

FUTURE NEWS

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"Has God no living church? He has a church, but it is the church militant, not the church triumphant. We are sorry that there are defective members. . . . While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. 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. . . ."

"Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. . . ."

"There is but one church in the world who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places; and for any man to call the attention of the world and other churches to this church, denouncing her as Babylon, is to do a work in harmony with him who is the accuser of the brethren. . . . The whole world is filled with hatred of those who proclaim the binding claims of the law of God, and the church who are loyal to Jehovah must engage in no ordinary conflict. . . . Those who have any realization of what this warfare means, will not turn their weapons against the church militant, but with all their powers will wrestle with the people of God against the confederacy of evil."

"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." The Faith I Live By, 305.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Philippine 2001 Update
- 4 The Catholic Mind
- 6 A Letter And Reponse
- 9 Attend All Sabbathkeepers
- 14 Two Letters And Response

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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

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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 2001 UPDATE:

We are still seeking prayers and financial help with the upcoming January evangelistic crusade in the Philippines. We are close to our goal, but if we exceeded our goal, we could afford to have more Bible workers assigned to the two target areas and have them come earlier, and stay longer. Their work is the most important.

At this years series we worked for the second year in a row with Sister Malou, who prepares our meals, does the shopping, house keeping, and helps with the vacation Bible school program. Three years ago I worked with her brother, who is a pastor, and two years ago I met another of her pastor brothers, when we held our week-long prophecy school for the pastors of that conference.

This year when we all returned from the series to the capital city of Cebu, Sister Malou, learned that the second brother was in the local Adventist hospital. While we were doing the evangelistic series he came from several islands away to be treated for typhoid fever. While he was at the hospital he found out that his young son at home had also come down with typhoid fever. We left enough money to cover the medical expenses, as his discount at the hospital for being in the work of the church was only ten percent. We recently received this letter from Malou, with an update on some of these things.

Dear Brother Jeff and Family,

It is my pleasure to write you and I am very glad that God has given me a chance to have some friends, which contributed much in my Christian living. You are a great influence for us, especially the work in the ministry. It is God's providence you have come to the Philippines to prepare the hearts of the people for His coming.

Praise God there were many more who accepted Jesus Christ **after** the mass baptism. These people were listening around us during the crusade. They are professionals. There are still more receiving Bible studies. The family of the young man who died during the crusade, are receiving Bible studies as well! **[Editor's note: Praise the Lord!]**

I have been in Masbate for a youth congress and I met the teacher who was baptized. I handed the book [*Christ's Object Lessons*] you had given to me to deliver to him, and he was very thankful to you, and above all to the Lord for his conversion. I also gave him the Study Bible you had given me, because he needed it very much. He had gone visiting his relatives who were pastors in the Pentecostal and the Baptist church. He is now an instrument in his own town to preach the gospel. He told me his town is known as "Little Hell." (It is one of the places we visited, Milagros, if I am not wrong.)

My brother Edwin stayed in the hospital more than a week, only to be followed by his son, who stayed a couple days. He returned to work, while his son stayed in the hospital. Edwin said, "You were the answer to his prayers." We are thankful and grateful for the love and care that even in the midst of trials, God was extending to us. Edwin and his family give their best wishes to you and your family.

I am back teaching in the same missionary school. I have forty students (grade three pupils). There are only five who are Adventists. The rest is Protestant and Catholic. Before the classes started I almost had to give up my work as a teacher in our denomination, because of many reasons. But the Lord intervened. He has done great things, so I can still work in our denominational school. I am so grateful the Lord is directing my life plan.

I am wishing that peace, love, joy, and understanding be upon you as you work for the Lord. Sweet smile, from Philippines to all of you. God bless you! I am praying that God's blessing will be poured out upon all of us. Regards to Ma'am Kathy and your family. Sister in Christ, Malou Barcnas.

THE CATHOLIC MIND Editorial: Pat Rampy

In his book, *Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit*, Catholic author Gary Wills describes the separation of thinking between the papal hierarchy and Catholic laity.

According to Wills, the papal hierarchy in general, and the Pope in particular, are locked in a rigid orthodoxy that can never admit ever having made a mistake (the doctrine of papal infallibility), which goes beyond the pronouncements of the Popes themselves, to the individual members of the priesthood. The fear of the hierarchy is that if any chink were found in its armor; any crack in its wall, so to speak; that the "perfection" of the Church would be compromised, and the credibility of the whole worldwide Catholic Church would immediately collapse into a heap of irrelevance. Its kind of like popping a balloon. Poke a hole in it anywhere and the whole thing goes bang. Therefore, the sins of some priests; alcoholism, pediphilia, financial misappropriation, etc., are uniformly ignored, denied, or covered up in an effort to deceive the rest of the world about the moral integrity; the "perfection", of the Church.

The Catholic laity, on one hand, while they seem to view the Pope's pronouncements about abortion and celibacy of the priests as so out of touch with reality that they are ignored, will, on the other hand, support the IDEA of the "perfection" of the Catholic Church wholeheartedly and love and praise John Paul II's representations of peace, purity, and perfection, even though they practically relegate his personal relevance to the realm of the symbolic; a figurehead office. Its kind of like having the "symbolic" security of the seat-belt in your car sitting beside you on the seat, just in case you might ever need it. Therefore, the Catholic laity participate in the deceptive cover-ups necessary to preserve the facade.

It has been observed that if you "get the heart, the head will follow", and Pope John Paul II definitely has the hearts of Catholicism on his side, and most of Protestantism, and even some of the Muslim world.

Here is where the Pope has the key to world control.

In these times of comparative peace, prosperity, and plenty, people are giving only lip-service to "the ideal" represented by the Catholic Church, but let come such a time as when the prosperity of leading nations shall be threatened with loss, and ease-and-entertainment-loving people begin to feel the pinch of want, they will turn back to the representation of "The Ideal", the "perfect", the infallible, the elegant, well-polished "Mother Church", and her beloved and protected figurehead office, the Pope of Rome.

"To all the testing time will come. . . . Satan will . . . so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief." *The Great Controversy*, 625-626.

POP STARS PAY TRIBUTE TO THE POPE-

Some of the world's top singers will recite Pope John Paul II's personally authored prayers on an album entitled *World Voice 2000*.

Set for wide release by Columbia Records in September, the album will feature Britney Spears, 'N'Sync, Monica, 98 Degrees, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Brooke Shields, James Earl Jones, Vince Gill, and Celine Dion.

World Voice 2000 in the brainchild of Rick Garson, founder of Maxx International, a publicly traded company that he described as a "spiritual marketplace."

The project began after Garson contacted Father Nunzio Spinelli, the priest in charge of the Vatican's religious publishing arm, telling him he thought the project would be a good way to get a spiritual message to young people. *National Catholic Register*, July 4-8, 2000.

"And all the world wondered after the beast." Revelation 13:3.

CATHOLIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE MOVES INTO THEOLOGY-

Catholic-Jewish relations entered a new stage with the inauguration of an international Catholic-Jewish theological dialogue June 19-20 at The Catholic University of America.

“It is a breakthrough,” said Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., and co-chair of the recently formed Rabbinic Committee for Interreligious Understanding, which is sponsoring the dialogue on the Jewish side.

“The breakthrough is possible largely because of the significant steps forward that the Catholic Church has made in the last 35 years.”

“This morning and last night we experienced something we have hoped for for a long time,” said Dominican Father Remi Hoeckman, secretary of the Vatican’s Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism, at a press conference June 20.

Participants stressed the theological character of the dialogue, something that has not been part of the other Catholic-Jewish dialogues.

Until now “it is largely secular Jews who have engaged in dialogue with the Vatican,” said Rabbi Elliott Dorff of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

He said the dialogue started at Catholic University was one that would address ethical issues and “strictly theological” questions such as salvation, sacrifice, covenant, redemption, and forgiveness. *National Catholic Register*, July 2-8, 2000.

