division of SDAs, Brazil, South America	Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders not interested in medical missionary work • Non-SDAs preach on Sabbath • Sermons about prophecy are rare • Pastors counseled to only preach the love of God • Ninety percent of church members do not know about prophecy or Ellen White • Some church members and pastors eat pork and drink caffeinated beverages • March 2009 Youth Leaders Congress for South America: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ leaders who attended played loud rock music ◦ some were drunk ◦ more interested in computer games than the sermon ◦ inappropriately dressed ◦ made a terrible mess • The doctrine of the un-fallen nature of Christ is taught all over South America; <i>The Nature of Christ</i> book by Roy Adams is promoted

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching that Ellen White spoke for her time; her writings are just counsel. The Bible is just a poetic book and should not be taken too literally Jesus did not really starve in the desert; He just abstained from meat Many members and even elders live together with their partners without being married.
South Bay-Redondo Adventist Church, Torrance, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional and contemporary worship services, beach party/worships Had a link for reviews of new eGames which promote violence, magic gems, other gods, rude humor, sexual themes, strong language, fantasy magic, occult, witches, gambling, and alcohol
South Pacific Division, New South Wales, Australia	Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) Pathfinder Leadership Award provides “comprehensive and quality training in various aspects of spiritual formation” Adventist Youth Ministries: discipleship, spiritual formation
South Queensland Conference of SDAs, Queensland, Australia	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation
Southeast SDA Church, Cleveland, Ohio	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary gospel Ecumenical meetings “Creative Movement Ministry”
Southeastern California Conference of SDAs, Riverside, California	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postmodernism Spiritual formation
Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual formation <i>Columns</i> magazine: awards, competition, sports, drama, contemporary music, Psi Chi, juggling Christian rock Connect: contemporary worship

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewelry allowed • Non-SDAs invited to speak • Immodest dress • Evolution • Modern psychology • New theology books • Leland Kaiser
Southern California Conference of SDAs, Glendale, California	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer-walking • Adventist-Jewish Ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jewish liturgical elements ◦ Jewish theological traditions ◦ Authentic Jewish worship experience ◦ Sense of community ◦ Jewish culture, religion, and traditions ◦ Havdalah service ◦ Celebrate Yom Kippur, etc.
South German Union Conference of SDAs, Germany	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecumenism: voted to join the Council of Christian Churches in Germany as a guest member in 1997
Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, Texas	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postmodernism • C.S. Lewis • Sports/competition • Drama • Jazz, Christian rock • Ecumenism • Coffee • Spiritual disciplines (solitude, silence, and prayer)
St. Helena Hospital, California	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tournaments • Gala • Movies • Coffee • Jewelry • New Age items • Hope Tree: 48 symbols including spirals, phoenix, lotus; brochure mentions the healing nature of the tree; crucifix inside tree • Alternative services offered include: aromatherapy, music therapy, guided imagery, Reiki,

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
		acupressure, foot reflexology, therapeutic touch, shiatsu • Starizon (New Age)
Stillwater SDA Church, Dayton, Ohio	Church	• Member of Willow Creek Association • Sports/competition • Entertainment/movies • Fixing or cleaning up houses and/or yards on Sabbath (church closed)
The Edge Christian Worship Center, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota	Church	• Emerging church • Contemporary music
The Reach SDA Church, West Richland, Washington	Church	• Purpose Driven movement (40 Days of Community) • Drama • Praise band • No code of dress or conduct • Small groups fellowship and confessions
The Shepherd's House: An Adventist Community of Love SDA church, Wausau, Wisconsin	Church	• Holistic Small Groups
Thousand Oaks SDA Church, California	Church	• Passover Seder (Jewish ritual feast) • Jewish liturgy • Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, Rosh Hashana
Toledo First SDA Church, Ohio	Church	• Member of Willow Creek Association • Church youth website quotes from a science fiction movie character • Games/competition • Bible movies/cartoons • Car shows with popular music and awards • Invited charismatic, non-denominational guest speaker
Torquay SDA Church, Canada	Church	• Alpha course

Corrupt SDA Institutions		
Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Trans-European Division of SDAs, United Kingdom	Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation • Discipleship, spiritual disciplines, small groups • Media productions include Hollywood-style videos • Psychology
Tunapuna SDA Church, Trinidad & Tobago	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren
Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama, fantasy, pirates, comedy • Modern secular music and videos, contemporary gospel music • Dancing • Sports/competition • Awards
University of Montemorelos, Mexico	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation
Vallejo Central SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic small groups
Walla Walla University, Washington	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Rap and jazz music • Dancing • Sports/competition • Tony Campolo
Wasatch Hills SDA Church, Salt Lake City, Utah	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association • Jazz music • Catalyst (non-SDA emerging church movement)
Washington Adventist Hospital, Maryland	Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tai chi • Yoga • New Age therapies including hypnotherapy • Contemplative prayer
Washington Adventist University, Takoma Park, Maryland	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners in Innovation, 2010 Innovation conference • Sports/competition • Drama • Contemporary music, Christian metal (hard rock) group • Sponsored ecumenical urban congress

Corrupt SDA Institutions

Name/Location	Institution	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Washington Conference of SDAs, Federal Way, Washington	Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GODencounters
Westminster Good Samaritan SDA Church, California	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Willow Creek Association
White Memorial SDA Church, Portland, Maine	Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha course • Discipleship class • <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren

Corrupt SDA Publications and Ministries

Publication/Ministries	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
Adventist Communication Network (Adventist Media Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run like a business: special offers/items for sale
Adventist Media Center, Simi Valley, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular music • Talking about sports • Drama, producing movies that include Hollywood actors • SONscreen Film Festival <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contemporary music, jazz ◦ Photos of SDA “stars” ◦ Awards gala ◦ Comedy
Adventist News Network (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Hope Street: drama, soap opera • Leland Kaiser • Awards
<i>Adventist Review</i> (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GODencounters • Learning to Care training curriculum • iFollow Discipleship Series • <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> by C.S. Lewis • Biblical humor • Fresh approaches to preaching: balloons, drama, Jewish dancing • Considers preferences around diet, dress, music, and vocabulary as trivial • <i>KidsView</i>: features national heroes, fosters pride • Television quiz show, trivia

