

# FUTURE NEWS

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## THE STAMMERING TONGUE

Most precious gems of truth are often *rendered powerless* by the wisdom of words in which they are clothed, while the power of the Spirit of God is lacking. Christ presented the truth in its simplicity; and he reached not only the most elevated, but the lowliest men of earth. The minister who is God's ambassador and Christ's representative on the earth, who humbles himself that God may be exalted, will possess the genuine quality of eloquence. *True piety, a close connection with God, and a daily, living experience in the knowledge of Christ, will make eloquent even the stammering tongue.*

As I see the wants in young churches, as I see and realize their great need of vital godliness and their deficiency in true religious experience, my heart is sad. I know that those who bear the message of truth to them do not properly instruct them on all points essential to the perfection of a symmetrical character in Christ Jesus. These things may be neglected too long by the teachers of the truth. Speaking of the gospel, Paul says: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles [*mark the explanation of the mystery*]; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus; whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily. Colosians 1:25-29." *Gospel Workers*, 39-40.

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By E. G. White

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(888) 278-7744

**Future for America** seeks to supply meat in due season for God's flock. It is present truth that the flock needs now:

"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

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## Future News

Editor Jeff Pippenger  
JeffPippenger@msn.com

Contributing Editor Pat Rampy  
Patrick.Rampy@juno.com

Circulation Manager Kathryn Pippenger

### Mission Statement

The ministry of **Future for America** is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future-for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, **Future for America** emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"-medical missionary work-must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. **Future for America** upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

**Future for America** intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

# PHILIPPINES CRUSADES

Our trip to the Philippines was a blessing. Thank you all for your support. Eleven of us arrived in Cebu, destined to divide up for two evangelistic series. One series was funded by *Project Restore* and the other by *Future for America*. The seven members of the *Project Restore* team went to the island of Bohul [I am not sure of the correct spelling]. Four of us went to the island of Mosbati.

Before we parted ways we spent Good Friday and Sabbath in Cebu. The Philippines is eighty per cent Catholic. Catholic idolatry is everywhere evident and meaningless processions take place throughout the year. Especially so, on Good Friday. There were many parades through the city streets depicting the crucifixion. But beyond the normal Catholic nonsense, is a procession that takes only in Cebu on Good Friday. It is known throughout the Catholic world. Seems there is a Catholic man in Cebu who thinks the Lord, or an angel, told him that each Good Friday he should have himself crucified as was Christ. Therefore on each Good Friday, for the last 13 years, this man has himself nailed to a cross and carried through the streets of Cebu. Some of our group toured the city that Friday but did not happen to see that particular man, though we heard he did perform his worthless penance once again this year.

On Sunday we parted ways for our different fields of labor. Joyce Brown was one of our four members. She presented the health message and her husband Roger accompanied us and generally helped in any fashion needed. John Tuthill came along to continue the last week of health presentations, as Roger and Joyce could only stay the first week. All three were a great blessing to work with.

We began the series on Sunday evening. We had perhaps four hundred in attendance, and roughly maintained that number until the close. When we were finished there were 130 souls baptized, while the other team in Bohul baptized 169. Over the next several weeks there will be further baptisms, as those who began their study of God's Word during the meetings continue to have ongoing Bible studies with the Bible workers. We estimate about 600 souls, will eventually go down into the watery grave from the two series.

Satan wasn't happy about the message we presented and on the ninth night of our meetings tragedy struck. A truck that had been rented to bring people to and from the meetings had a blowout on the way home from the meeting and crashed into a coconut plantation. Four people were hospitalized. A fifth was killed.

The boy who was killed was 14 years old. Further he was a Catholic boy who had been coming to the meetings **without his parents knowing**. The first his parents heard about their son attending the Adventist meetings was when they heard their son was killed while returning from the Tuesday night meeting. To further complicate the situation, the driver, who was one of the other four that were hospitalized, was also an Adventist. The parents were not only grief stricken, but they were angry. They were also very poor.

In the Philippines when someone dies they are embalmed and typically taken to their home where the family comes to have their last view and take in the funeral. Depending on how far the relatives live it may take several days for the different family members to arrive, so the body might stay in the home for several days before it is finally buried. A funeral service is conducted each evening as the different relatives arrive, until the time of the burial. The family is expected to supply the food and living arrangements for everyone who attends.

The Catholic parents of this boy were angry the morning after the tragedy and expressed their frustration that they had not the money to have their son embalmed. At this point *Future for America* decided to help with the embalming cost. We then learned that they had not money to supply food for the family that was coming to view the body. We helped with these expenses as well. We also helped with the medical bills of those, still in the hospital. We then heard that the body of the boy would be tens days in the home before he was buried, but there was another complication. To build a block tomb for the

body would be another two and fifty dollars. *Future for America* covered that expense as well.

The unexpected benevolence from the Adventists made an impact on the grieving Catholic parents. By the time we were ready to leave for home, (four days after the boy's death) the ten days of funerals were ready to start that very evening. The boy's parents had been overwhelmed with the Adventist's sincerity and concern. They therefore requested that an Adventist pastor would be the one to present the ten evening funeral messages to their visiting Catholic friends and relatives. Their choice was to hear the funeral from an Adventist—instead of a Catholic priest. The boy's death, as tragic as it was, opened the door for his family to begin to hear the Bible message. Praise the Lord!

While we were there our little group began to discuss future meetings in the Philippines. We figured that each of the two series cost about ten thousand dollars each. If you divide that number by the baptisms you arrive at about **thirty-three dollars for each soul that gave their life over to God**. Brothers and Sisters—that is cheap! The Philippines is a place to stretch your evangelistic dollar. As we discussed these things we came up with a new plan for our future work in the Philippines. I am going to explain this plan here and wait to see if the Lord ratifies our discussions by your support.

We decided to return for another series next January, instead of April. In January the raining season has just finished and the Summer is not yet arrived in full force, so working will be easier without the oppressive heat. But the main reasoning for the January date is that it will allow those who go to leave during a time of year where our gardens in the United States are dormant. It is difficult to leave for almost a month when your garden is just getting under way in April.

We also decided to reduce our traveling cost by staying an extra two to three weeks and hold two evangelistic series in a row. When we finish the first we will move to the second town and do it all over again. This not only reduces the travel expenses by half, but it cuts in half the trip to and from the Philippines as well. The trip to and from, is one of the struggles of serving in the Philippines. When you cross the date line your body clock tends to give you a severe case of jet lag. My trip home—from the time I got up in the morning to go to the airport, until I walked through my front door was—forty hours. By having back to back series we reduce the traveling by two, as well.

Because of the time necessary to translate the presentations, we have considered dropping the evening health presentations. Instead we will hold public health evangelism during the day, along with visiting all the churches who are involved with the crusade. In the area Adventist churches we will present the health message for the Adventist brethren. The lifestyle in the Philippines is much different than here in the USA, and if you schedule meetings at the church during the day—the brethren will show up.

One other item we intend to do is select the town for the series based upon whether there is currently an existing Adventist church. Depending on the membership, a church building can be constructed for between three and five thousand dollars. These will be very simple block and cement churches—but greatly needed and appreciated.

In the past three years when we have held these series in the Philippines we looked for the Lord to supply about ten thousand dollars per series. We are going to ask the Lord to ratify our planning by supplying thirty thousand dollars for two series instead of one. We have decreased our travel expenses by half, but increased our overall goal by adding the two church buildings.