[Editor’s note: This is easy to see when we remember how much these two religions resemble each other.

“There is a striking similarity between the Church of Rome and the Jewish Church at the time of Christ’s first advent.” *The Great Controversy*, 568.

“The Saviour’s words concerning **the bigoted Jews, apply with still greater force to the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church:** ‘They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.’ Matthew 23:4. Conscientious souls are kept in constant terror fearing the wrath of an offended God, while many of the dignitaries of the church are living in luxury and sensual pleasure.” *The Great Controversy*, 568.]

CHRISTIANS THREATENED IN INDIA-

Close on the heels of the bomb blasts in the state, Christian priests in the north Karnataka city of Hubli-Dharwad have received a shock in the form of a letter that threatens them with death if they did not stop conversions and accept Hinduism. The letter that arrived by post to almost all the priests of the Protestant order in the twin cities is sourced as Vishwa Hindu Parishad but otherwise unsigned. Under the heading *Last Warning to Christian Missionaries*, the nine-paragraph letter has sent shock waves. The letter, highly incendiary, speaks disparagingly of the Christian community and demands that the priests should instead turn to Sri Rama and Sri Krishna and worship the cow if they wanted to live in India. Interestingly, **the letter has been received only by Protestant priests and not even a single Roman Catholic priest has got them.** Bishop Moras said there had been no previous threats of this nature except for the recent bomb blasts. The letter says that so far bomb blasts occurred only at churches. If our instructions are not followed it the blasts will occur in your homes, the letter warned. *The Hindustan Times*, July 16, 2000.

TOWARD GLOBAL UNITY-

In the first week of July, 107 nations participated in a Community of Democracies conference in Warsaw, Poland. It is a concept that’s quite new: an acknowledgment that democracy-now most nations’ form of government-is now no longer an internal [US only] affair. The conference, which [US Secretary of State Madeleine] Albright hopes will be biennial, will hold nations to a set of universal standards on elections, the rule of law and freedom on religion, speech and the press. And it will provide a kind of group therapy for emerging democracies, sharing “best practices” on how to create independent judges and the like. The theory: true democracies that meet this test don’t make war on each other. *Newsweek*, July 10, 2000.

GREEKS RALLY TO KEEP RELIGION ON ID CARDS-

Thousands of Greek Orthodox clerics and other believers flooded the center of Athens June 20 demanding that the government retract its decision to remove religious affiliation from citizens' identity cards, the *New York Times* reported.

"Carrying Greek flags and chanting, 'Greece is Orthodoxy,' the crowd cheered as the head of the Greek Orthodox Church defended the faith as indivisibly bound with the country's identity."

"Resist, my dear Christians," the church leader, Archbishop Christodoulos, said as he offered 90 minutes of anti-government jabs. "The forces of globalization and religious marginalization are out to get us."

The *Times* article noted that a recent poll in a Greek daily newspaper found that 46.1 percent of those polled opposed the government's plan to remove religious affiliation from identity cards, while 41 percent supported it. *National Catholic Register*, July 2-8, 2000.

ASSAULT ON THE 3RD WALL: ENGLAND'S NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY-

[British Prime Minister Tony Blair's do-nothing style of government] . . . is advancing, or allowing to advance, the most radical agenda in the nation's history. How else to describe the dissolution of the nation, and the submersion of its component parts in the gray leviathan called "Europe"?

The driving force is Gordon Brown, chancellor of the Exchequer, who stresses the need for an entrepreneurial society [that Britain must participate in]. Brown is making sure that the most important issue in British politics does NOT come to a boil before the next election.

The issue is whether to scrap the national currency and join the euro currency, with all that implies for surrendering control of monetary policy, and then (inevitably) fiscal policy, and sliding ever deeper into "harmonization with" (meaning subordination to) the emerging European superstate.

Brown has five "conditions" that must be met before Britain will join the euro, but all five are economic, which means political principles (such as sovereignty and self-government) are irrelevant. Thus does materialism supplant political morality, as economics has eclipsed politics.

Many Europhiles are English intellectuals who are using Norman Davies' 1,222-page book, "The Isles" to advance their politics. It is a selective mining of British history that culminates in a crashing non sequitur: contingencies produced Britain, therefore its dissolution is a matter of moral indifference, and probably desirable. *Newsweek*, July 10, 2000.

A LETTER AND RESPONSE-

I will bold face the comments I intend to respond to.

Dear Jeff, I must take issue with you when you indicate it is the Sunday law that brings about a purification of the church. True, something happens to the church at the time of the Sunday law, but rather than purifying the church, it brings about a separation, separating the wheat from the tares. **The purifying of the church must take place before this event** for it is a purified people who make spiritual warfare against Babylon (Daniel 11:40) prior to the Sunday law. It is the loud cry message of Revelation 18 given by a purified church that brings the wrath of Babylon upon them.

The purifying process must take place under the early rain so that God can have a purified people whom He can trust with latter rain power. If as you indicate, it is the Sunday law that purifies the church you are strengthening the Laodicean complacency promoting the idea that the church can continue in this condition and when the Sunday law comes we will take our stand and be purified. However, the purifying process or rather the righteousness by faith message is one of overcoming, developing a perfect character by yielding our wills to the Holy Spirit under the early rain experience. When the purified company, symbolically described in Revelation as the 144,000 reach this condition of purification the latter rain will be poured out in full abundance and the earth will be lightened with the glory of God. As a result the

spiritual battle described by the prophets Daniel (11:40), John (Revelation 12:17) and Ellen White comments.

“Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the creator of heaven and earth; all on His side wear His signet. They are obedient to His commands. On the other side stands the prince of darkness with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 982.

The prophets use war like terms in depicting how the infuriated apostate world, full of satanic fury, will attempt to annihilate the faithful Sabbath keepers. The last part of verse 40 of Daniel 11 gives an overview of Babylon’s success in conquering and causing the nations to follow her example in transgression. Verses 41 and 42 expand on her success and worldwide influence in uniting together apostate Protestantism, spiritualism and Roman Catholicism. Except for some honest souls, described as Edom, Moab and Ammon, who take their stand and join God’s purified people the whole world stands the side of the great apostate.

The clear message, that now is the time for the purification of the church, must be given. When the Sunday law comes it will be too late for the purifying process of how who now profess the truth and are not sanctified by it. The Sunday law will reveal the difference between the purified and the unpurified in the church so that the honest souls still in Babylon can make the right choice to come out to take their stand with God’s faithful purified people in the very last moments of probationary time. Daniel 12:3 reveals the activity of a purified people with the results as stated above. **To bring contemporary nations into this prophecy negates the fact that it is Roman Catholicism, apostate Protestantism and spiritualism that unite together to make a final assault against the God of heaven and His faithful people. Certainly Russia along with the other nations of the world play their part in these final events.** Influenced by the United States the whole world is united under this three-fold union. National ruin for the nations of the world will be the result, but for the purified faithful, everlasting life in glory with Jesus our Savior and Redeemer. G.D., TN

RESPONSE: Dear Brother G.D., I think you have listened to some of my later presentations where I refer to the purification of God’s Church as taking place at the Sunday law. When this topic is *not* the primary issue that I am addressing I tend to refer to it in a general sense. If you had heard my series titled *The Purification of God’s Church*, [and some others] you would recognize that you and I are in agreement. I am very careful to identify that the message of prophecy is telling God’s people that **right now** is the time to secure a genuine Christian character prepared for the seal of God.

The Sunday law is simply the crisis, which demonstrates what character we have developed prior to that event. The Sunday law is the prophetic dividing line where “corporately” Adventism closes its probation. The corporate structure does not go beyond the Sunday law, for at that point, it will either deny the truth and go out into darkness. Or, if it were faithful, the legal restrictions connected with the actual Sunday law would close down the corporation, for the law would end its ability to have financial transactions.