Corrupt SDA Publications and Ministries	
Publication/Ministries	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards • Wintley Phipps • Boasted about Barry Black's nomination to become the next chaplain of the U.S. Senate • 321 Improv Comedy (non-SDA)
<i>Adventist World</i> (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation: advertised the book <i>Hunger: Satisfying the Longing of Your Soul</i> by Jon Dybdahl • Awards • <i>40 Days - Prayers and Devotions</i> by Dennis Smith • <i>Coming Together Series</i>, by the Center for Creative Ministry • Discipleship: Disciple Tree website
Adventist World Radio, Silver Spring, Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary music
Atlantic Union <i>Gleaner</i> (Massachusetts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer walking; prayer warriors • Christian rock/pop music
Breath of Life, Simi Valley, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run like a business: special offers/items for sale
Center for Creative Ministry, Milton-Freewater, Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging church programs • National Conference on Innovation (2010) • Small groups • Sports leagues
<i>CQ (Collegiate Quarterly)</i> (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends the Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies
Columbia Union <i>Visitor</i> (Maryland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent show: skits, entertainment, popular music • Leonard Sweet • Non-SDA authors such as Phillip Yancey
Faith For Today, Simi Valley, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run like a business: special offers/items for sale • Jesus101 Biblical Institute: spiritual formation; discipleship • Telly awards
GODencounters (www.godencounters.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship • Sacred space, "being still" • Prayer room; 40 days of prayer and devotion • Contemporary gospel/praise music, swaying, jumping, clapping, hands raised • GODfest; "the Kingdom of GOD is a Party" • Comedy
<i>Guide</i> magazine (Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollywood movie reviews

Corrupt SDA Publications and Ministries	
Publication/Ministries	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
and Herald Publishing Association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JellyTelly; Adventures in Odyssey • Contemporary music
Hope Channel (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run like a business: special offers/items for sale • Some programs resemble television shows • Uses popular terms such as “celebration” • Non-traditional church • Entertaining
<i>iFollow Discipleship Series</i> (North American Division of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups • Discipleship
<i>Insight</i> magazine (Review and Herald Publishing Association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purity Ball • Contemporary gospel, pop, country, rock, indie/alternative music • Competition
It Is Written, Simi Valley, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run like a business: special offers/items for sale • Awards
Life Talk Radio, Simi Valley, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern praise music, Christian rock
Link 2 U th Adventist Youth Ministries newsletter (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited Willow Creek Community Church (Sabbath afternoon), Mars Hill Bible Church (Sunday morning), and the Mennonite Sight & Sound Theatre
<i>Ministry</i> magazine, (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use small groups to gradually introduce changes into worship services such as praise music • Recommends authors who promote the charismatic movement, mimes, puppets, clowns • Celebration services including drums, drama, clapping • Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) • Advertised the 2nd Annual National Conference on Innovation; Leland Kaiser • Spiritual disciplines: journaling, meditation, silence, solitude • Non-SDA books • Awards
Pacific Union <i>Recorder</i> (Pacific Union Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laying hands on community/government dignitaries • ACTS Prayer Path: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication • Antioch Church Vacation Bible School: United in Christ house band, clapping, jumping, lively songs

Corrupt SDA Publications and Ministries	
Publication/Ministries	False Teaching(s)/Promotes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SONscreen Film Festival
Pathfinders (North American Division of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational honors which foster pride, competition, parade floats, drama, puppetry, prayer warriors, prayer walks • Pathfinder Radio: contemporary, country-style music, etc.
<i>Australasian Record</i> (South Pacific Division)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual formation • Spiritual disciplines
Revival and Reformation (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer-walking • Operation Global Rain • Drama • Discipleship
<i>Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide</i> (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confessing sins, errors, and transgressions to someone you “trust” • Comic-style illustrations • Says that we cannot know the precise meaning of 666
<i>Signs of the Times</i> (Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes celebrities • Spiritual disciplines
Society of Adventist Communicators (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comedy show • Awards
<i>Spiritually Formed</i> (South Queensland Conference of SDAs, Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship • Spiritual formation
<i>The Adventist Chaplain</i> (General Conference of SDAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual direction • The Shalem Institute
<i>The Sharing</i> newsletter (General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging Church movement/postmodernism
<i>Viewpoint</i> magazine (Pacific Union College)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer labyrinth • Spiritual disciplines
Voice Of Prophecy, La Voz de la Esperanza (Voice of Prophecy in Spanish), Simi Valley, California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run like a business: special offers/items for sale • Jesus101 Biblical Institute: spiritual formation, discipleship • Awards

Appendix C

Restoring the Lost Sheep

Desire of Ages, p. 440-441

After Ernie Knoll's sin was made public, those who walked away and condemned Ernie as a false prophet did not heed the following counsel. We must remember that all of us have sinned and are in need of God's amazing grace.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." Romans 15:1. No soul who believes in Christ, though his faith may be weak, and his steps wavering as those of a little child, is to be lightly esteemed. By all that has given us advantage over another,--be it education and refinement, nobility of character, Christian training, religious experience,--we are in debt to those less favored; and, so far as lies in our power, we are to minister unto them. If we are strong, we are to stay up the hands of the weak. Angels of glory, that do always behold the face of the Father in heaven, joy in ministering to His little ones. Trembling souls, who have many objectionable traits of character, are their special charge. Angels are ever present where they are most needed, with those who have the hardest battle with self to fight, and whose surroundings are the most discouraging. And in this ministry Christ's true followers will co-operate.

If one of these little ones shall be overcome, and commit a wrong against you, then it is your work to seek his restoration. Do not wait for him to make the first effort for reconciliation. "How think ye?" said Jesus; "if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

In the spirit of meekness, "considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted," (Galatians 6:1), go to the erring one, and "tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Do not put him to shame by exposing his fault to others, nor bring dishonor upon Christ by making public the sin or error of one who bears His name. Often the truth must be plainly spoken to the erring; he must be led to see his error, that he may reform. But you are not to judge or to condemn. Make no attempt at self-justification. Let all your effort be for his recovery. In treating the wounds of the soul, there is need of the most delicate touch, the finest sensibility. Only the love that flows from the Suffering One of Calvary can avail here. With pitying tenderness, let brother deal with brother, knowing that if you succeed, you will "save a soul from death," and "hide a multitude of sins." James 5:20.