Please put this project before the Lord in your prayers. How many places can thirty-three dollars produce a baptism? Normally we need to have the money in hand for the series about three months prior to the meetings in order that the Bible workers can arrive a couple months before the meetings. With the new plans we need the money even sooner, as we need to send the money to buy building materials well before we arrive. This will allow the local brethren to begin the construction, which we will help to finalize during our time there. There is at least three ways you may help. Prayer, is of course, something we hope you will do concerning this project. The other is finance. If the Lord impresses you

to help financially, please mark you donation—**Philippines 2001**. The third way is as a worker. If you have construction ability and can pay your own way to and from the Philippines, then we are soliciting help from you. We thank you in advance for any consideration the may impress you with. And we thank you once again for allowing us to serve this year in the Philippines.

We do not want to return to the Philippines if it is not in the Lord's will. We have asked Him to open the way for this trip by supplying the funds. If they arrive we will move forward. If they don't—then Praise the Lord.



## **FUTURE OF US RELIGION:**

### **TRADITIONAL CHRISTIANS AND JEWS—PLUS ISLAM**

Only the Christian and Jewish denominations who offer firm beliefs and clear expectations of believers will survive to play a role in the American religious market of the future, according to a new study. Also, due mostly to immigration, Islam in particular will become a major new force on the American religious scene.

The study, authored by Kenneth Briggs, a former *New York Times* religion writer and now an adjunct professor at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., asked journalists around the nation to interview 16 leading religious thinkers, as well as grass-roots believers, about what they saw as emerging trends in US religion.

“Institutions themselves would appear to be in some peril,” Briggs said, identifying mainline Protestant churches as the “big losers” in the future potpourri of spiritual practices emerging in mainstream America, partly because **they express a “wishy-washy” theology that confuses their congregations.**

The study said that in order to capture followers “religious groups must exhibit a clear set of beliefs and expectations. These traits would appear to favor Christian evangelicals, Catholic traditionalists, and ultra-Orthodox Jews, among others.”

Of concern to the established religions—in addition to the introduction of previously unknown religions into society—is the trend among Americans to increasingly perceive religion as a personal quest rather than a binding social force. Meanwhile, focusing on social issues seems to be out of step with the individualism of religious seekers in today's America.

With a few notable exceptions on the part of conservative churches, Briggs found that religion today is largely “devoid of the kind of social activism—some would call it a prophetic call for justice—that brought religious groups together around civil rights in the 1960's.” *National Catholic Register*, March 26–April 1, 2000.



### **CATHOLIC/ISLAMIC HOLY ALLIANCE?**

As it tries to block anti-family policies introduced at the United Nations, the Vatican often aligns itself with Islamic countries, which frequently have more goals in common with the Catholic Church than some of Europe's Catholic countries. *National Catholic Register*, August 22–28, 1999.

[**Editor's note:** The Koran contains passages where Mohammed and his niece, Fatima, both praise the Virgin Mary.]



### **CARDINAL JOHN O'CONNOR—PRO-LIFE HERO**

I was saddened to learn of the death of Cardinal John O'Connor on Wednesday. He was a true American hero, in my mind, because of his valiant pro-life efforts. The Cardinal and I differed on a few theological and social issues, but my respect for him was unwavering because of his ministerial kindness and unconditional willingness to help those in need. While many religious leaders through the years have curtailed their support for the unborn, O'Connor remained a steadfast and intrepid spokesman for the voiceless victims of this American holocaust. While combative pro-choice advocates frequently dis-

paraged O'Connor's pro-life efforts, he remained a gentle, yet compassionate, ambassador for the unborn. He was also an outspoken critic of all sexual activity outside of the biblical bonds of marriage—including homosexuality. Nevertheless, in the midst of these critical debates, he retained the heart of a servant and often nurtured and ministered to dying AIDS patients, many of whom were homosexual. Even though he refused to condone the actions of homosexuals (many of whom had invaded his St. Patrick's Cathedral to angrily interrupt services), he would not allow his moral differences to impede his calling to minister to them. As *USA Today* reported, he "washed the hair and emptied bedpans of dying AIDS patients, some too sick to know who he was."

That is the true heart of ministry. Homosexual-rights advocates habitually claim that our biblical mandate to oppose all sexual activity outside the bonds of traditional marriage is motivated by hate. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Cardinal O'Connor was a wonderful example of this because he never allowed his differences with gays to impede his calling to minister to them. Every pastor in America can learn a great lesson from this man. We should never permit our political or social differences to hamper our God-given instruction to minister to our fellow man. As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I cannot expect people to take this message seriously if I am unwilling, as a representative of Christ, to meet them where they are. Change in people's lives comes after a relationship with Christ begins, so we must be frequently disposed to taking the Gospel to unfriendly environments. Cardinal O'Connor embodied this mandate. I am grateful that John O'Connor—a man of courageous faith—had such a profound influence on the Catholic Church through his fifty-five years of ministry. I pray that another pro-life, pro-family minister can be found to fill his significant and substantial shoes. Jerry Falwell, Lynchburg, Virginia.

[**Editor's note:** For several years, we have been observing the effective union of American Evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics. The following eulogy of Cardinal O'Connor from Jerry Falwell, is further evidence of the basis for this unity—political concerns centering on the prof-life and sexuality issues—and a willingness to overlook important doctrinal differences.]



## AMERICA, CHRISTIANITY, AND THE NUMBERS

According to *Surveying the Religious Landscape* (Gallup, 1999): 15 percent of Americans describe themselves as evangelical. 25 percent say they are fundamentalist. 39 percent say they are born-again.

Of the self-described born-again/evangelical Christians: 16 percent have visited a fortune-teller. 20 percent believe in reincarnation. 26 percent believe in astrology. 33 percent are "pro-choice".

In surveying born-again Christians, the Barna Research Group ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)) found that: 34 percent believe that Jesus "committed sins like other people". 35 percent do not believe that Jesus physically resurrected from the dead. 45 percent believe that if people are good enough they can earn a place in heaven. 45 percent believe that Satan is "not a living being, but is a symbol of evil". *Prison Fellowship Ministries' Jubilee* magazine, Spring 2000.

"In rejecting truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Lawgiver. It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. . . . With many a **philosophical idol** is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshipped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. 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.**" *The Great Controversy*, 583.



## TWO MILLION AMERICANS BEHIND BARS

In March we passed a significant milestone; two million Americans in prisons and jails, that's one out of every 125 people, at an annual cost to taxpayers of \$41 Billion, and over two-thirds of released inmates return to prison as repeat-offenders. *Chuck Colson's Justice Report* newsletter, April, 2000.



## AMERICA'S MORAL VALUES IMPASSE

In their book entitled *Is America Breaking Apart?*, authors John A. Hall of McGill University and Charles Lindholm of Boston University write that "one of America's strongest moral values is a reluctance to impose moral values." *Newsweek*, August 30, 1999.

[**Editor's note:** Amen! However, this is beginning to change. States are now beginning to pass laws that allow the posting of the Decalogue in public buildings and schools.]



## STATES CONSIDERING CHURCH-STATE LEGISLATION

21 states are considering legislation that would establish vouchers, tuition tax credits or other form of taxpayer aid to private religious schools.