Although your letter does not specify your entire understanding of the last verses of Daniel eleven, I can tell we disagree. There is a point though that I would agree with you on, though in a slightly different way. I agree that to bring contemporary nations into prophecy is out of place, [unless they are truly identified there]. But the nations I identify in Daniel 11:40, are the United States, the Soviet Union, and Roman Catholicism. These are the same three powers, which Malachi Martin identifies as striving for control of the world in his book, *Keys of This Blood*. It is the theme of his book. It is also the theme of Daniel 11:40-45. These three powers are not simply contemporary world powers. They are **the political aspect** of the three powers in Revelation sixteen who make up **Modern Babylon**-the beast, the dragon, and the false prophet. The symbolism in Revelation sixteen is identifying these powers spiritual aspect, as opposed to their political aspect in Daniel eleven. I cover these truths in a series titled *The Three Beasts of Revelation 16* and *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*. These powers are not simply contemporary nations, which I pull out of the air; they are the very powers-which are leading the world to Armageddon.

This understanding is part of the glue that makes the understanding found in Daniel 11:40-45 so significant, for it ties the books of Daniel and Revelation together.

“In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, ‘But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.’ Daniel 12:4.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 585.

Thank you for your input. Sincerely, Brother Jeff.

SUPREME COURT IN THE BALANCE-

In a rather ho-hum presidential election race. Where many people can't tell Bush and Gore apart in terms of what they stand for. The real issue may be **how their respective future US Supreme Court appointees will alter the laws that shape the social landscape in the United States**, possibly for decades to come.

Since the last justice was appointed in 1987 the High Court has been fairly evenly divided, handing down 5-4 rulings routinely. That tenuous, one-vote balance of power could soon change. In the next four years it is likely that one or more of the current justices will retire, giving the next president at least one court pick. If that happens, a single strategic appointment-Gore replacing a conservative with a liberal or Bush swapping a liberal for a conservative-could decisively tip the court to the left or right.

Church & State:

As far as the balance between Church and State is concerned, recently the Court decisively knocked down attempts by a Texas high school to have an elected student lead a prayer before football games. The decision extended a line of rulings since 1962 barring state-sponsored school prayer.

However, the High Court was closely split in another recent decision which allowed public tax dollars to pay for computers and books to be used in religious schools. Four of the five justices in the [conservative] majority on that ruling argued for opening the door wide to government support for religious schools and organizations, as long as similar secular groups receive the same benefits. The Court liberals strongly criticized the conservatives' opinion as radical and unconstitutional, with two “swing-vote” justices saying that they would allow only “certain types” of government aid to parochial schools.

A conservative Bush appointee might sway the Court to approve tuition vouchers, lower the legal barriers between church and state, and make lower US courts friendlier to public prayer and public displays of religion.

A liberal Gore appointee might well spell the doom of tuition vouchers. The more liberal Court could restrict other types of aid for parochial schools as well, and it would hold the line against school prayer and religion in the public sphere. *Newsweek*, July 10, 2000.

JUSTICES 'FUMBLER' FOOTBALL PRAYER ISSUE-

At issue was a school-district policy that let students elect whether to have a student speaker at high school pre-game football ceremonies and whom that speaker would be. The policy also left the content of the message up to the student speaker, as long as the message had some minimal relevance to good sportsmanship, student safety and the appropriate environment for competition.

It seemed a wise solution to the ongoing conflict over religion in the public schools: The school neither gave a religious message nor censored a private student speaker's message-or any message-at all.

Not good enough, Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for a 6-3 majority of the Court. A student MIGHT give a religious message at a school event. According to Justice Stevens, “that power alone, regardless of the students' ultimate use of it, is not acceptable.”

Chief Justice William Rehnquist charged, in dissent, that Justice Stevens' opinion “bristles with hostility to all things religious in public life.” Indeed it does. Justice Stevens goes as far as to condemn the student elections under the same school policy because religious matters MIGHT become a subject of

debate. Justice Stevens resurrects the discredited “divisiveness” argument that penalizes the efforts of believers to stand up in public for what they hold dear.

Thanks to this decision, school districts face an impossible bind. If they do not take steps to stamp out the POSSIBILITY of religious speech at school events, bullies from the ACLU, waving the decision, will claim a violation of the Constitution’s clause against establishment of religions. But if schools do censor students-class presidents, valedictorians, homecoming queens-from uttering any religious words, the school districts will violate the free speech and religious freedom of students.

This case sheds no real light on the proper balance of student expression and government neutrality toward religion. The only certainty is that it will cause years of costly litigation in which students, school districts and taxpayers come out as the losers. *USA Today*, June 20, 2000.

[Editor’s note: . . . and only the lawyers will be the winners.]

ATTENTION ALL SABBATHKEEPERS:

The following *email* Forward is flying all over the country reflecting the mind-set of many who are angry about the anti-religion activities of the ACLU, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, The American Way, and the Democratic Party, and others. However, the pro-God backlash that is now forming wants to take over the government of this country with a militant, fanatical Evangelical Christianity that would, of course, institute Sunday Laws, and very willingly persecute dissenting Sabbath keepers.

Pat Rampy received and forwarded the following email to a friend. What follows is the email article itself, and then the email correspondence between Pat and our friend, **K.D.P.** from California. The email:

SUBJECT: JUST SUPPOSE-Just suppose that at every ball game, graduation, prom, etc., someone who has had enough of stupid, anti-historical court decisions had the guts to start reciting the Lord’s Prayer loudly, and others joined in, then more, until hundreds participated.

And just suppose this spread all over our land until this became standard practice in hundreds of schools-then thousands-then tens of thousands. Just what would local school boards do? Expel half the student body? (They need their jobs and federal funding far too much to do that.)

What would a Federal district court do? Order hundreds of nonviolent, decent minors jailed? Or thousands?

Just what would the Supreme Court do about it-issue more edicts?

What if millions decided the Supreme Court was out of its league and said “So what?”

Just suppose hundreds of brave school board members, local judges, prosecutors, and others, each in their own area of authority, refused to intervene, realizing that we have already tried it the other way and the result was a modern Sodom and Gomorrah of immorality and senseless violence.

Just suppose this then spread next into classroom after classroom, and either a brave student or a brave teacher started the Lord’s Prayer (or Psalm 100, or a Bible reading, etc.) each morning, until hundreds of thousands stood up and did their part and stopped cowering before the destructive, God-hating secular attitudes of the pagan minority who parrot the media line.

Just suppose every God-fearing Christian participated-peacefully, nonviolently, but firmly and continually.

Where would they get enough jails to hold us all? How would they prosecute hundreds of thousands?

It is far more than the government can do to even stop the flow of illegal drugs, despite their best efforts, and overcrowded jails. Hardened criminals walk after doing only half of their sentence to ease jail crowding.

Even if they try to pick on a handful to make examples of them, what if hundreds of thousands stood up to the tyranny of the minority and demanded their freedom of religion back? They can’t build enough jails or courts to begin to deal with such a movement.

During the Civil Rights battles of the 60’s, some of the black people decided they had enough and

debate. Justice Stevens resurrects the discredited “divisiveness” argument that penalizes the efforts of believers to stand up in public for what they hold dear.

Thanks to this decision, school districts face an impossible bind. If they do not take steps to stamp out the POSSIBILITY of religious speech at school events, bullies from the ACLU, waving the decision, will claim a violation of the Constitution’s clause against establishment of religions. But if schools do censor students-class presidents, valedictorians, homecoming queens-from uttering any religious words, the school districts will violate the free speech and religious freedom of students.

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What if millions decided the Supreme Court was out of its league and said “So what?”

Just suppose hundreds of brave school board members, local judges, prosecutors, and others, each in their own area of authority, refused to intervene, realizing that we have already tried it the other way and the result was a modern Sodom and Gomorrah of immorality and senseless violence.

Just suppose this then spread next into classroom after classroom, and either a brave student or a brave teacher started the Lord’s Prayer (or Psalm 100, or a Bible reading, etc.) each morning, until hundreds of thousands stood up and did their part and stopped cowering before the destructive, God-hating secular attitudes of the pagan minority who parrot the media line.