But even this effort may be unavailing. Then, said Jesus, "take with thee one or two more." It may be that their united influence will prevail

where that of the first was unsuccessful. Not being parties to the trouble, they will be more likely to act impartially, and this fact will give their counsel greater weight with the erring one.

If he will not hear them, then, and not till then, the matter is to be brought before the whole body of believers. Let the members of the church, as the representatives of Christ, unite in prayer and loving entreaty that the offender may be restored. The Holy Spirit will speak through His servants, pleading with the wanderer to return to God. Paul the apostle, speaking by inspiration, says, "As though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20. He who rejects this united overture has broken the tie that binds him to Christ, and thus has severed himself from the fellowship of the church. Henceforth, said Jesus, "let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." But he is not to be regarded as cut off from the mercy of God. Let him not be despised or neglected by his former brethren, but be treated with tenderness and compassion, as one of the lost sheep that Christ is still seeking to bring to His fold.

Christ's instruction as to the treatment of the erring repeats in more specific form the teaching given to Israel through Moses: "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in anywise rebuke thy neighbor, that thou bear not sin for him." Leviticus 19:17, margin. That is, if one neglects the duty Christ has enjoined, of trying to restore those who are in error and sin, he becomes a partaker in the sin. For evils that we might have checked, we are just as responsible as if we were guilty of the acts ourselves.

Appendix D

Dreams Confirming Ernie's Repentance

Below are two dreams Ernie Knoll received after he had repented of his sin. Reference was made to these in the dream, *In the Heart of Jesus*, September 12, 2009.

What God Can Do, July 19, 2009

This encouraging dream was given to me two days after the Board was shutting down the 4 His People Ministry. I had been praying asking for repentance and for direction as to my life.

In my dream, I am standing in front of a large stage. I hear several chimes being chimed. I then see five identical people with very dim light around them. They begin singing and the light becomes brighter and brighter. I see they are not men or women and they all sing with a beautiful voice. I then hear the following words: **The chimes ring out another day; another day has come. Someone slipped and fell, was that someone you? Do not be discouraged, for I have news for you.**

Then the light becomes even brighter and I see many more singing and the whole stage is filled with more of the singers. They continue singing: **It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others, He will do for you.**

Then I see all these singers are angels. I watch as these angels become a countless number and their wings come out and spread wide open. Everything is now very bright and they all open their arms. They continue singing: **With arms wide open He welcomes you. For it is no secret what God can do.**

I now see the Herald comes from the right side and stands in front of me. I see him smile like I have before and calling me by my heavenly name he says, "You were told to stand on the wood as the wood is the truth. Jesus is the wood. He is the only way and will light your path, but you need to use that lighted path. You must walk on it. All can be easily deceived. All will be, but each must stay on the path that Jesus has given you. Know that He loves and forgives you. Do not worry about what others say and demand as Jesus knows your heart. The Herald places both of his hands on my shoulders and says again, "Jesus is the wood. He is the Truth and He is the Light. Stay on that path." Following are the actual lyrics to the song.

What God Can Do

The chimes of time ring out the news,
Another day is through.
Someone slipped and fell.
Was that someone you?

There is no night for in His light
You never walk alone.
Always feel at home,
Wherever you may go.

You may have longed for added
strength,
Your courage to renew.
Do not be disheartened,
For I have news for you.

There is no power can conquer you
While God is on your side.
Take Him at His promise,
Don't run away and hide.

It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others, He'll do
for you.
With arms wide open, He'll pardon
you.
It is no secret what God can do.

It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others, He'll do for
you.
With arms wide open, He'll pardon
you.
It is no secret what God can do.*

A Friend So Precious, July 31, 2009

Just before 1:00 AM this morning someone we know was awakened and was impressed to pray for us. At 1:25 AM Becky heard me make a sound and knew that I was having a dream. She woke me and asked about the dream and in my sleepiness I shared a little bit of it and we fell asleep. After we woke up later that morning Becky decided not to tell me about the dream to see if I would remember. After a while I asked, "Do you remember waking me from a dream and my telling you about it?" This was an answer to many prayers as to whether the dreams were from God.

In my dream, I am struggling to climb a path going up the side of a mountain. The path is littered with rocks of different shapes and sizes. Some are round, some are flat and some are very sharp on the edges. We are walking carefully since the rocks are loose and many are laid on top of each other. Each step must be very carefully taken. The path we are on is lit from the sunshine but yet to the left and right of the path it is dark. Becky is behind me and behind her are a lot of other people. We are all carrying a large white box. Each person's box weighed what they could carry. On each of the six sides of the box is different writing as follows: "Repent and sin no more," "Hold to your faith," "Stay on the path," "Share the messages," "Obey," and on the top it said, "Stand on the truth." As we are all struggling to climb up the path we are all singing the song "I Have a Friend So Precious." Below are the lyrics to the hymn.

* *What God Can Do* lyrics written by Stuart Hamblen

I Have a Friend So Precious

I have a Friend so precious,
 So very dear to me,
 He loves me with a tender love,
 He loves me faithfully;
 I could not live apart from Him,
 I love to feel Him nigh;
 And so we dwell together,
 My Lord and I.

Sometimes I'm faint and weary,
 He knows that I am weak;
 And as He bids me lean on Him,
 His help I'll gladly seek;
 He leads me in the path of light,
 Beneath a sunny sky;
 And so we walk together,
 My Lord and I.

He knows how much I love Him,
 He knows I love Him well;
 But with what love He loveth me,
 My tongue can never tell;
 It is an everlasting love
 In ever rich supply;
 And so we love each other,
 My Lord and I.

I tell Him all my sorrows,
 I tell Him all my joys,
 I tell Him all that pleases me,
 I tell Him what annoys;
 He tells me what I ought to do,
 He tells me what to try;
 And so we talk together,
 My Lord and I.

He knows how I am longing,
 Some weary soul to win,
 And so He bids me go and
 speak
 A loving word for Him;
 He bids me tell His wondrous
 love,
 And why He came to die,
 And so we work together,
 My Lord and I.