12 states are trying to pass school prayer laws.

12 states are considering legislation allowing them to display the Ten Commandments in public schools and government offices. Indiana, South Dakota, and Virginia have bills already approved.

8 states are considering "charitable choice" programs that would award tax dollars to sectarian groups to use as they please with virtually no significant government oversight.

6 states are considering restricting teaching evolution in the public school science classes and promoting "creation science." *Americans United for the Separation of Church & State* newsletter. March 31, 2000.

[**Editor's note:** American's United and other organizations, will be opposing all of these state measures by litigation, but remember—legislators are only doing these things in order to secure public favor.]

"The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, **in order to secure public favor**, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected." *The Great Controversy* 592.



## DON'T FEED THE POOR & NO SATURDAY WEDDINGS!

Officials in two different Oregon cities have placed unprecedented limitations on local churches. In Portland, the Sunnyside Centenary United Methodist Church was ordered to stop serving meals to the poor and to limit church attendance to only 70 worshipers, even though the sanctuary can accommodate 500!

In response to a huge public outcry, the city council agreed to lift the limitation on worshipers, and temporarily reinstated the meals programs. However, the city officials warned they still might prohibit the meals in the future.

In Jacksonville, Oregon, city officials conditioned their approval of a new church sanctuary for the First Presbyterian Church on a ban on all Saturday activities, including weddings and funerals. When the church appealed the Saturday ban, the city council responded by revoking the permit to build the new sanctuary! *Chuck Colson's Justice Report* newsletter, April, 2000.

**"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding, circumstances. The**

warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 463.



## GOLD MEDAL POPE

US Senator Sam Brownback, has introduced legislation that would award a \$32,000 congressional gold medal to Pope John Paul II. 66 senators have co-sponsored the bill. In an April 13 speech from the Senate floor, Brownback, a non-Catholic, said the Pope, “as spiritual leader to the world’s 1 billion Catholics . . . has commenced a great dialogue with modern culture, one that transcends the boundaries of political or economic ideology.” *National Catholic Register*, April 30, 2000.

“The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High. The papacy is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4.” *The Great Controversy*, 571.



## POPE: GLOBALIZATION NEEDS NEW RULES

In an audience May 2 with some 200 labor and business leaders in Rome for the Jubilee for Workers, Pope John Paul II said that globalization’s potential consequences, good and evil, “depend on certain fundamental decisions: whether globalization will be placed at the service of humans, and of **every human**, or exclusively at the profit of a development severed from principles of solidarity, of participation, and external to a responsible subsidiarity.”

[**Editor’s note:** Notice the use of “every human”. See Revelation 13:16–17.]

“It is important to keep in mind that the more global the market becomes, the more it must be balanced by a culture of solidarity, attentive to the needs of the weakest”, requiring “a new culture, new rules and new institutions at the world level.”

[**Editor’s note:** So that not even “the weakest” will be able to escape the Pope’s universal economic decrees.]

The Pope concluded by saying that globalization has started the nations down “a commendable road of co-responsibility . . . that must be reinforced, *globalized*, so that all countries feel involved.” *National Catholic Register*, May 20, 2000.



## HATE CRIME LAWS: WHEN N.I.C.E. ISN’T NICE

In the wake of George W. Bush’s speech at Bob Jones University, US senators moved swiftly to condemn the school and, in doing so, provided a vivid illustration of the perils of government attempting to control how people think instead of how they act.

Senator Robert Torricelli sponsored a resolution denouncing the school’s ban on interracial dating and its anti-Catholicism, and many congressmen joined the attack. The idea of the United States holding court on the theology of any religious institution is appalling.

While Bob Jones University may be an easy target today, who’s next?

Mercifully, cooler heads prevailed and the resolution was shelved, but the mindset of Torricelli and



his cohorts reflects an ominous trend in American life: the idea that we can regulate and even criminalize not just what people **do** but what people **think**.

Canada is well on its way. One Toronto printer was fined for refusing to print letter-head stationery for a gay-rights group. The Ontario Human Rights Commission said the printer had “fundamental freedom of conscience and religion,” but he was only free to “hold those beliefs and to practice them in his home and in his Christian community.” The Canadian Supreme Court says speech may be restricted in the name of ending discrimination.

In the US, the effort to regulate what people think has come in the form of proliferating “hate-crime” statutes. These laws aren’t like Canada’s (at least yet), but they do punish a person’s crimes more harshly if they are motivated by animus toward a particular group.

A simple example illustrates the problems of hate crimes. Take a man who assaults his next-door neighbor because he believes the neighbor is sleeping with his daughter; that is not a hate crime. However, if he assaults him because he believes that the neighbor is homosexual, that is a hate crime, and in many states today he will receive a harsher punishment. This, despite the fact that in both cases the injury is exactly the same and the motive for the assault is the sexual conduct of the victim.

The criminal law has, of course, been always concerned with establishing criminal intent, but in the example above, the perpetrator’s intent to do evil isn’t in question. What’s at issue goes beyond that and makes inescapable the conclusion that the man is being punished more harshly because of his attitudes toward homosexuals.

We had better be aware of where this leads us. Punishing people for their beliefs, no matter how disagreeable, threatens what our Founders argued is **the** bedrock liberty—freedom of conscience. When that liberty is violated, a society is headed straight for tyranny.

What may await us, as Canada demonstrates, is not a police-state like the former Soviet Union, but a kind of soft despotism, which abridges freedom for some supposedly greater social good. No one saw this more pre-sciently than C.S. Lewis. He might have had hate-crime laws in mind—laws that would rid us of our baser thoughts—when he wrote “of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive.” In his book, *That Hideous Strength*, Lewis describes the well-intentioned utopian rulers who created the National Institute of Coordinated Experiments—acronym NICE—which became anything but nice. Rather, it was demonic.

In their crusade to create an offense-free society, today’s high priests of niceness are taking dead aim at our liberties. The Church, whose beliefs certainly fall into “most unfavored” status in today’s politically correct environment, must be on guard. For freedom of conscience and religious liberty are inextricably linked, and we need to warn our neighbors that the road to tyranny is paved with good intentions. *Jubilee Extra* newsletter, May 2000.



## CATHOLICS FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE

A San Diego-based Catholic apologetics group is gearing up to oppose anti-Catholic pamphleteers this August at the Pope’s Jubilee Year World Youth Day in Rome.

*Catholic Answers* president, Karl Keating sent out 300,000 fund-raising letters and included in them a copy of a Chick Publications tract entitled *Last Rites which opposes the Mass*. Jack Chick is famous for his cartoon-like tracts, which are the favorite among anti-Catholic pamphleteers.

In his letter Keating invites his audience to read it then destroy it because, “if it falls into the hands of an unsuspecting person—or someone inadequately educated about the Catholic faith—it could cause him to reject Catholicism.”

Keating hopes to raise \$160,000 to print 500,000 pamphlets, *Pillar of Fire*, *Pillar of Truth*, and already has 70 percent of his goal. Support has been strong.

*Catholic Answers* marketing and sales director Tom Smith said that during the Pope’s recent trip to

St. Louis, he counted between 20 and 30 different tracts and estimated an “easy” 100 anti-Catholic pamphleteers there. Similar numbers are expected in Rome. *National Catholic Register*, May 20, 2000.