Just suppose every God-fearing Christian participated-peacefully, nonviolently, but firmly and continually.

Where would they get enough jails to hold us all? How would they prosecute hundreds of thousands?

It is far more than the government can do to even stop the flow of illegal drugs, despite their best efforts, and overcrowded jails. Hardened criminals walk after doing only half of their sentence to ease jail crowding.

Even if they try to pick on a handful to make examples of them, what if hundreds of thousands stood up to the tyranny of the minority and demanded their freedom of religion back? They can’t build enough jails or courts to begin to deal with such a movement.

During the Civil Rights battles of the 60’s, some of the black people decided they had enough and

stood up to the system-a few dozen here, a few hundred there-and eventually the whole country heard, and repented, and changed. Racial repression was an evil whose time was over.

But now, there is another battle-and the stakes are even higher. The future of all children, white, black, and otherwise, is at stake. No other country on earth allows a tiny minority of impractical interreligious bigots to censor their people's right to free religious expression. Even Russian public schools show videos of the life and teachings of Jesus now.

We tend to get exactly the kind of government we deserve. If you make a time line or a graph, you will see that the exponential increase in public school violence, pregnancy, and foul language all started at exactly the time the Supreme Court threw prayer and Bible reading out of the schools. We were told we didn't need Him, (GOD) and the results speak for themselves.

Just suppose hundreds of Christians passed this message on to all their friends, leaders, and contacts.

Just suppose hundreds of churches, organizations and ministries passed this message on to their constituencies with a request to reprint, re-post, and repeat it wherever possible.

Once upon a time the Church was the moral conscience and spiritual lighthouse of the nation. Now, most congregations are impotent, minor-league social welfare agencies or mutual comfort societies with no impact on the world around their little enclave.

Just suppose-What do you suppose you should do?

You may not know what the future holds, but knowing Who holds the future makes all the difference. You decide what to do with this? Take action, pass it on, or just simply read it and do nothing!

Dear Pat: I received your recent e-mail, and I must say I am concerned.

While I agree fully with you that what you call the "pro-God" backlash against recent Supreme Court rulings on prayer, etc will bring about militant efforts to take over the government and eventually the Sunday laws Inspiration predicts, **I disagree very strongly that the Court's rulings against prayer at public school-sponsored events are evidence of hatred against Christianity or an unconstitutional restriction of free religious expression**, as you seem to believe.

What we need to recognize is that **prayer of any kind is a theological statement**. Christians pray in Jesus' name; Jews and Muslims do not. Catholics pray to Mary and the saints; Protestants do not. One way or the other, any prayer offered at an event sponsored by an institution funded by taxpayers' dollars winds up taking a stand for a certain set of beliefs and against others. We both know this is not the place of government in a free society.

We need to beware of using the argument that merely because certain activities were not judged unconstitutional in the past that this means the Constitution should rightly be seen as approving of these activities. Many actions by corporations or individuals are allowed to stand simply because they are never challenged. Slavery and segregation were allowed for many years also. The "original intent" argument used by conservatives is very dangerous, since the Founding Fathers of this republic would likely have understood the words "all men are created equal" as referring to white males only-certainly not to the slaves who many of these Founders owned!

Let us consider what Ellen White wrote long ago about the teaching of Christianity in public schools:

"The present effort of the church to get the state to enforce the observance of Sunday, **and to introduce the teaching of Christianity into state schools**, is but a revival of the pagan and papal doctrine of force in religious things, and as such it is antichristian." *Southern Watchman*, May 1, 1906.

I must also say that you injure the effectiveness of your witness and Christian credibility by attacking the Democratic Party as supposedly "anti-religion." Contrary to the fanatical paranoia of James Dobson and so many others, neither the Democratic Party nor the other organizations you mentioned are against God or religion. They simply believe it is not the place of government-sponsored institutions to promote religious beliefs.

Seventh-day Adventists believe much the same, on the basis of Inspiration-the true source of the doctrine of church-state separation. The recent Supreme Court decision on prayer at football games at a state

school in Texas should thus be applauded by Seventh-day Adventists and all others who cherish liberty.

We need to ask one simple question: Why don't evangelical and fundamentalist Christians, as well as other cultural conservatives, establish their own schools where their values and beliefs can be taught? I have found it hard not to laugh when I hear people use the presumed lack of money as an excuse for Christians not doing this.

That is truly a joke! There are not even a million Seventh-day Adventists in North America, yet look how many schools we sponsor, even with recent cutbacks. Evangelicals and fundamentalists number over 50 million in this country, from what I've seen. Do we honestly believe that there isn't enough money piled up among these people to sponsor a network of schools all over this country where they could feel safe sending their children?

Could the real reason behind their not doing this be the fact that they want power over the public institutions of our land, to force their views even on those not sharing their convictions? This, I am convinced, is what they intend.

What we know from Inspiration would seem to concur with this assessment. As always, I look forward to your thoughts. I believe there are sound theological as well as constitutional reasons why Seventh-day Adventists oppose the Religious Right, reasons which you and I in particular can understand. The moralizing of conservative Christians may sound nice at times to such as us, but it is based on some very dangerous presuppositions, theological and otherwise. God bless! K.D.P., CA

[Editor's note: For the generations who followed the Founding Fathers to mature in their definition of what was to be understood by the Constitutional phrase "all men", does not justify the dangerous position of "the living Constitution", which Liberals use to redefine the Constitution to their own designs. The concept of the "living Constitution" was used by Al Gore recently:

"I would look for justices of the Supreme Court who understand that our Constitution is a living breathing document, that it was intended by our Founders to be **interpreted in the light of the constantly evolving experience of the American people.**"

"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 Bible, the Bible, is the foundation of our faith,' was the cry of Protestants in Luther's time, while the Catholics cried, 'The Fathers, custom, tradition.' Now many Protestants find it difficult to prove their doctrines from the Bible, and yet they have not the moral courage to accept the truth which involves a cross; therefore they are fast coming to the ground of Catholics, and, using the best arguments they have to evade the truth, cite the testimony of the Fathers, and the customs and precepts of men." *Review and Herald*, June 1, 1886.

The word *liberal* used here is defined by the context of the passage. **Conservative** then, in contrast in this passage, would be those who stick to the Bible only as the guide; while **liberal**, are those who use other methods outside the Bible to set the standard. In terms of the Constitution, which is directly and undeniably connected to the passage of the Sunday law, the term *conservative*; is one who holds to concept of the Constitution defining itself-as opposed to *liberal*, being one who defines the Constitution by methods or concepts outside the original document. Such as : "the constantly evolving experience of the American people."]

Back to the correspondence: Thanks for your input **K.D.P.**

I didn't mention the Supreme Court, but your comments gave me at least one new idea that hadn't occurred to me before. I hope you don't mind my sharing them with Jeff, since I sent him a copy of the original Forward too. God Bless! Pat.

Dear Pat: Good to hear from you so soon. Yes indeed, please share my thoughts with Jeff. Let him know I've been enjoying the *Gideon's Torch* tape series.

It's important for us to remember that the Augustinian doctrine of original sin lies at the root of church-state unity. If man is incurably depraved, as Augustine claimed, coercion is at times necessary in order for at least tolerable behavior to be guaranteed. In his document *The City of God*, Augustine declared it was God's will for the church to dominate civil government. This doctrine was at the foundation of the medieval Inquisition as well as the intolerance of the Calvinistic Puritans, who were also Augustinian in their theology.