* *I Have a Friend So Precious* lyrics written by Mary Ann Shorey

Index

1

144,000 36, 223, 306, 307

A

Actors.. 116, 133, 171, 197, 262, 292,
293, 308, 315, 344, 345, 400

Adventist Book Center (ABC) 22, 32,
118, 247, 256

Adventist Health/West corporate
office..... 220

Adventist Home .. 109, 136, 156, 248,
249, 250, 262, 264, 303, 312

Adventist Review... 32, 40, 41, 45, 48,
49, 52, 59, 88, 92, 110, 135, 154,
170, 171, 177, 179, 180, 185, 187,
202, 205, 206, 207, 208, 216, 218,
229, 239, 245, 251, 253, 258, 262,
283, 288, 316, 328, 344, 348, 350,
357

Agape feast 7, 231, 232

Alan Reinach 53

Alice A. Bailey 145

Allan Martin..... 203, 216, 217

Allan Walshe 202, 214, 216, 217

Alpha..... 17, 79, 140, 141, 246

Anacortes Adventist Fellowship.. 135

Andrews University .. 25, 55, 92, 123,
126, 142, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164,
165, 170, 181, 191, 193, 201, 203,
207, 209, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217,
219, 220, 228, 234, 243, 261, 266,
270, 291, 331, 336, 343, 346, 350

Andy McRae 125

Apostasy 1, 4, 5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23,
25, 37, 53, 57, 59, 69, 72, 74, 80,
86, 151, 193, 222, 227, 244, 273,
275, 278, 300, 320, 331, 333, 334,
339, 352, 355, 357, 362, 363, 366,
368, 370, 375, 376, 377, 378, 380,
390, 392, 397, 399, 410

Ark . 3, 21, 59, 79, 113, 224, 373, 380

Arnold Trujillo 53

Artwork 152, 187, 192, 286, 301, 302,
328

Ash Wednesday 170

Athletic..... 238, 275, 276, 295, 345

Atlanta Berean SDA Church..... 181

Authentic 52, 111, 194, 204, 209, 216,
217, 229, 238, 243

Authenticity..... 7, 90, 174, 189, 327

Avondale College.... 26, 59, 132, 148,
271, 272, 273, 309

Avondale Memorial SDA Church 186

Award(s) 136, 161, 162, 163, 169,
171, 181, 183, 184, 194, 195, 202,
244, 245, 251, 254, 266, 268, 271,
280, 283, 287, 295, 298, 306, 308,
309, 315, 316, 317, 344, 345, 347,
348, 349, 400

A

Ángel Rodríguez 1, 40, 354

B

Barry Black 200, 344, 346, 347

Beltsville SDA Church, Maryland 172

Ben Maxson 88, 89, 90, 93, 214, 216,
217

Bert Beach..... 40, 44, 359

Bill Bossert 208

Bill Knott 52, 202, 216, 217

Bobby Moore 209

Breath prayer..... 8, 16, 213, 247

Brenda Billingsy 133

Brendan Pratt 253

Bridge..... 8, 11, 44, 61, 122, 160

Bruce Manners 209

Burbank SDA Church 168

C

- C.S. Lewis..... 93, 151, 156, 160, 164, 192, 212, 267, 295
 Café..... 137, 168, 183, 189, 231, 235, 237
 Campus Hill SDA Church ... 174, 350
 Canadian University College (CaUC) 273
 Candle(s)..... 13, 14, 53, 56, 110, 125, 138, 170, 173, 179, 192, 211, 220, 234, 285, 286
 Canoga Park Community Church.. 52
 Carlton Byrd 157, 181
 Carmichael SDA Church 136
 Carnal..... 120
 Carol Tasker..... 203
 Catalyst 134, 238, 362
 Celebrate Recovery... 93, 94, 96, 125, 137, 168, 186
 Celebration.. 8, 11, 16, 24, 44, 47, 50, 54, 55, 63, 64, 65, 66, 123, 126, 131, 147, 187, 197, 204, 218, 223, 235, 280, 281, 308, 347, 354, 358
 Celebration Center SDA Church 125, 126
 Celestial 324
 Cell group(s) 174
 Censer 62
 Center for Creative Ministry, The 92, 166, 167, 202, 243, 365
 Championship(s). 183, 184, 283, 288, 340
 Charismatic . 7, 9, 17, 42, 62, 95, 102, 103, 124, 131, 132, 133, 147, 152, 157, 177, 180, 181, 182, 183, 193, 207, 225, 229, 230, 267, 301, 306, 345
 Charles Tapp 172
 Cheryl Doss 49
 Child Guidance 22, 130, 169, 196, 229, 252, 283, 298, 361, 378
 Chris Estay 135
Chronicles of Narnia, The 151
 Chuck Swindoll 8, 150
 City Temple SDA Church 183
 Clapping 62, 103, 117, 118, 236, 258, 288, 368
 Clifford Goldstein 32
 Clowning..... 172, 173
 Coastlife Adventist Church.. 195, 196
 Coffee 7, 23, 138, 164, 168, 173, 176, 189, 191, 268, 286, 292, 320, 326
 Colin Renfrew 204
 College View SDA Church..... 184
 Collegedale SDA Church..... 186, 289
 Columbia Union College 200
 Columbia Union Conference 166, 337, 339
 Comedy . 93, 156, 169, 182, 183, 192, 195, 230, 235, 256, 276, 287, 291, 292, 293, 306, 309, 337, 349, 399
 Comforter 335
 Communion 40, 42, 47, 77, 104, 125, 131, 144, 161, 192, 223, 232, 263, 399
 Community . 8, 10, 12, 16, 22, 52, 53, 75, 99, 114, 118, 128, 142, 145, 149, 158, 159, 163, 164, 165, 169, 171, 172, 174, 175, 181, 185, 186, 187, 188, 191, 194, 197, 199, 208, 217, 218, 228, 229, 238, 241, 266, 276, 280, 283, 284, 286, 292, 295, 299, 321, 322, 325, 326, 330, 349, 354, 355, 360, 401
 Community of faith.... 8, 22, 118, 241
 Community Praise Center SDA Church 182
 Competition... 98, 116, 117, 118, 134, 161, 164, 173, 183, 202, 242, 247, 249, 251, 252, 253, 263, 267, 271, 275, 277, 281, 282, 283, 288, 291, 295, 297, 298, 341, 399
 Confess.. 30, 39, 94, 95, 96, 137, 317, 384, 407, 415, 416
 Connect 14, 34, 91, 104, 211, 220, 233, 279, 341, 374
 Connecting 8, 14, 232
 Connection 8, 38, 69, 80, 83, 87, 153, 154, 157, 211, 253, 285, 355, 370, 390, 392
 ConneXions99..... 239, 242
 Contemplate 14, 65, 144, 221, 401
 Contemplative prayer 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 68, 87, 131, 134, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 161, 175, 176, 191, 214, 215, 230, 234, 235, 243, 399