## GORE WARMS TO HOMOSEXUAL “ANTI-JUBILEE” EVENT

Jack Chick won't be the only one fighting Catholicism in Rome this summer. Democratic presidential hopeful Al Gore has sent a letter to the international homosexual pride even set to take place in Rome June 1–9. Critics say the event is antagonistic to the Church and its Jubilee Year celebrations.

The event, *World Pride 2000*, is expected to flood the city with hundreds of thousands of homosexual activists engaging in parody of the Church and in overtly sexual displays. The Vatican had requested that Rome not allow the homosexual pride event this year because millions of pilgrims will be in the city for Jubilee events. City officials rejected the plea.

Catholic commentators in Rome have called the homosexual initiative a calculated attack against the Church and an *anti-Jubilee*. The pride parade's organizer in Rome, Imma Battaglia, president of the organization, swore at Pope John Paul II in an interview with the Toronto-based homosexual newspaper *NOW*.

The paper also quoted Battaglia reading from a letter by Gore **in which he endorses the June parade**. In the letter, Gore say he is “pleased to send greetings,” and adds that Battaglia's group is “building a good and just society on the bedrock principle of opportunity.” *National Catholic Register*, May 20, 2000.

## 05/02/00—**ABOUT 500,000 RWANDANS HAVE HIV**

Around half a million Rwandans, or **over six percent** of the population, are infected with the HIV virus which causes AIDS, the country's health minister said on Tuesday. *Associated Press*.

## **CIRCUMCISION HAILED AS WAY TO CURB AIDS**

NEW evidence **suggests** that circumcision of all male babies could help to halt the global Aids epidemic. With 50 million living cases and more than 16 million deaths, the disease is now the worst human health disaster since the Black Death.

The thesis—laid out in a scientific paper to be published soon—seems likely to create huge controversy as it represents a complete change in accepted ideas about the transmission of Aids. One of the paper's authors, Roger Short, professor of obstetrics at Melbourne University and a respected scientist with long experience of Aids-ravaged areas, has been told **he cannot address the subject** at a forthcoming international conference.

Short and his co-author, Dr Robert Szabo, are convinced that a high level of receptors—sites to which invading organisms attach themselves—on the inside of the foreskin make it responsible for transmission. Short and Szabo noted a sharp difference in the prevalence of HIV infection in the “Aids belt” countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In some areas the infection rates are as high as 25%, in others as low as 1%. The lower infection rates were clearly associated with the practice of male circumcision.

“The presence of an intact foreskin,” says the Short-Szabo paper, “has consistently been shown to be the single most significant factor associated with the much higher prevalence of HIV in countries of the Aids belt.” The link is stronger than with more familiar indicators such as promiscuity, other sexually transmitted diseases and multiple marriage.

Even more startling evidence came from a recent study in Uganda, reported in February. This showed that among a large group of “discordant couples” where one is infected and one not—no circumcised males became infected over 30 months, even though their wives were HIV-positive. Short describes these results as “staggeringly significant”.

Outside Africa there is the same pattern. Countries with low circumcision rates, such as Thailand,

India and Cambodia, have between 10 and 50 times the rates of infection compared with countries with high circumcision rates, such as the Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Once they get ethical clearance in Australia, Short and Szabo intend to test their conclusions by applying live HIV virus to newly removed foreskins to check its rate of uptake. They could have definite results within weeks. If experimentally confirmed, the implications are radical. Short and Szabo believe that about 80% of male HIV infections in the world happen through the foreskin.

Short is not advocating adult circumcision, a painful and potentially dangerous operation. But future generations could be saved if mass circumcision began now. Short believes his findings should be spread globally, as rapidly as possible. "There has been insufficient focus on prevention," he said, "and too much emphasis on the search for a vaccine." Despite the billions poured into research, there is still no sign of an Aids vaccine. The crisis in sub-Saharan Africa—where life expectancy rates at birth as a result of Aids have dropped from 59 to 44—is out of control.

"The whole of my life's prejudice has been anti-circumcision," said Short. "I've written papers against it. I didn't believe the benefits outweighed the costs. If God had made us the way we were, why remove a sound organ? But I have been totally converted." *Network Blitz Stationery*—BRITAIN.



## ANOTHER ETHIOPIAN FAMINE

Ethiopia is in the throes of the worst famine since 1984, when 1 million died. Three years of extended drought have left many of the nomadic peoples in southeastern Ethiopia unable to cope as wells have dried up, crops have failed, and livestock have perished. The usual February and March rains have failed to appear, again, signaling the loss of another harvest and the need for more help.

And conditions continue to worsen. As many as 400 children under the age of 5 have died from hunger and related causes during March. For now, the deaths are limited to only a small portion of the country, but aid groups estimate that as many as 10 million Ethiopians are at risk of starvation this year, along with an additional 8 million people in neighboring countries.

Politics complicates the picture. Just as the country was fighting a civil war in 1984, the country is currently embroiled in a nasty two-year-old border war with Eritrea that threatens to snarl relief efforts.

Aid donors will be relying primarily on the port of Djibouti, with the tiny Somali port of Berbera as a backup. Together, the ports provide barely enough theoretical capacity for the projected need, but the crumbling infrastructure may impede relief missions. The dilapidated road from Djibouti into the Ethiopian interior currently strains to carry 400 trucks per day. At the peak of the aid effort this summer, it will need to handle 1,000 trucks daily, and US officials fear it could collapse in less than two months. The road from Berbera is even worse.

Some critics complain that aid groups are to blame for not moving fast enough since the first drought warnings a year ago. However, donor governments have been distracted by the crises in Kosovo and East Timor, and aid groups have already borrowed from Ethiopia's emergency reserve grain stores without being able to replenish them.

These complaints point to a new irony: As aid groups get better at predicting and preventing famine, they could become victims of their own success. For their funding, aid groups rely on government and private donors, who in turn are motivated primarily by media coverage of disasters. But with fewer scenes of mass misery to attract the press, preventive missions could become increasingly hard to fund. *U.S. News & World Report*, April 24, 2000.



## 05/08/00—KILLING, ATTACKS HEIGHTEN

HARARE, Zimbabwe—A white farmer died in a hospital today after being beaten unconscious by suspected liberation war veterans and, in a new turn in the Zimbabwe conflict, white farmers beat two black men in apparent retaliation.



## Preparation for the Latter Rain

During 1999, *Open Doors*, the organization of Brother Andrew—*The Bible Smuggler*, managed to smuggle one million Bibles and over two million tracts into China, in one night! . . . a new record for the organization . . . and distribute them while the Chinese government was occupied with crushing the Falon-Gong movement.

At one point, the owner of the warehouse where the Bibles were stored for several months was on his way to visit the warehouse, but suddenly forgot where it was, so he just went back to his home. He later learned, while being interrogated in his home by the police, that two policemen were tailing him that day!

Later, the day after the last of the Bibles were distributed, the police came to the warehouse on a routine inspection!

*Open Doors* had smuggled a million Bibles into China in 1981, but the dangers were so great that it took ten years to get them all distributed. This shipment was distributed in two months. *Open Doors Newsbrief*, May 2000.



## THE LAND OF SINIM

Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from **the land of Sinim**. Isaiah 49:12.