It is therefore not surprising that the Arminian-Wesleyan wing of Protestantism has largely supported the separation of church and state, while the magisterial wing (Calvinism in particular) has favored unity between church and state. One is amazed that **the great moralizers in today's political battles are mostly evangelicals who believe sin cannot be overcome even through God's power**, and have denounced Adventists as legalists for believing this is possible. Yet these same evangelicals insisted that President Clinton be driven from office for his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Strange indeed, since according to their theology, the president's sins are not only unconquerable, but can't possibly cost him salvation once he is "saved." Why, then, should his sins have cost him the presidency? Thanks again for your thoughts. Forward this e-mail to Jeff also, if you wish. God bless! K.D.P., CA

[Editor's note: President Clinton should not have been driven out of office because he is an adulterous and an immoral man-but he should have been removed for his perjury. Fortunately, for his political career, he arrived in history at a time when the politicians, both Democratic and Republican, base their decisions on public opinion polls-not principal.

"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." *The Great Controversy*, 592.]

ACLU'S FEAR OF A "MINUTE OF SILENCE" SHOWS BIAS-

The Virginia chapter of the ACLU is suing Virginia for requiring its public schools to begin each day with a minute of silence. The Catholic League asserts that the suit is an example of the ACLU's hostility toward religion, said William Donohue, president of the Catholic League.

"In 1978 I interviewed Roger Baldwin, the founder of the ACLU. I asked him 'Whose rights are being infringed upon if there is a silent prayer voluntarily said by a student?' said Donohue. "His answer had an Orwellian ring to it: 'I suppose you can get away with that but it's a subterfuge, because the implication is that you're mediating about the hereafter or God or something.' I answered, saying 'Well, what's wrong with that? Doesn't a person have the right to do that? or to meditate about popcorn for that matter?'"

Said Donohue: "His objection to meditation in the schools was based on his deep-seated fear that young boys and girls might actually be meditating about the hereafter or God. And that is the real reason why the ACLU is opposed to the minute of silence law in Virginia: they sincerely believe that a free society is at risk if it allows the prospect of school kids meditating in the classroom." *Catholic League*, June 23, 2000.

IS THE US MOTTO UN-AMERICAN?-

The American Civil Liberties Union is demanding that two posters of the official national slogan, *In God We Trust*, be removed from the Shawnee County Treasurer's office-mainly because the word "God" stands out in reddish letters.

The threat is one of a long string of ACLU initiatives that seek to sever public links between American institutions and religion. In April, the ACLU flexed its church-state separation muscle by winning a court appeal against Ohio's state motto, *With God, All Things are Possible*.

By a 2-1 vote, the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals disqualified the motto, which Ohio adopted in 1959, because the biblical quotation was held to be "uniquely Christian." The state is appealing the decision.

In another case initiated by the ACLU, the US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 June 19 to disallow the Santa Fe (Texas) Independent School District's plan to allow student-led prayer at high school football games.

Richard Thompson, executive director of the Thomas More Center for Law and Justice in Ann Arbor, Mich., called the ACLU's challenge of the posters "a very frivolous kind of action for the obvious reason that they are aiming at a motto on all our paper and coin money, which is a part of our tradition and heritage and a symbol of our country."

He too predicted "utter failure" of the suit, which he characterized as part of the ACLU's scatter-gun attack against public religious references. "Actually," Thompson said, "at any given time the ACLU probably has 1,000 lawsuits across this nation contesting things similar to this case." *National Catholic Register*, July 2-8, 2000.

[Editor's note: There was a similar movement at the turn of the last century to remove the national motto from our currency.]

HOUSE URGES TO UPHOLD OHIO MOTTO-

WASHINGTON (AP)-The House gave its symbolic support to Ohio's state motto: *With God, all things are possible* which a federal appeals court ruled violated church-state separation provision of the Constitution.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" IN COLORADO SCHOOLS?-

The Colorado state school board voted 5-1 to encourage schools to post the national motto, *In God we Trust* in their schools. They insist that this is not about promoting religion, but morality. So far, the courts have all upheld the constitutionality of the national motto on our coins. In a 1970 decision, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said it was "quite obvious" that the motto "has nothing whatsoever to do with the establishment of religion" and that "its use is of a patriotic or ceremonial character."

So trusting God has become mere verbiage in support of patriotism? Does anyone else find that offensive? Or else, trusting God becomes reduced to inducing moral behavior. Trusting God is not about morality. It is about faith. Faith and morality are different. Morality apart from faith is works religion. The mark of the beast is works religion. After all, the mark of the beast is about enforcing religious behavior, regardless of where the heart is. So those who would promote the posting of the motto in the name of morality are really selling out the faith.

Americans United has threatened to sue any school that actually posts the motto. They are hostile to any public sentiment in favor of God. We are not. Whether or not courts justify the motto by secularizing it, the motto still stands as a reminder to all. In fact, the motto itself is about faith, a good thing. AU will probably lose, if they sue, unless the courts wish to make a distinction between the motto on coins, and in the classroom. Our courts are capable of such hair splitting.

From my perspective, then, neither side in this debate is without fault. So is the posting of the motto a good thing? To the extent that the posting of the motto encourages discussion of religious ideas, or even encourages faith, it can result in some good. If it results in some students or teachers feeling excluded or left out because they do not share the sentiments of the motto, this would be counterproductive. If the posting of the motto becomes a vehicle for government to be free to promote and sponsor religious ideas, beliefs and practices, it could be very dangerous for religious liberty.

Instead of just proclaiming, through the motto, our national trust in God, perhaps we need to ask ourselves: Does America really really trust in God? What does it mean to trust in God? Whether or not the posting of the motto will be a good thing remains to be seen. One thing is sure-if Christians throughout the land lived up to our profession of faith and trust in God, we wouldn't need a motto to witness for us. *The Religious Liberty Newsflash and Legislative Alert*.

TWO LETTERS AND RESPONSE-

I will bold face the comments I intend to respond to.

Dear Brother Pippenger, While visiting my brother a couple of Sabbath's back, I picked up an *Adventist Review* dated January 27, 2000. The author of the article was Coon from Andrews University. He was explaining about the wheat and tares. **He wrote it is the tares that leave the church and not the wheat. This kind of puts all self-supporting ministries in the camp of the tares! I have listened to your tape on the wheat and tares and from what I understand you are teaching we need to stay in the church until the Sunday law then the church will disappear because of persecution.**

You know Rome has always controlled her people with fear of excommunication. No salvation outside of the church structure. The Bible explains who and what the church is. Revelation 12:7, Matthew 18:20, and the *Spirit of Prophecy* explains in *Upward Look*, 315. **"It is not the great cathedral . . . it's the people . . . who keep the commandments"**.

Why should I support a religious organization with tithes and offerings and my presence, that is trading pulpits with Catholic priests? That is sharing and giving our hospitals to Rome? That had one of its pastors welcome the Pope to St. Louis? That is using vast sums of tithe money for litigation to suppress self-supporting Seventh-day Adventist groups giving the three angels messages? That is seeking to distance themselves, as far as they can, from the book *The Great Controversy*? That has many conferences that have joined the World Council of Churches?

I think Rome would be very happy if everyone stayed in the corporate church where the people have to listen to false doctrine. Like forms of Fordism, and the 1888 message according to Jack Sequeira, or maybe a lot of nothing every week? Not to mention celebration and all that goes with it. Etc. Rome has infiltrated the denomination, churches, hospitals, and schools. Rome has trained a lot of the ministers. What better way to take over a church? No blood shed! Or? But Rome never changes, what's her history?

How can the corporate church give to its people or to the world a clear message on whom the beast is, when Rome from within it, is attempting to make an image to it? The corporate church wants to be the keeper of the name *Seventh-day Adventist*, but it no longer seeks to live up to that name. One of the visions Ellen White had she recognized the people in the procession. Read it! *Testimonies*, volume 1, 577.

"Take the young men and women and place them where they will come as little in contact with our churches as possible, that the low grade of piety which is current in this day shall not leaven their ideas of what it means to be a Christian.

"I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy **being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men.** The influence of such gathering is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty where with He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meeting 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 buffeting 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." *Early Writings*, 124-125.

We have seen this happen over and over as people once alive stay in the corporate church listening to the error.