Contemplative spirituality .. 9, 15, 16,
138, 144, 145, 211, 213, 214, 221,
240, 297, 337
Contemporary music... 9, 15, 64, 116,
134, 136, 168, 174, 182, 236, 242,
250, 275, 283, 292, 296, 343
Counsels on Diet and Foods... 70, 71,
101, 168, 198, 265
Creative 12, 44, 93, 99, 100, 114, 118,
131, 161, 166, 186, 194, 211, 228,
241, 246, 255, 266, 293, 295, 310,
348
Creativity 9, 10, 99, 149, 164, 167,
174, 245, 280, 293, 327
Creeping Compromise 21, 22, 120,
263, 313

D

Dallas Willard..... 148, 150, 203, 210,
214, 256, 267, 270, 349
Damnation..... 152
Danny Chan 232
Dany Hernandez 189
Daryl Murdoch..... 90
Dave Gemmell..... 191
David Gates 1
Deacons..... 23, 188, 193, 237
Death. 6, 7, 19, 20, 25, 28, 31, 39, 46,
75, 77, 78, 85, 94, 102, 129, 138,
165, 187, 239, 263, 285, 292, 323,
327, 329, 341, 342, 377, 386, 398,
402, 407, 464
Debbie Higgins 151
Deep 8, 9, 29, 38, 68, 86, 97, 105,
128, 139, 160, 162, 184, 206, 210,
213, 221, 222, 223, 233, 235, 236,
293, 375, 396, 412
Deepen 9, 142, 144, 269
Deeper 9, 10, 14, 16, 20, 89, 142, 146,
148, 176, 234, 235, 236, 254, 279,
284, 300, 396, 414
Delcy Kuhlman..... 155, 201, 269
Dennis Smith 345, 365
Derek Morris..... 142, 157, 201, 308
Dick Duerksen 326, 348
Discipleship 50, 69, 88, 89, 92, 93,
149, 163, 164, 174, 178, 182, 186,

187, 197, 204, 215, 216, 217, 218,
235, 236, 237, 253, 269, 310, 337,
365
Disciplines... 9, 10, 15, 16, 68, 86, 88,
89, 91, 100, 139, 140, 147, 158,
186, 203, 204, 207, 209, 210, 214,
217, 218, 222, 256, 292, 310, 353
Discipling..... 89, 91, 199, 216, 217
Disfellowship 368, 395
Disfellowshipped 24, 332, 361
Doug Pagitt 138, 159, 164
Drama 9, 15, 62, 63, 64, 93, 111, 114,
115, 118, 125, 131, 135, 137, 153,
170, 172, 173, 183, 185, 186, 187,
190, 192, 193, 195, 203, 229, 230,
231, 238, 240, 244, 246, 251, 252,
255, 256, 257, 266, 267, 271, 273,
274, 276, 279, 280, 284, 287, 289,
291, 292, 293, 295, 299, 310, 313,
315, 337, 399
Drumming..... 50, 116, 174, 185
Drums..... 50, 62, 102, 103, 108, 110,
121, 130, 274, 288, 399
Duane Covrig..... 203
Dwight Nelson 193, 267

E

Eagle Rock SDA Church 232
Earl Canson..... 187
Easter..... 7, 8, 44, 64, 116, 131, 170,
171, 187, 197, 207, 231, 254, 266,
292, 326
Ecumenical.... 7, 9, 12, 13, 39, 40, 44,
47, 51, 52, 55, 57, 60, 61, 95, 148,
192, 194, 195, 197, 204, 229, 277,
292, 297, 310, 320, 322, 325, 359,
360, 399
Ed Reid..... 1
Eight Mile Rock SDA Church 185
Elijah. 5, 54, 123, 261, 377, 380, 403,
407
Emergent..... 204, 207, 209, 214, 243
Emerging church. 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15,
16, 19, 24, 42, 51, 87, 92, 99, 125,
128, 134, 138, 145, 149, 151, 163,
164, 165, 167, 168, 174, 175, 186,
189, 192, 203, 205, 206, 207, 208,

209, 212, 215, 218, 222, 223, 224,
225, 227, 229, 230, 234, 238, 241,
242, 244, 255, 256, 257, 310, 339,
360, 361, 362, 366
Epiphany 170
Eric Brown 136
Erwin McManus 148, 233, 241
Escondido SDA Church 197
Eucharist . 7, 8, 47, 66, 125, 164, 207,
218, 399
Eugene Peterson.. 148, 150, 209, 233,
267, 270, 349
Eugene Prewitt 1
Evolution. 59, 60, 152, 249, 273, 277,
278, 327, 347
Experiential... 88, 160, 199, 209, 212,
230

F

Face painting..... 172, 173, 196, 399
Faith community..... 8
FaithHouse Manhattan. 164, 165, 212
Feast.... 7, 8, 21, 32, 53, 54, 278, 294,
400
Feast days..... 21, 54, 400
Fest..... 10, 255
Festival.... 10, 54, 165, 175, 179, 230,
246, 254, 280, 289, 308, 309, 310
Flattery 250, 293, 317, 318, 379
Football 113, 172, 185, 238, 258, 263,
271, 280, 291, 294, 306, 307, 339,
340
Forest Lake Academy 220
Forest Lake SDA Church.... 189, 201,
235
Forgive 143, 386, 407, 415, 416
Forgiveness 28, 57, 96, 137, 211, 221,
407, 416
Fredrick Russell ... 157, 177, 179, 180
Fresno Westside SDA Church 187
Fritz Guy 164, 276