[**Editor's note:** The ancient word for modern China was Sinim. It is the root of the word Sino, which is still used to identify modern China. Sinim means "center." The ancient Chinese considered China *the center* of the world. Thus China was: Sinim—Center. Isaiah is speaking of those who will respond to the final warning message under the latter rain. His promise is that many will stand for Christ "from the land of Sinim." The promise is therefore that many will be raised up in China during the latter rain time period—which is right upon us.]



## 05/03/00—Think-tank warns of rising Asian tensions

A war of words between China and Taiwan and a border conflict between India and Pakistan have raised tensions in Asia despite US efforts to calm the crises, a leading strategic think-tank said Thursday. *Reuters*.



## CHINA: DROUGHT SPREADS TO SOUTH

Severe drought is spreading from the mainland's north and threatening the southern provinces. In Jiangsu province, 1.13 million hectares were drying up, the Yangtse Evening News reported. The lack of water hindered the spring ploughing, the paper said.



## The Latter Rain

Amazing Facts is launching the AFCOE—Amazing Facts College of Evangelism—at their headquarters in Sacramento, California. They are offering to willing individuals a selection of four-month long courses, beginning on August 6, 2000. Call them at (916) 434-3880, or visit their website at [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org). *Amazing Facts* newsletter, April 2000.

"We are doing up a work for eternity, and may the Lord help us that we may have it done and well done that we may receive the refreshing and latter rain that is soon to come from God upon all those who are zealous of good works." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8. Number 592.



## 05/01/00—WILD WEEKEND WEATHER

OKLAHOMA CITY—Severe weather ripped through the central plains Sunday, leaving it's mark in the form of flooding, lightning sparked fires and wind damage. *Associated Press*.

 05/04/00—GEYSER HAS FIRST MAJOR ERUPTION SINCE 1991

The world's largest geyser had a major eruption for the first time in 8½ years, and hardly anyone was around to notice. *Associated Press.*

 CORAL COLLAPSE IN CARIBBEAN

Soaring ocean temperatures in the Caribbean have caused the first mass die-off of coral in the region for 3,000 years. *Associated Press.*

 FISH VARIETY DIMINISHING IN US

Across America, from lake to lake and stream to stream, more of the fish are alike. The great diversity is disappearing as species popular with fishermen and cooks are introduced where they do not occur naturally, fish ecologist Frank J. Rahel reports in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. *Associated Press.*

05/08/00—MISSOURI RESIDENTS BEGIN CLEANING UP IN WAKE OF FLOODS

With the walls of water that had carried off cars and mobile homes gone, residents of Franklin and Jefferson counties in Missouri began the heartbreaking task of cleanup Monday. *Associated Press.*

 RISING SEAS CAUSE CONCERN

Environmental groups are meeting on beaches throughout Britain on Saturday to highlight the damage caused by the rising level of the sea. *Associated Press.*

 TSUNAMI RISK ON EAST COAST FOUND

It's a science story that sounds like science fiction or something straight out of a Godzilla movie. But what scientists have discovered off the mid-Atlantic coast is totally real—huge cracks on the ocean floor that could, under the right conditions, spawn a killer wave. *Associated Press.*

 TB DISEASED ANIMALS

Tuberculosis, once thought to be nearly completely wiped out, is making a comeback among wild animals. A strain of bovine TB that is able to transmit to and infect any warm-blooded animal, including humans (different from avian TB that affects only birds), was first discovered in 1994 among northeast Michigan's Whitetail Deer population, and there is concern that it may be present among the squirrel population.

The disease spreads when coughing animals congregate to breed or feed. Information is available to deer hunters to help them identify diseased flesh, or they can take their kills to inspection stations. *Outdoor Life*, December/January 1999.

"Flesh was never the best food; but its use now [1905] is doubly objectionable, since disease in animals is so rapidly increasing. Those who use flesh foods little know what they are eating. Often, if they could see the animals when living and know the quality of the meat they eat, they would turn from it with loathing. People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculosis and cancerous germs. Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated. The tissues of the swine swarm with parasites." *Ministry of Healing*, 313.

 COLOMBIA—ANTI-CLERGY VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Two pastors of the Pentecostal Church in Colombia were killed in January by presumed guerrillas for their alleged assistance to the Colombian army. A pastor of the Nazarene Church in Bogota was reported kidnapped the same day. A national protest was held against the continuing violence in Colombia, as 18 million Colombians

turned off their lights in a demonstration of their frustration at the continuing violence. It was the first major action by the budding peace movement since last October, when street protests turned out five million marchers in this country of 40 million people. Evangelical churches played a leading role in those calls for peace. *Open Doors World-Watch* newsletter, April, 2000.



Dear Pippengers, May our Heavenly Father bless you. I want to thank you for the most interesting tape of last month on Gideon. What a door is opened for thought. I am looking forward for the next tape. May the Holy Spirit guide you is my prayer. With Christian Love, RM—WA



Jeff. Greetings, Jeff your message has and continues to be a blessing to encourage my work of distribution of truth. Thank you and your being blessed by the Lord in this calling end time work. Please and thank you for all the tapes that I have received. Thank you and prayerfully see you in another meeting where you'll be in a few months. Because He First Loved, DS—CA



Dear *Future for America*, I want to thank you for this informative newsletter and tapes that you have been sending me. I would like to continue receiving the correspondence. I will be away for a while but please don't remove me from your list. Enclosed is a humble amount which I hope would be of help to your ministry work. Please send all correspondence and tapes to the same address. Thank you so much; may God richly bless you all at *Future for America*. Yours in Christ, TC—CA



Dear Brother and Sister Pippenger, I so agree with brother CT from California. You were raised up for such a time as this. Your love for prophecy was given you of God and He has raised you to be the teacher that you are.

CT mentioned Proverbs 29:18. I am so happy that you put that in your newsletter, which by the way was wonderful. We (my friends and I) read it always from cover to cover. In *Selected Messages*, volume 1, 48 and also in *Selected Messages*, volume 2, 78, Sister White has messages that go right along with that text and show that with out her having been given to us we would surely perish. We need the vision that God gave this brave woman and that is why Satan is doing his best to get us to discredit her today. Many of the people in my church have and are doing just that. They have little faith in here words today and say "The Bible and the Bible only" but I consider her words as part of God's word.

Thank you for upholding that so strongly. I love my three blue books. Going as I do back and forth to the islands it makes it possible for me to have most of what she wrote with me all the time. God bless you both and be with you on your trip to the Philippines. Yours in Christ, ND—NC



Dear Brother Jeff, Thank you for the newsletters and tapes you have been sending. They are a real blessing to us. Thank you because you sent them also to my mother and sister in law.

**So the pope made it to Jerusalem finally! Sometimes I can't believe I'm actually living in the time of the end. What a time to be alive. We are the last generation. Jesus and all the prophets including Sister White were all talking about us!**


Please help us with any booklets or tapes you have extra. We don't have any money to send. What we need most of all is cook books and especially on how to make and us milk from natural sources. We don't have electricity so we are at a disadvantage when it comes to refrigeration. If you can please help us with this. You sent us a box of books a few months ago and we truly thank you for that.