With the corporate church imbibing in error, celebrating with Rome, full of the world, don't you think it is time to heed the council, and have as little contact with the churches as possible, and understand who and what the church is? Remember we're told we have much more to fear from within than from without.

If everyone thought it necessary to stay in the church and support the corporate church with tithes and offerings and presence, how could the self-supporting Seventh-day Adventist groups continue presenting the three angels messages and other present truth? If people really listened to your advice and stayed with the corporate

church your *Future for America* and all other self-supporting groups would cease to exist! We can't support and serve two masters? Is Christ leading the corporate church or is Christ leading some of the self supporting Seventh-day Adventist? Sincerely, F.T., NY

P.S. It is very clear there's few if any loyal people at the head of the corporate church from what's been happening for years. Dollars invested in the stock market instead of seeking to finish the work to say nothing of the dollars lost! The many internal corruption's, the standards in the schools, colleges and the churches (in 1978 we compared Bob Jones University to Southern, [was missionary, now college]). Bob Jones standards are much higher. I was impressed. In fact, an unsolicited comments from the librarian at Southern in 1978 was "most of the students educated here leave the faith." Our healthcare is embarrassing. It's making public headlines from people neglected and dishonesty to working with Rome! The administrations vote themselves big raises and bankrupt the hospital and they are rewarded by the corporate organization by being transferred to another hospital where they can do it all over again! That's the same tactics they use with ministers that come with new theology or celebration or some other abomination. After they ruin, with their poison, one church, their hands might be slapped for the benefit of a few sighing and crying, and then they are moved to a new conference in a different state. And often given a bigger church!

As long as you support the corporate church with your money and your words they will put up with a lot, but when you cut off your tithes and offerings that's when they cut you off! **So do you want to support Adventism or Romanism?** Best Wishes

Dear Brother Jeff,

Another quotation that I would like you to explain. EGW said the faithful ministers would be removed if the church didn't live up to the light. *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 409-410. **Are you saying it is necessary to go and listen to unfaithful ministers, who are going to be the only ones left?**

Since I wrote the first letter the court in Florida has given its decision. **As I understand it I can't call myself a Seventh-day Adventist unless I am a member in good standing paying tithe and bowing to the image?** You know when Constantine took all the pagans into the church with all their pagan worship he didn't start calling himself a pagan. It's quite evident that the church organization saw this state of affairs coming years ago. This is the only church I know who has a trade marked name, to take away our reproach. Why doesn't the church call herself some other name? I've heard some of the individual churches, according to Lawrence Nelsons tape ministry, that are in apostasy, celebrating; do call themselves some other names. I don't know if they are just being bold or honest?

I find it hard to believe we are required to set and listen to unfaithful ministers until the Sunday law. *Early Writings*, 124. It's hard to receive a Sabbath blessing in most Seventh-day Adventist churches I've visited or heard of in the past fifteen years at least. **If we are not members we cannot have influence there and if you don't pay tithe you can't be a member.** I wouldn't want to have my tithe go to pay lawyer fees for court cases against those who are seeking to tell the world, (while we're still free to, conditions will soon make it difficult and much harder) the three angels message.

I wouldn't want to be a member of a church that has lied about it, but has supported the World Council of Churches for years, or a church that has joined hands with the beast, or a church that takes other Christians to court over a name or anything. Sounds to me like that church is making an image to the beast. Still some people are saying attend the organized church until the Sunday law. If they go themselves they are speaking, or they are somewhere else having their own meetings. What about the cottage meetings EGW spoke of. **What about where EGW said they wouldn't even had known about us but our own people turned us in "to the Catholics"?**

In Hungry in the 1980's the church organization made agreements with the government that our people would send their children to school part of the day on Sabbath and that they would work on Sabbath. (Wasn't that nice?) Well, some faithful Seventh-day Adventists (they probably can't be called by that name anymore) wouldn't do that. When the police came to arrest them, the police told the people, "If your own church people didn't turn you in-we wouldn't know or be here to arrest you."

In our area one of the leading men from the 1888 ministry was transferred to another church out west. Whenever we heard him speak his theme was *it's easier to be saved than lost*. I don't believe that and I don't

believe the Bible or *Spirit of Prophecy* teaches that. I understand after many months a new pastor is coming. He is another 1888 message pastor. I believe the 1888 minister is a counterfeit of the truth. Someone told me that church is mostly conservative and they feel very comfortable with the 1888 message group. Agreed, it's much easier to listen to than celebration or some of the other modern apostasy out there. But maybe full apostasy is easier and safer to discern than counterfeits of truth?

That 1888 message church is in a nearby conference. Our conference since 1980 has been with the new theology. At least one church is celebration and the local ones near, after the many new theology sermons, seem mostly died! Seems most of the people still there like it that way. I look forward to your reply to both letters. Sincerely, F.T., NY

P.S. **How do you remain in the good graces of the church and accept tithes?** I have noticed in your last newsletter that you didn't report on the trade mark court case in Florida. EGW says we have more to fear from within than from without. This court case is a reality of that!

The church is not telling their people about taking other Sabbath advent believer to court. Don't you think you have some responsibility to let your reader and listeners know what is taking place? Both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have warnings about taking your brother or like believers to court. Most are very serious. Even that God will no longer hear their prayers.

We do enjoy your newsletters and tapes very much and books too. **Can we still buy your book, *Why the Book "Beyond Belief", is Beyond Belief?*** Any special price for quantity? Jack Sequeira is a speaker at a New York camping next month. Sincere Best Wishes F.T., NY

RESPONSE: Dear Brother F.T.,

My apologies for not responding sooner. I will attempt to address some of these issues together generally and a few directly. First my understanding of truth is not dependent on what Brother Coon writes about the wheat and tares. I do believe the tares leave the Church, but **do not believe** that to be involved in self-supporting ministry is the definition of a tare. Nor do I believe that to be involved with self-supporting ministry means you have left the church.

I do say that it is at the Sunday law where the separation process is clearly identified, though before that time many will leave-both physically and spiritually. The *key word*, in your question about needing to be in the church, for me is **need**. I don't know that I would emphasize the word "need" as strongly as you seem to think I do, in your letter.

God's remnant Church is the Seventh-day Adventist church. To understand that truth should bring about a desire for a true hearted person to be in that church. But, in the environment of the church at this time, it is easy to understand that there are some who have stood against apostasy in their local churches, in the correct Christ-like fashion, and have suffered church discipline unjustly because of it. If a soul has stood against the apostasy, and has been disfellowshipped for their faithfulness, I do not believe that they are lost because they are not on the church books. The question for us is not church membership, but character development. Is my character such, that my name is still in the book of life above?

The message for this hour is, "Do I have a character prepared for the seal of God?" A soul who has that type of character when the Sunday law arrives will demonstrate this truth. He will do so whether he is on the membership rolls or not.

Why then stay in the church? Particularly when the abominations, which you have pointed out, exist within the church structure. And also, why support a church with these problems? First, "Why stay in?" There are many reasons, which support the truth that it is *within Adventism* where the necessary environment exists to prepare a character-ready for God's seal.

One of these lessons is the song of Moses and the Lamb which the 144,000 sing. I must be brief. Sister White is clear that the song which the 144,000 sing, symbolizes their experience. So what is their song? Or, What is their experience? There are two songs of Moses in the Old Testament. One is found in Exodus 15 and the other in Deuteronomy 31.

If we look closely at these songs we find two different themes. Moses' song in Exodus is describing "deliverance", while his song in Deuteronomy, is describing his "experience with an apostate church." Moses song, and therefore, his experience, was the deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ in the very midst of stiff-necked

apostasy. [Let it be noted here that the all to common theological argument about whether the church is in apostasy, as opposed to, whether there is apostasy in the church-is irrelevant. The story of Achan eliminates that reasoning.]

In theory, Moses did not have to learn part two of his song, for when God threatened to blot out the Israelites and start over, Moses could have said, "Go for it." In theory, he could have had a new batch of people to deal with. There must have been something important in Moses' character development that necessitated his interacting with a stiff-necked people. Certainly we both recognize that ancient Israel is an example for modern Israel.