G

Game 22, 54, 132, 133, 173, 183, 184,
258, 263, 274, 288, 295, 306, 307,
339, 340
Ganoune Diop 49, 51, 55
Gary Krause 50
Gary Swanson 128
Gavin Anthony 218
General Conference 17, 26, 33, 40,
42, 44, 45, 47, 50, 51, 52, 55, 70,
82, 94, 128, 151, 154, 173, 174,
182, 199, 200, 202, 205, 206, 212,
215, 217, 234, 236, 237, 239, 241,
243, 245, 246, 254, 255, 277, 310,
316, 331, 340, 351, 354, 355, 357,
359, 361, 362, 363, 365, 384, 390
George Knight 32
Glendale SDA Church 53
Glenvale SDA Church 195
Global community ... 8, 147, 234, 354
GODencounters... 189, 203, 234, 235,
236, 237, 336, 337
Godhead 23, 399
GodSpot 136
Grace Adventist Church..... 141
Grace Temple SDA Church 183
Great Controversy, The 6, 27, 28, 29,
33, 38, 41, 43, 46, 49, 56, 67, 72,
76, 78, 80, 115, 138, 162, 171,
177, 205, 219, 224, 233, 243, 245,
334, 341, 360, 361, 366, 374, 375,
385

H

Havdalah 53, 179
Heather Crews 203
Henri Nouwen 145, 150, 193, 209,
212, 213, 214, 267
Henry Sookra 135
Hillcrest SDA Church 135
Hollywood SDA Church 167, 170,
309
Holy City 370
Homosexuality 24, 95, 128, 129, 191,
246

Humorous 134, 203, 307, 330, 349
 Hymn(s) 65, 107, 124, 182, 207, 299,
 467
 Hymnal(s) 62, 65, 123, 289
 Hyveth Williams.. 157, 215, 253, 350

I

Iceland Conference 218
 Ignite 189, 190, 238
 IMPACT Atlanta 2010 [iATL]... 237,
 238
 Incarnational 10, 147, 199
 Incense 56, 62, 170, 232
 Innovation 10, 22, 158, 160, 163, 166,
 167, 268, 327, 328, 337
 Innovative ... 158, 159, 161, 174, 177,
 182, 202, 238, 254, 328, 338, 345
 Interfaith ... 10, 17, 39, 40, 44, 52, 61,
 99, 133, 164, 165, 195, 197, 310,
 399
 Interspirituality 10, 15, 146
 Intuition..... 10, 159, 210, 279, 347
 Intuitive..... 10, 100, 159, 328

J

Jack Sequeira 32
 James Londis 158
 Jan Paulsen..... 237, 277, 316, 357
 Jane Thayer..... 201, 217
 Jerry Moon..... 201
 Jesuit 161, 175, 192, 353
 Jesus prayer..... 8, 16
 Jewelry 73, 190, 326
 Jewish . 10, 21, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56,
 96, 150, 152, 159, 171, 179, 187,
 195, 207, 278, 282, 400
 Jim Appel..... 206
 Joe Crews..... 22, 120, 263, 313
 John Jenson..... 201
 John Solomon 64
 Jon Dybdahl.. 50, 164, 201, 213, 215,
 216, 217, 267, 365
 Jon Paulien..... 159, 164, 215, 219
 José Rojas 55, 236, 253, 256, 364
 Joseph Kidder 203, 215

Journaling..... 89, 209, 231, 240
 Julius Nam 160, 164
 Justification 28, 29, 40, 113, 248

K

Keene SDA Church..... 203, 292
 Kenley Hall 202, 216
 Kermit Netteburg 172, 173, 338
 Kettering Adventist Healthcare.... 162
KidsView 154, 258
 King James Version (KJV) . 2, 59, 63,
 78, 222, 356
 Kingdom Now theology... 10, 14, 360
 Kingly power 30

L

La Sierra University (LSU)..... 52, 59,
 117, 118, 126, 128, 165, 192, 202,
 215, 239, 240, 242, 275, 276, 277,
 278, 309, 341, 346, 348
 Laodicean(s). 1, 2, 5, 17, 48, 222, 376
 Larry McCloskey 278
 Latter Rain 28, 53, 63, 128, 131, 157,
 178, 311, 364, 365, 366, 367, 386,
 400, 401
 Laugh ... 111, 156, 164, 169, 235, 265
 Laura Lee Jones 1
 Lectio Divina 11, 15, 16, 146, 194,
 213
 Leland Kaiser 159, 166, 327, 328, 332
 Lent 170, 171, 346, 401
 Leonard Sweet 15, 134, 160, 167,
 199, 206, 338
 LeRoy Froom..... 32
 Linda Kirk..... 1
 Link 2 Uth 234
Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,
The 152, 154, 155, 212, 295
 Liturgical dance 113, 179, 190
 Liturgy... 7, 9, 11, 16, 53, 63, 65, 170,
 207
 Living Stones SDA Church 174
 Living Water Fellowship 135
 Longburn Adventist College 240, 241
Lord of the Rings..... 152

Lyle Arakaki 142
 Lynn Mallory 128

M

Madison Mission SDA Church..... 118
 Magic 13, 64, 122, 151, 152, 169,
 186, 201, 256, 257, 293, 295, 324,
 327, 329, 330, 337, 400
 Makeup 24, 368
 Maltese cross 124
 Mantras 12, 143
 Martin Feldbush..... 155, 201
 Martin Weber..... 32
 Martyred 45
 Matthew Fox..... 146
 Matthew Gamble 237, 243
 Maturity .. 11, 91, 148, 203, 213, 238,
 365
 Max Lucado 150
 Meditation... 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 88,
 92, 94, 98, 99, 100, 104, 143, 145,
 147, 149, 150, 152, 156, 175, 180,
 205, 209, 210, 213, 214, 221, 231,
 235, 240, 280, 321, 322, 327, 329,
 399
 Meditation labyrinth 13
 Megachurch 134, 150, 164, 361
 Mentor..... 90, 91, 159, 328, 350
 Mentoring ... 9, 12, 91, 216, 217, 218,
 345
 Metropolitan SDA Church..... 133
 Michael Edward Dunn 142
 Minnetonka SDA Church 141
 Miracle Temple Worship Center 177,
 180
 Miroslav Pujic..... 204
 Missiological..... 12, 354
 Missiology 158, 267, 359
 Missional. 9, 158, 159, 163, 164, 170,
 171
 Money. 15, 17, 23, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70,
 94, 207, 267, 283, 295, 298, 303,
 320, 325, 328, 340, 367, 399, 400
 Monte Sahlin... 88, 93, 165, 167, 200,
 202, 216, 217
 Morality 116, 300, 312
 Morris Venden 32, 137, 164, 192, 282