We pray that the Lord may continue to use you and your wife to give the message for this time. May our Father bless and keep you is our prayer. Your sister in Christ, MG—BELIZE




Dear Friends, Thank you for sending the monthly newsletter and tape. We will look forward to hearing from you each month in this manner. Hopefully the enclosed offering can offset a little of the expense involved in sending out these monthly tapes. We will be in touch with you in the future. My God richly bless your ministry. Sincerely, LG & HJK

 Dear Friends in Christ, Thank you for the things you send me. May our precious Savior give us grace to develop that character that will give us an entrance to the city. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 69. In the Love of Jesus, RM

 Dear Brethren, Enclosed is my gift. It's a bit late but January wasn't too good to me. I had neck and back surgery. It gave me more time to spend with my tapes and reading material. God bless, and keep up the good work. In Christ, GC, TN


 Dear Sister, Thank you for the books. Please send ten more of the Charles Fitches books *Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You*. Use any remainder to win souls. God Bless, RS

 Dear Brethren, May the peace of Jesus Christ reign in your hearts. May you continue to labor for the cause of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Enclosed is a small offering for the project in the Philippines. May Jesus guide and bless. Please send your literature and cassettes to the following . . .

Your series on *The Overflowing Scourge* has been a tremendous blessing and of great encouragement to my soul and my prayer partner. May the Lord bless you, HF & FL

 Dear Jeff, Thank you all so very much for the tapes and your newsletters. We will keep you in our prayers and will pass on the good news. Here is a little donation for your work. Love much and God bless, C


Hi, I received several tapes of *The Overflowing Scourge*, but no bill and I don't know how much I owe you. I'm sending \$\$\$\$. If that doesn't cover my bill please send one. If this is more than my balance put remainder on the tape ministry. I appreciate the tapes; it's what we all need. I'm afraid the Lord will have to wake *us* up. May the Lord continue to bless you! Sincerely, JE

 Dear Friends, I am enclosing a small donation to wherever needed. I enjoy your tapes so very much, it thrills my heart to hear someone give the message as I used to hear it, to make the mind work and not lull out to sleep.


I am a senior citizen and do not get to church. I'm on a fixed income but want to be a part of your ministry. I do pray for you daily and will help financially when possible. I am certainly looking for the precious Jesus to come and I feel a sense it is near. Keep up the good work, my prayers are with you. Your sister in Christ, KK—VA


 Dear Sir, I appreciated so much for your great efforts for the three angel's message. Thank you for the letters and tapes, which gave me great encouragement for the Lord's work. Sincerely, OE


Much love and support to you and yours as you allow the Holy Spirit and our Lord of Lords to work through you to help bring about the final stage of history. So cold is the world to the truths of God. So few are the workers. Even in our Seventh-day Adventist churches, the urgent messages of these last days are scarcely presented. We are asleep at the wheel. Like in the days of Noah all were lost save a few. So sad—I'm waiting for the rocks to cry out! Be of good courage and press on towards the goal of the high calling of our Lord and Savior. Your Brother in Christ, DS

 Dear Jeff, I have had a great blessing with your tapes. Please continue to send them. God Bless You, BH


Wish I could send more. Hope Jesus comes soon to end the terrible suffering and sin. OY

 Brother Pippenger, I want you to know that I appreciate all the work that you do for God's cause. Thank you so much for your cassettes and letters. I am looking to hear from you every month. Jesus is coming soon. May God bless you, your dear wife and all your family. Thank you again.

 Dear *Future for America* Ministry, I have received five tapes in all of *The Overflowing Scourge* series. I'm enjoying them and sharing them with other members of the church. We must wake up and not be as the foolish virgins. I'm sending you a donation of \$\$\$ dollars to help your ministry. With Christian Love, VL—NJ

 Kathy, You packaged the books so carefully, they arrived in perfect condition and our kitty enjoyed the Styrofoam beans they were packed in. We had to chase her with the broom to keep her from jumping in the middle of them when we were unpacking the books.

Thank you so much for making it possible to get these beautiful books. We enjoy reading from the *Testimonies* together as a family during worship time. May God continually be your guide. Lovingly, MH—AK


 Dear Jeff Pippenger, I am sorry I haven't written to you sooner, but thank you for your good materials you send. I send you a warmest greeting to you and your family and you members of staff of the ministry and your loved ones. And I hope things are moving smoothly in you new residence at Bonnerdale, AK. I am very well in Ghana, West Africa.

I was really amazed when I received the good materials at the new residence address. I read the newsletter and the audio tapes named *The Overflowing Scourge* series. It makes me believe and have much faith that we the Adventist have glory if we worship the Lord Almighty with our heart and our strength and also revealed that Jesus is the Messiah and also spread the Adventism message. By God's grace revealed that He is the Son of God that He died for our sins of the Adventist and the whole world he will reward us in heaven.

I hope the ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of the Bible. I hope now is the time to give the warning message, and I know the staff are all Seventh-day Adventist's who are serving the Lord in a self-supporting ministry.

I'm here praying for the ministry every time I get on my knees so that it will continue till the Lord Almighty is revealed in the clouds of heaven. I hope God will pour the heavenly strength on you and your members to spread the Adventist message, which is the last warning message for the Adventist's and the whole world.


May God Almighty also bless and keep on blessing you for the good work you are doing there. I will write you always and keep on sending me the good materials. Thank you. Your Friend in Ghana. AA—Ghana, West Africa

 Dear Kathy, I probably write to you (lately) too often. As I know you must be carrying quite a load. But I just wanted to tell you how continually thrilling these tapes and videos of Jeff's are.

I have, for the last several years, found a deep love in the study of God's word and the Spirit of Prophecy and have found that in both, not a word is wasted, and the words all have deeper meaning even, than what is on the surface. I have found that it helps me tremendously to break things down, not only from *Strong's*, but also from the *Webster's* dictionary. It is a thrill to see that your husband does that also.

I wonder what will happen to our people. So many of our leaders are into false doctrine and heresies and our people seem like sheep. They, (many, oh so many) don't seem to seek the Word of God for the truth—but follow man. I thank God for you both, while also asking God to watch over you both and not to let you get discouraged. Many will not agree with you, but they are not reading—if they don't. It rings true—oh so true, and it is helping me more than you can ever know.


I see things now in God's word and the Spirit of Prophecy that I know I have read dozens of times, but now they make sense and jump out at me. Can you possibly know what a thrill that is? Praise God for His patience and goodness and unending love. God bless you both in all your efforts. Yours in Christ, N

 Hi Jeff and Kathy, What a surprise when I opened your box! We had no idea you had so many sermons and now (from your *Future News* list) even more wonderful things are available. Pray now that our church will be receptive of this most generous gift that many more may be exposed to these important and pertinent messages for this time. They are so wonderful!

B. and I are so hungry and thirst for this truth we feast with every spare minute. We feel as those in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah when they wept upon hearing the book of the law and repenting wanted to hear more. Daily we search our hearts repenting of sins, mourning over the loss of precious time, yet joyful in appreciation to God that in His great providence we were brought these wonderful messages, though late. So we press forward eager to share. In fact, compelled by God's spirit that burns within. How can we thank you enough?