"A blessing or a curse is now before the people of God—a blessing if they come out from the world and are separate, and walk in the path of humble obedience; and a curse if they unite with the idolatrous, who trample upon the high claims of heaven. The sins and iniquities of rebellious Israel are recorded and the picture presented before us as a warning that if we imitate their example of transgression and depart from God we shall fall as surely as did they. 'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.'" *Testimonies*, volume 1, 609.

But the 144,000 sing not only the song of Moses, but also the song of the Lamb. I believe this is the same as the song of Moses-symbolically. For the Lamb is **deliverance**. And the Lamb also interacted with **a church that was in apostasy**. The experience of Moses and the Lamb, or their song, is the experience of obtaining complete deliverance from sin, in Christ, while in the midst of a church, that is demonstrating all the problems which you so carefully list out. I fear that to remove oneself from that horrible environment, without direct providential leading of the Lord, is to place oneself outside the very medium ordained by God to develop the experience necessary to stand-during the time of the Sunday laws. During the greatest time of trouble which has ever been. During the time when there is no longer an open door into the sanctuary above. Can I understand all the dynamics involved with this scenario? No. But, is this scenario in agreement with Inspiration? Yes!

If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan? Jeremiah 12:5.

My attitude during this time period must parallel Moses' and Christ' attitude.

Then said Jesus, Father, **forgive them; for they know not what they do**. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. Luke 23:34.

And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned **a great sin**, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, **if thou wilt forgive their sin;- and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written**. Exodus 32:31-22.

What is taking place in Adventism is discouraging and disgraceful, but the prophetic testimony says that it is here where we learn the song.

Sister White is clear that Jerusalem in Ezekiel's vision of chapter 8-11 is the Seventh-day Adventist church. [See *Testimonies*, volume 5, the chapter titles, *The Seal of God*.] In the vision we see those who "bow down to the sun", and therefore, are symbolically receiving the mark of the beast. We also see those who are "sighing and crying." It is clear in Inspiration, that those sighing and crying are those who receive God's seal. It also clear that those who bow down to the sun are taken outside of the city to be punished. They are removed from the church. It is also clear that sighing crying ones are still in Jerusalem-still in the church.

I reject a simplistic definition of the church, so often used by some self-supporting ministries, which states, "It is not the great cathedral . . . it's the people . . . who keep the commandments". Please follow me closely here.

Certainly this aspect of the definition of the church helps to build the complete description and definition of God's church. But to use it alone, as the only or even primary definition, is to twist the Inspired Testimony on what the church is. If the definition of the church is **only**, "those who keep the commandments of God" then, what is meant by the following?

"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." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 380.

How can the sinners be sifted out of the church, if the church is those "who keep the commandments of God"? After all, if we truly keep the commandments-we are not sinning. Correct?

God intends to purify His Church. This is a large theme in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. There is an aspect of the definition of who and what is the church, which must include a church mixed with wheat and tares, or the Inspired Testimony is worthless. There is an aspect of God's church, which addresses the church as the "denominated people." All the different aspects of the church must be understood in the context of the passages where they are discussed, but to simply take the passage about those who keep God's commandments and build a doctrine of what is the church upon it, is faulty.

I think our disagreement may come from not understanding that God has made it abundantly clear when He will purify His Church. The Sunday law is the crisis where we will demonstrate before all what character we have developed. Then those who have not entered into the work of sanctification will no longer walk with us.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, **but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth**, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition." *The Great Controversy*, 608.

I submit that the storm is the Sunday law.

"**When the law of God is made void** the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger portion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 368.

If this is true, and it is, then we have a point of reference for how long we stay associated with this organization-which appears not to know the time of her visitation. We stay until God cleans things up.

"The church of Christ on earth will be imperfect, but God does not destroy His church because of its imperfection. **There have been and will be those who are filled with zeal not according to knowledge, who would purify the church, and uproot the tares from the midst of the wheat.** But Christ has given special light as to how to deal with those who are erring, and with those who are unconverted in the church. There is to be no spasmodic, zealous, hasty action taken by church members in cutting off those they may think defective in character. Tares will appear among the wheat; but it would do more harm to weed out the tares, **unless in God's appointed way**, than to leave them alone. While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. 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.**" *Testimonies to Ministers*, 46.

In Lawrence Nelson's last tape, [July 2000 I believe] he emphasized a point, a couple of times. He concluded, that the final revival and reform in the church, **does not** come from a reform group outside the Adventist church. I agree.

You ask, If we should support the church through our presence and finances in its current condition? I answer that we are to support through our presence, finances, and all that we have and are-Jesus Christ and His work. This is supporting God's church. How you [or I] implement this support, should be between ourselves and God.

We are to be working for reform. God's people are to be reformers. If this is so, what does it imply? It implies there are wrongs, which need to be reformed. I can't say that I expect this work to be easy, for we are interacting with the Laodicean condition-just before human probation closes. The Spirit of God is obviously being withdrawn from the earth. I do not believe that our personal work for reform for others is as important for them-as it is for us. As we seek to bring about reform in our own lives and then share these truths with others we should expect stiff resistance. I believe that somehow the experience gained while seeking to bring about these reforms is what spiritually prepares us to stand when the whole world, not just a stiff-necked church family, stands against us. I believe this experience is at least one part of the song of Moses and the Lamb. Therefore to leave this environment, based upon my human logic & wisdom, is to risk walking away from the very refining process, which the Lord ordained to save my soul.

This does not mean you go where error is being driven home. It does not mean we endanger our children with false theology. This does not mean we attend celebration services. What it means is that we secure such a deep and personal experience with Christ, that we attend *and serve* where He guides us to attend *and serve*. That **may even be** where error is being driven home—for remember the quote:

“If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. 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.” *Early Writings*, 124-125.

Perhaps, sometimes we need to be in those meetings. Evidently there is someone in some of those meetings who needs to interact with those who understand the truth for this time. Far be it from me, to endorse the idea, that because of the conditions in the church we should no longer attend a conference church. You ever heard that idea? I have. The passage stated, “unless He sends us.”

It should be noted further that the passage in *Early Writings* is actually speaking of going to Sunday keeping church meetings, although I do not deny that it is a valid principle to use for any meeting. My point is that God promises to guide us. We need the experience where we hear His voice.

“Would you become assimilated to the divine image? . . . Would you drink of the water which Christ shall give you, which shall be in you a well of water springing up into everlasting life? Would you bear fruit to the glory of God? **Would you refresh others?** Then with heart hungering for the bread of life, the Word of God, search the Scriptures, and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Your soul’s sanctification and righteousness will result from faith in the Word of God, which leads to obedience of its commands. Let the Word of God be to you as **the voice of God instructing you**, and saying, **‘This is the way, walk ye in it.’** Isaiah 30:21. Christ prayed, ‘Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.’ John 17:17.” *The Faith I Live By*, 21.

His voice is recognized in His word. His word counsels to not forsake the gathering together. Brother what about those churches in Adventism which are still preaching the truth? They are there. Even if you do not live near them. I have been to churches which still teach the truth,. And you know what? It is a tragedy. We no longer need simply the truth—we need present truth!

“There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but **it is ‘present truth’ that the flock needs now**. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell **upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul.**” *Early Writings*, 63.

Should I also cease to attend churches **where only the truth is presented?** We have no human ability to decide where, or, where not, we should be. We have only the promise, that if we meet the conditions, we may have a sanctified ability to hear God’s voice and correctly know where we are to be. If Adventists today would secure *that experience* in their life they would know where to go. And it would not necessarily be in the pure congregations, [if those even exist]. It would be where God directed us to be in order to glorify His name, through demonstrating His presence in our lives, by the service that we render to those about us.

“Go where you may be a blessing to others. Go where you can be a help **in some weak church**.