Mosaic SDA church 240, 241
 Most Holy Place..... 26, 36, 358
 Movie 44, 137, 172, 183, 192, 212,
 249, 258, 278, 295, 298, 299, 308,
 323
 Movie(s) 44, 116, 136, 137, 164, 172,
 183, 192, 195, 212, 244, 249, 254,
 258, 278, 286, 289, 295, 298, 299,
 308, 309, 323
 Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church . 102, 117
 Music... 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 22, 47,
 50, 54, 55, 63, 64, 65, 72, 103,
 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 117,
 118, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 130,
 134, 152, 159, 164, 169, 172, 173,
 174, 175, 179, 180, 182, 183, 185,
 186, 190, 191, 192, 193, 195, 196,
 202, 204, 208, 220, 229, 231, 234,
 236, 237, 238, 240, 241, 242, 243,
 244, 245, 246, 249, 250, 252, 254,
 257, 272, 273, 274, 275, 278, 280,
 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288,
 293, 294, 296, 298, 299, 306, 307,
 308, 311, 315, 326, 327, 336, 337,
 368, 386, 399
 Myers-Briggs 82, 149, 279
 Mystic(s) ... 9, 91, 101, 134, 142, 144,
 145, 149, 150, 161, 181, 205, 212,
 213, 214, 315, 327, 349

N

Nathan Brown 212
 Neuro-linguistic programing (NLP)
 17, 24, 85, 86, 87, 88, 93
 New Age . 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19,
 42, 45, 60, 69, 75, 80, 82, 86, 90,
 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 145, 146,
 147, 148, 149, 150, 189, 205, 207,
 217, 220, 221, 223, 227, 230, 276,
 279, 280, 289, 321, 322, 326, 327,
 331, 344, 352, 366, 399
 New Earth 116, 360
 New Hope SDA Church..... 189, 237
 New paradigm 12, 160, 331
 Nikolaus Satelmajer 52, 200
 Norman Gulley..... 32

North American Division (NAD) . 55,
86, 92, 155, 161, 163, 164, 181,
191, 200, 215, 216, 218, 230, 236,
243, 255, 256, 308, 309, 316, 331,
351, 355, 362
North German Union Conference.. 57
North Wembley Community SDA
Church 185
Northern Caribbean University..... 274

O

Ohio Conference. 158, 161, 162, 163,
166, 202, 205, 230, 257
Omega..... 17, 79
Original sin 32
Out of the box 9, 12, 194

P

Pacific Press Publishing Association
..... 95, 208, 236, 350
Pacific Union College SDA Church
..... 155
Pacific Union Conference..... 52, 202,
253
Palo Cedro SDA Church..... 238
Paradigm shift..... 163, 221
Paradise SDA Church..... 89
Partners in Innovation. 158, 163, 166,
203
Passover 53, 54
Paul Richardson 167
Pentecostal(s)..... 68, 102, 117, 119
Phil Johnson..... 135
Philip Yancey..... 148, 172, 233
Pioneer Memorial SDA Church.. 193,
346
Pioneers..... 159
Pleasant Hill SDA Church 135
Portsmouth SDA Church 135
Positive self-talk 241
Postmodernism 51, 78, 138, 155, 216,
219, 239
Potomac Conference..... 205

Prayer labyrinth..... 14, 149, 175, 194,
220, 221, 230, 270, 276, 285, 328,
399
Prayer stations..... 149, 207, 219, 220,
230, 234, 399
Prayer walking 14, 194, 336
Prayer warriors..... 14, 180, 181, 190,
230, 336, 399
Preachout..... 132
Prize 140, 263, 283, 287
Psychology 69, 80, 81, 84, 89, 91, 94,
95, 98, 99, 126, 143, 145, 147,
148, 150, 165, 192, 218, 240, 279,
284, 289, 328, 346, 400
Puppets.. 62, 115, 116, 134, 172, 173,
182, 196, 238, 256, 257, 399
Purpose Driven..... 134, 135, 136, 137,
138, 156, 168, 215, 256, 360

Q

Questions on Doctrine (QOD) 17, 26,
121, 160

R

Raj Attiken..... 164, 166, 167, 338
Rajkumar Dixit..... 191
Randal Wisbey 128, 202
Rap 121, 122, 124, 183, 185, 202,
295, 399
Rebellion6, 28, 76, 80, 121, 127, 168,
237, 409, 410
Redeemed..... 28, 118
Reform 38, 69, 70, 118, 149, 320,
325, 385, 393, 464
Reformation 6, 46, 133, 147, 207,
227, 362, 365, 386, 390
Remnant.. 1, 5, 17, 27, 33, 36, 59, 79,
80, 126, 205, 207, 221, 222, 227,
330, 370, 371, 385, 387, 388, 389,
390
Repentance 28, 38, 53, 54, 58, 65, 74,
103, 168, 222, 223, 228, 362, 365,
370, 386, 396, 403, 407, 414, 416,
466

Reproof ... 3, 179, 272, 332, 333, 377,
 396, 401, 407
 Resurrection 6, 75, 102, 146, 187,
 292, 358, 386
 Review and Herald Publishing
 Association 56, 208, 339
 Revolution 196
 Revolutionary 14, 161, 166, 238, 266
 Rey Descalso 206
 Richard Davidson 203, 217
 Richard Foster... 8, 50, 147, 150, 209,
 213, 214, 217, 267
 Riches . 67, 68, 69, 70, 155, 200, 301,
 312, 319, 339
 Righteous .. 20, 58, 96, 137, 162, 179,
 379, 381, 384, 388, 404
 Righteousness 2, 6, 16, 25, 26, 28, 29,
 31, 32, 60, 61, 161, 178, 209, 223,
 275, 299, 306, 351, 352, 373, 379,
 381, 383, 385, 386, 391, 392, 416
 Rituals 10, 14, 21, 54, 207, 400
 Riverside Community Church 136
 Robert Schuller 98, 149, 343
 Rock music 17, 69, 93, 103, 120, 122,
 183, 192, 193, 196, 222, 235, 237,
 244, 272, 289, 292, 295, 298, 311,
 367
 Roger Dudley 201
 Roger Hernandez 157
 Roseville SDA Church 90
 Roy Adams ... 32, 40, 41, 42, 52, 205,
 368
 Roy Naden 32, 164
 Ryan Bell 164, 167, 170, 171, 309