May God bless those messages others hear and it may set the world on fire! The tapes did arrive in time (just as we were preparing to leave for the airport) for our daughter to take with her the tapes you sent for her. She also accepted copies of *Those Things Which Have Been, Will Be Repeated*, Pray that the Holy Spirit will woo her back completely to Him. Also our son, too. Though he is excited about what he has heard and is no longer a skeptic. We pray for your children too. Love, B & C

 Dear Kathy and Jeff, I hope this finds you well and trusting in the Lord. I truly enjoy your tapes on prophecy and your newsletter keeping us abreast of events occurring daily. Thank you so much for good strong spiritual food. I use your cassettes as my Sabbath sermon and take notes on the discussion.

I would like to start listening to the series *The Overflowing Scourge*, but I do not have number one of the series. Would you please send it to me so I can get started? I would like to get started on this series as soon as possible so can you please send number one right away. Thank you and bless you for trying to prepare God's people. In Christ, MS



## **WOMEN RECEIVE MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS IN SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE**

Seventh-day Adventist Church administrators in the Southeastern California area voted on March 16 to issue male and female pastors in their district with the same ministerial credentials.

The decision by the executive committee of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SECC) is believed to be a first for the Adventist Church, which generally operates a *two-tier* credential system for men and women.

"Treating women ministers without discrimination in our conference has been a long-standing goal," said F. Lynn Mallery, SECC president. The document was adopted without one dissenting vote. Women make up nearly 10 percent of pastors in the 60,000-member conference, which serves five counties south and east of Los Angeles.

The new credential states that the individual is an *ordained-commissioned* minister in good standing. Adventist ministers receive the credential after successfully completing appropriate theological education, hands-on ministry in a local congregation that shows their gift for ministry, and an oral review and examination. They are also *set aside* for ministry in a public ceremony that includes prayer and the laying on of hands.

"This procedure could show the way for the rest of the [Adventist Church in North America] on how to handle this matter with equality and yet abide by the spirit and letter of Church policy," said Thomas Mostert, president of the Adventist Church in the Pacific Union.

Mallery stated that, "We support the ongoing mission of the 11-million member Church of which we are a part. We respect the variety of views that members elsewhere have on this subject. We hope that our fellow believers will also respect our moral conviction that men and women in this conference who are equally qualified and have had fruitful ministries should be treated in the same way."

Currently, the Adventist Church at large chooses to recognize males who are set aside for gospel ministry as being *ordained*, while females are designated as *commissioned*. In comparison with ordained ministers, commissioned ministers are barred from performing three functions: they may not organize churches; they cannot ordain elders and deacons; and they are not eligible to serve as a conference president. SECC accepts women pastors who have met the same requirements as men to be fully qualified and authorized within its borders. *Adventist News Network*, March 28, 2000.



## **JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF ADVENTIST TRADEMARK**

Judge James King issued a ruling on April 27 that stops the Eternal Gospel church from identifying itself as a Seventh-day Adventist church because it has no relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist

denomination. The judge's order says the Eternal Gospel church should not use the name Seventh-day Adventist nor the initials SDA in any of its signs or advertising or other materials. The Eternal Gospel church's use of the name Seventh-day Adventist has "resulted in confusion and damage" to the Adventist Church, Judge King said. The church could carry on whatever ministry it wished, according to the judge, but it could not identify itself as an Adventist church. The Eternal Gospel church had placed newspaper advertising around the United States and had broadcast radio programs in South Florida, with each ad and program announcing that the church was an Adventist church. The church has never had any relationship with any part of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, and testified to that in court. "We are delighted with the judge's ruling," said Walter Carson, attorney for the Adventist church. "This means that we can continue to share the good news of salvation without being confused with other organizations." *Adventist News Network*.



## ADVENTIST CHURCH

### CANNOT BE TREATED AS A SECT

Warsaw, Poland "The Seventh-day Adventist Church cannot be treated either as a 'new religious movement,' or as a sect," declares a joint statement drawn by the Roman Catholic Church and the Adventist Church in Poland. Recognizing each other's autonomy and independence, the document was issued following fifteen years of dialogue aimed at better understanding of the teachings and practice of the Catholic and the Adventist Churches, as well as improving relations without compromising each other's identity.

The document cites the fact that "relations between Catholics and Adventists have not been best in the past." The statement was signed by representatives of the Churches, including Pastor Wladyslaw Polok, president of the Adventist Church in Poland, and Archbishop Alfons Nossol, chairman of the Polish Episcopate's Commission for Ecumenical Affairs.

"With regret we recognize cases when the different religious and civic circles have denied the ecclesiastical status of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, even referring to it as a 'sect.' Such an approach is unacceptable and, we believe, it is highly detrimental for the mutual relations," the document states.

"This document affirms religious liberty. We are regarding it as an important development not only for our Church in Poland. Religious minorities are too often regarded as less than what they are," said Pastor Polok.

The statement recognizes that though the Churches can refer to similarities, they also see difference between each other's "doctrine, practice and church policies." However, both sides affirm a need to cultivate respect for each other and learn to understand each other. The dialogue was "conducted on the basis of partnership, care to uphold a full identity of both sides, as well as their autonomy and independence, in the spirit of mutual respect and Christian love, and in recognition of the ideals of tolerance and religious freedom."

"This is an important turn of events for our Church," says Professor Zachariasz Lyko, who for many years was responsible for the Polish Adventist Church's public affairs. "This development is not a result of criticism, public attacks or confrontation, but Christian kindness toward each other and respect for dignity of a human person."

"Many of us can recall how we have been labeled with different names. We have been misunderstood and often ridiculed. As for us, we wanted to sit down together and recognize that Christian love requires a different kind of relation in the society we are a part of. As Seventh-day Adventists we seek to take a positive approach to other faiths. We have stated this publicly and this document affirms our attitude," he added.

The document does not deal with doctrinal and theological issues. During the years of meetings, both sides presented their theological views and doctrinal positions in the interest of better understand-

ing between both confessions. "Our Church recognizes that such dialogue cannot be a dialogue of compromise, but one of cooperative spirit and common understanding," Lyko explained.

"We are doing nothing different except what the early pioneers of our Church supported and advocated. It is always better to engage in a respectful conversation than in a confrontation that often prevents achieving desired changes," he said.

Lyko commented that "as a Church, our side was not interested in compromising any of our fundamental beliefs."

**"Over the years, however, as the exchange of information between us took place, we noted many confessional similarities but also differences. The Catholic side recognizes in the document the Christocentric character of our beliefs, and especially our belief in the Trinity, as well as ecclesiological identity of the Church, a status affirmed by an act of the Polish Parliament. On our part, we spoke of a need to change attitudes toward our denomination and recognized the openness of the Catholic Church, especially in recent times, toward the Bible,"** Lyko explained. *Adventist News Network.*



## **WELSH PASTOR TAKES LEAD IN PROMOTING ALCOHOL-FREE LIFESTYLE**

A drug-free, alcohol-free future for all Welsh children is the goal of Paul Clee, newly appointed assistant chair of the Welsh Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Clee, who is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wales, has been involved in the work of the **national, inter-denominational Council** for the last 11 years. The "total abstinence" position of the Council meshes well with the Adventist Church's longstanding commitment to promoting a positive, drug-free lifestyle, says Clee, who notes that Adventists have been active in the organization for at least 23 years.

Clee, who was voted to his new role earlier this month, says that working with the Council is a rewarding way to serve the community. "Not only does this provide a chance to promote the Church's principles for healthy living," he says, "but it also represents the opportunity to introduce or reintroduce people to God."