S

Sacred space 235, 237
 Samir Selmanovic 164
 Sanctification 19, 28, 29, 37, 119, 369
 Sanctified 2, 29, 61, 77, 106, 112,
 130, 172, 369, 388
 Sanctuary 21, 28, 37, 55, 56, 64, 103,
 104, 106, 115, 179, 184, 187, 188,
 214, 228, 252, 271, 295, 315, 337,
 368, 373, 401
 Seder 53, 54
 Seeker-friendly 15

Seeker-sensitive 182
 Seven thunders 21, 400
 Seventh-day 72, 196, 307, 314, 355
 Shaking 5, 48, 121, 376, 383, 396
 Shalem Institute ... 144, 155, 241, 270
 Shalom Learning Center 55
 Shepherd's House, The 208
 Shouting 103, 108, 118, 119, 209,
 352, 376
 Silence 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 62, 88,
 99, 105, 139, 175, 193, 205, 209,
 211, 213, 214, 232, 269, 270, 292,
 379, 383
 Singapore Mission 218
 Sinner 27, 33, 61, 168, 198, 332, 407,
 412
 Skit 118, 172, 338
 Sligo SDA Church 158, 172, 344, 350
 Small group(s). 10, 12, 15, 64, 65, 86,
 92, 131, 137, 160, 167, 168, 174,
 177, 178, 186, 187, 193, 199, 202,
 203, 218, 220, 249, 401
 Social justice 200, 229, 401
 Solitude 15, 16, 99, 140, 147, 202,
 204, 209, 210, 211, 213, 234, 269,
 270, 292
 Somer Penington 276
 South Bavarian Conference 219
 South Bay-Redondo Adventist
 Church 201
 South Pacific Division (SPD) . 63, 87,
 89, 148, 204, 241, 251, 253, 273
 South Queensland Conference 204
 Southeast SDA Church 132, 194
 Southeastern California Conference
 126, 128, 216
 Southern Adventist University 59,
 151, 186, 191, 201, 235, 287, 291,
 332
 Southern California Conference 52
 Southwestern Adventist University
 154, 291
 Spiritual direction 90, 92, 139, 142,
 155, 256, 269, 270, 353
 Spiritual formation . 9, 16, 50, 68, 88,
 89, 90, 92, 139, 140, 147, 148,
 149, 157, 167, 200, 203, 204, 212,
 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 222,
 230, 232, 235, 241, 251, 253, 256,
 257, 269, 270, 289, 310, 365

Spiritualism... 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 17, 22, 24,
25, 53, 60, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80,
84, 93, 95, 99, 139, 151, 153, 209,
211, 222, 224, 225, 244, 276, 279,
280, 320, 332, 346, 370, 373, 375,
388, 397, 399
Sport(s) . 12, 100, 117, 118, 167, 173,
182, 187, 191, 192, 195, 202, 230,
247, 251, 259, 261, 262, 273, 275,
280, 282, 284, 287, 289, 291, 294,
295, 297, 302, 308, 336, 340, 345,
346, 347, 399
Star(s)..... 2, 118, 231, 278, 286, 308,
314, 338, 339, 340, 387
Steve Case..... 201, 214
Steve Daily... 125, 126, 131, 149, 267
Steve Wohlberg 1
Stewardship... 67, 68, 69, 88, 89, 311,
363, 408
Storybooks 22, 304
Susan Zork 201
Symbol.... 49, 81, 124, 125, 158, 193,
279, 285, 301, 327, 347, 355
Symbolic 14, 53, 81, 125, 175
Symbolize 102, 187

T

Talent..... 3, 113, 120, 156, 185, 190,
199, 246, 257, 267, 280, 281, 283,
286, 293, 299, 308, 335, 338, 351
Ted Wilson..... 339, 359
Testimonies to Ministers ... 5, 46, 142,
282, 333, 334, 365, 370, 390
The Edge Christian Worship Center
..... 208
The Reach SDA Church 137
Thomas Keating..... 91, 146
Thomas Kelly..... 146, 212, 213
Thomas Merton..... 91, 146, 150, 212,
270, 322
Thousand Oaks SDA Church... 53, 54
Throne39, 67, 79, 104, 109, 229, 259,
398
Thunder..... 378
Time of trouble 38, 58
Tithe..... 22, 90, 289, 358, 367

Tony Campolo 128, 149, 164, 214,
233, 267, 297
Torquay SDA Church 141
Tradition(s) ... 5, 7, 11, 12, 21, 40, 50,
51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 60, 85, 99,
104, 142, 165, 166, 170, 207, 221,
231, 239, 243, 254, 270, 273, 284,
300, 353, 360, 400
Trans-European Division (TED). 186,
204, 217
Transformation.... 9, 14, 16, 143, 159,
161, 166, 172, 176, 196, 216, 236,
241, 268, 370
Tribute(s)..... 338, 348
Trinity 181, 195, 287, 350
Trumpet(s)... 113, 182, 206, 296, 351,
375
Tunapuna SDA Church..... 135

U

Unity in diversity 16, 57, 60
University of Montemorelos 205

V

Vallejo Central SDA Churches.... 177
Vance Ferrell..... 1
Ventriloquist 92, 182

W

Washington Adventist University162,
164, 192, 200, 202, 291, 297
White Memorial SDA Church 141
William Johnsson..... 32
William Loveless 128
Willow Creek 92, 134, 135, 150, 160,
163, 203, 234, 241
Winston Ferris..... 201
Wintley Phipps..... 256, 343
Wolfgang Dorn 219
Woodrow Whidden III 32
Worldly . 6, 20, 21, 37, 48, 73, 75, 82,
105, 119, 120, 130, 157, 162, 200,

235, 247, 261, 262, 265, 290, 295,
297, 298, 301, 307, 309, 313, 315,
318, 319, 320, 325, 334, 343, 347,
381, 399, 400, 401
Wrath 21, 80, 102, 154, 178, 179,
257, 334, 374, 409

Y

Yat Ang.....	203
Yoga.....	12, 96, 97, 98, 100, 150, 230, 280, 321, 322, 327, 329, 368
Yom Kippur	53, 54

the **TRUTH**
the whole **TRUTH**
and nothing but the **TRUTH**

The truth has rarely been accepted by the majority of those who profess to be the children of God. Many of God's prophets lost their lives for the stand they took against the apostasy of their day. Even Jesus, the author of truth, lost His life at the hands of those who professed to be chosen of God.

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