The Council advances its aims through a multi-pronged approach, including lobbying the Welsh National Assembly for legislative change, educating young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and offering practical help to substance abusers in the community.

A walk-in counseling and referral service sponsored by the Council offers assistance to drug and alcohol abusers from all walks of life. "Many different people have come to the center for help—from the minister of a church, to the manager of a multi-million dollar company," says Clee.

The Council, whose members include Welsh Baptists, Reformed Methodists, **Adventists**, Presbyterians, and Welsh Pentecostals, uses innovative ways to communicate its anti-drug message to children. Clee says that "Mickey," a Welsh-speaking clown, may soon become an important part of the Council's efforts to educate younger school children, and to reach out to the children of alcohol abusers.

Clee also acknowledges that his appointment to the national body is significant for the Adventist Church in Wales, whose members make up only a tiny proportion of the country's three-and-a-half million plus population. "Personally, I have **a great deal of satisfaction being able to meet with other church leaders in Wales,**" says Clee, "praying together, speaking at their churches, and **having our Church recognized** as a mainstream Christian organization."

The Adventist Church, with some 11 million members in more than 200 countries, has been a longstanding advocate for drug-free, alcohol-free living, and continues to pioneer drug prevention and rehabilitation programs around the world. *Adventist News Network*, March 28, 2000.

# A WISE REPLY

After the overthrow of the Midianites, the tidings spread swiftly far and wide that Israel's God had again fought for his people. No words can describe the terror of the surrounding nations when they learned what simple means had prevailed against all the power and skill of a bold, warlike race.

Wherever the news spread, all felt that the victory must be ascribed to God alone. Thus the Lord's name was glorified, the faith of Israel strengthened, and their enemies were brought to shame and confusion.

It is not safe for God's people to adopt the maxims and customs of the ungodly. The divine principles and modes of working are widely different from those of the world. The history of nations presents no such victories as the conquest of Jericho or the overthrow of the Midianites. No general of heathen armies had ever

conducted warfare as Joshua and Gideon had done. **These victories teach the great lesson that the only sure ground of success is the help of God, working with human effort.** Those who trust to their own wisdom and their own skill will surely be disappointed. The only safe course in all the plans and purposes of life is to preserve the simplicity of faith. Humble trust in God and faithful obedience to his will are as essential to the Christian in waging spiritual warfare as they were to Gideon and his brave associates in fighting the battles of the Lord.

God's commands must be implicitly obeyed, irrespective of the world's opinion. This lesson should not be disregarded by those who occupy positions of responsibility among their fellowmen. Such persons above all others should neglect none of the Lord's ordinances or commands. He who conforms to the

customs and practices of the world separates himself from God. All should earnestly improve every religious privilege, and inquire of God daily to learn his will. The life and words of Christ must be diligently studied, and his instructions cheerfully obeyed. He who will thus gird on the armor of righteousness need not fear the enemies of God. He may be assured of the presence and protection of the Captain of the Lord's host.

It is a sad fact that the simplicity of true faith has, in a great measure, departed from the church of Christ. Many who occupy responsible positions are in constant danger of separating themselves from God by neglect of the means of grace. They do not drink daily at the fountain of wisdom and righteousness, and do not acknowledge God as the right arm of their power.

The Lord is willing to give his people a precious experience. He would lead them to confide in his wisdom, his power, and his love, instead of trusting to themselves. He would teach them to submit their judgment and their will implicitly to him. Then will they see and know that of themselves they can do nothing; that God is all and in all. His love will dwell in their hearts, and his praise will be continually upon their lips. God works for his people by agencies which the proud and worldly-wise will despise; but the grace and power of God are the only hope of sinful men.

After his glorious victory over the Midianites, Gideon was subjected to another test, differing widely from those already given, but unexpected and peculiarly severe. He must now meet unjust accusation and censure. When, at his call, the men of Israel had rallied against the Midianites, the tribe of Ephraim had remained behind. They looked upon the effort as a perilous and doubtful undertaking, and as Gideon sent them no special invitation, they

availed themselves of this excuse not to join their brethren. But when the news of Israel's triumph reached them, the Ephraimites were dissatisfied and envious because they had not shared it.

Gideon was not anxious to secure the honor to himself, for he knew that it belonged to the Lord alone. As soon as the Midianites were routed, Gideon had sent swift messengers, desiring the Ephraimites to seize the fords of the Jordan that the fugitives might not escape. A large number of the enemy were slain, among whom were two of the chief princes of Midian. Thus the men of Ephraim followed up the battle, and helped complete the victory. Nevertheless, they were jealous and angry, as though Gideon were governed by his own will and judgment. **They did not discern God's hand in the triumph of Israel, and this very fact proved that they were indeed unworthy to be used as his instruments on that occasion.** They would have taken the honor to themselves, instead of

ascribing it to God. The wicked spirit manifested toward Gideon shows that they were not men who could be trusted, who would appreciate God's mercy and power in their deliverance.

The wisdom of God, as displayed in the methods and instrumentalities employed to carry forward his work, is foolishness to the boastful and self-confident, because they know not the mystery of godliness. The Lord would teach his people at the present day the lesson of simple dependence upon that mighty arm which can overthrow the strongholds of Satan. The prayer of faith, offered by God's humble, obedient, trusting people, will bring them the victory.

The most complete and perfect system which men have ever despised, apart from the power and wisdom of God, will prove a failure; while the humble means which God sanctions must succeed. The simple act of blowing a blast upon the trumpet, by the army of Joshua around Jericho, and by Gideon's little band about

the host of Midian, was made effectual, through the power of God, to overthrow the might of his enemies. Deep are the counsels of God, and the finite mind seeks in vain to comprehend them.

The bullock standing between the altar for sacrifice and the plow in the furrow,—ready for either,—fitly represents the position which God's people should occupy. The Lord has no place in his work for the indolent and self-indulgent. Like the men of Ephraim, there are many at the present day who are ready to work diligently to secure honor to themselves; but unless they can do this they will not work at all. And not only will they do nothing to themselves, but by their example and influence they will discourage others.

The men of Ephraim, returning from the fords of the Jordan with the trophies of victory, addressed Gideon in terms of angry reproach: "Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites?"

Gideon knew that he

had acted by the divine command, and though harshly censured by those who should have commended, he restrained all feelings of anger or indignation. How easily the spirit of jealousy and discontent might have been fanned into a quarrel that would have caused division, bloodshed, and ruin! By his self-control, Gideon showed himself a hero. He proved the truth of those words written so long afterward, "A soft answer turneth away wrath." In his reply to the Ephraimites he modestly threw a veil over his own success, but spoke in the highest praise of their achievements: "What have I done now in comparison of you?" Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abi-ezer? God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb; and what was I able to do in comparison of you?" He represented the victory gained by himself and his army of three hundred men as little in comparison with their taking the princes of Midian. And he further

showed that the glory belonged neither to him nor to them, but to the Lord.

Gideon's modest and prudent answer appeased the anger of the men of Ephraim, and they returned in peace to their homes. How much of the trouble that exists in the world today, springs from the same evil traits that actuated the men of Ephraim, and how many evils might be avoided if all who are unjustly accused or censured would manifest the meek, self-forgetful spirit of Gideon. *Signs of the Times*, July 21, 1881.

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