Shake off your spiritual lethargy. Work with all your powers to save perishing souls; and the heavenly benediction will fall upon you; and you will finally hear the words, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’ *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888.

Brother I have a very literal understanding of Isaiah 30:21: “This is the way, walk ye in it.” I believe this is part of the experience of the 144,000. They reach a state of holiness where they genuinely have conversation with God!

“Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth. It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels **there will be constant communication between heaven and earth.**” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 16.

I believe that this experience is what we are to strive to have before the Sunday law arrives. I believe we may have this “constant communication” now.

You state that we cannot have an influence in the church if we do not pay tithes and offerings there. Brother we have an influence at all times and all places whether we pay a faithful tithe or not. If the influence of our experience is sanctified, it will have a holy effect anywhere we are.

“Those who will put on the whole armor of God and devote some time every day to meditation and prayer and to the study of the Scriptures will be connected with heaven and **will have a saving, transforming influence upon those around them**. Great thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty to God, will be theirs. They will be yearning for purity, for light, for love, for all the graces of heavenly birth. Their earnest prayers will enter into that within the veil. This class will have a sanctified boldness to come into the presence of the Infinite One. They will feel that heaven’s light and glories are for them, and they will become refined, elevated, ennobled by this intimate acquaintance with God. Such is the privilege of true Christians.

“Abstract meditation is not enough; busy action is not enough; both are essential to the formation of Christian character. Strength acquired in earnest, secret prayer prepares us to withstand the allurements of society. And yet we should not exclude ourselves from the world, for our Christian experience is to be the light of the world. **The society of unbelievers will do us no harm if we mingle with them for the purpose of connecting them with God and are strong enough spiritually to withstand their influence.**” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 111-112.

You ask how the corporate church can give a clear message on whom the beast is? Only through a revival and reformation could the corporate church fulfill its high calling in giving the final warning message. Unfortunately we as a people have not been studying prophecy as closely as we should. The loud cry message, which goes forth under the power of the latter rain, is the message, which confronts the entire world with the information about Rome. The loud cry and the latter rain begin prophetically after God’s Adventist people are sealed.

“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.**

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth—these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. **When the decree goes forth** and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven.” *Maranatha*, 240.

They are sealed “when the decree goes forth.” That is the Sunday law. That is where and when the church will give a clear message on who and what the Roman church is. Now is “the time to prepare.” The question is not if the church can explain what and who Rome is? The question is:

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation?” *Ibid*.

We are told we have more to fear from within than from without, but the logic of the statement opposes your premise. If I am no longer “in” the Seventh-day Adventist church, then is the warning for me? The warning about problems within, is a warning for those who are within!

We still have the right to call ourselves Seventh-day Adventists, and identify our groups as Seventh-day Adventist. If the current trend continues over this trademark issue and in the direction of religious liberty in general, we may lose those rights soon. So what? [And I don’t mean that complacently.] If am genuinely experiencing the whole truth as revealed in all Inspiration, I will then have an inward testimony of who and what a Seventh-day Adventist is. **This is what the world needs to see**. The outward signs and names are not where faith is demonstrated. It is the inward character. This may seem like a simple way to dodge your question—but it really isn’t.

As in the previous quotation, the time now is “preparation time.” My efforts at this time is to secure a character fit for the seal of God and if I am not bidden to charge into the fray over trademark lawsuits in Adventism, then I best continue to do the work I know I have been called unto. Our time is running out. We are not speaking years

any more. Its months at best. By beholding we are changed. I know to many Adventists that spend far too much time studying the apostasy in the church, instead of struggling to overcome the apostasy in their own experience. If we can be drawn aside from the true work of character development with the ongoing manifestations of the removing of the spirit of God around us, we will find ourselves lost!

Though my wife and I are still members in good standing at the local fellowship here in Hot Springs, I am not sure that I have any responsibility to be concerned about remaining in anyone's or any institutions good graces. My concern is to remain in the grace of Christ. My understanding is if I can accomplish that goal, I will most certainly suffer persecution.

Another concern of yours.

"My brother, I wish to say to you, Be careful how you move. You are not moving wisely. **The least you have to speak about the tithe** that has been appropriated to the most needy and the most discouraging field in the world, the more sensible you will be.

"It has been presented to me for years that my tithe was to be appropriated by myself to aid the white and colored ministers who were neglected and did not receive sufficient properly to support their families. When my attention was called to aged ministers, white or black, it was my special duty to investigate into their necessities and supply their needs. This was to be my special work, and I have done this in a number of cases. **No man should give notoriety** to the fact that in special cases the tithe is used in that way.

"In regard to the colored work in the South, that field has been and is still being robbed of the means that should come to the workers in that field. If there have been cases where our sisters have appropriated their tithe to the support of the ministers working for the colored people in the South, **let every man, if he is wise, hold his peace.**

"I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this, and **as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury, it is not a matter that should be commented upon**, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best.

"Some cases have been kept before me for years, and I have supplied their needs from the tithe, as God has instructed me to do. And if any person shall say to me, Sister White, will you appropriate my tithe where you know it is most needed, I shall say, **Yes, I will; and I have done so. I commend those sisters who have placed their tithe where it is most needed to help to do a work that is being left undone. If this matter is given publicity**, it will create a knowledge which would better be left as it is. **I do not care to give publicity to this work** which the Lord has appointed me to do, and others to do.

"I send this matter to you so that you shall not make a mistake. **Circumstances alter cases.** I would not advise that anyone should make a practice of gathering up tithe money. But for years there have now and then been persons who have lost confidence in the appropriation of the tithe, who have placed their tithe in my hands, and said that if I did not take it they would themselves appropriate it to the families of the most needy ministers they could find. I have taken the money, given a receipt for it, and told them how it was appropriated.

"I write this to you so that you shall keep cool and not become stirred up **and give publicity to this matter**, lest many more shall follow their example." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 2, 99.

I identify my understanding about the dream where, "The scene was changed. The company now presented the appearance of a Catholic procession," found in *Testimonies*, volume 1, 577, in the series *The Overflowing Scourge*. I believe that change happens at the Sunday law crisis.

We have recently reprinted the book, *Why the Book Beyond Beliefs is Beyond Belief?* We can give cheaper prices for quantities.

I doubt that I have addressed all that was on your heart. I chose to print your letter in this newsletter, for many of these same questions and concerns are upon many hearts and minds today. I do want to uphold Adventism-not Romanism. But the prophetic testimony indicates that in the time period we are currently in-

"It is Satan's constant study to keep the minds of men occupied with those things which will prevent them from obtaining the knowledge of God. He seeks to keep them dwelling

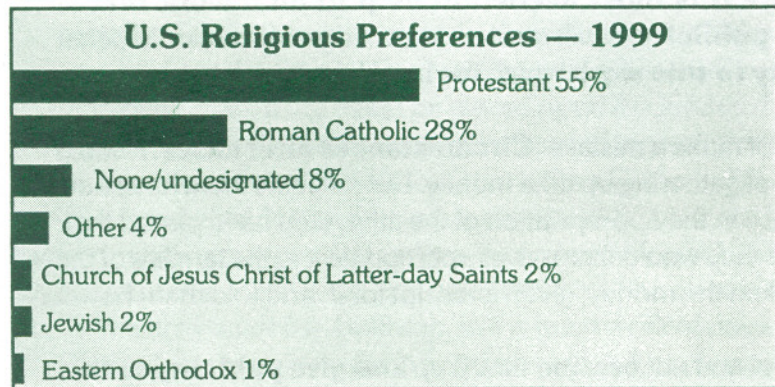
upon what will darken the understanding and discourage the soul. We are in a world of sin and corruption, surrounded by influences that tend to allure or dishearten the followers of Christ. The Saviour said: 'Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.' Many fix their eyes upon the terrible wickedness existing around them, the apostasy and weakness on every side, and they talk of these things until their hearts are filled with sadness and doubt. They keep uppermost before the mind the masterly working of the archdeceiver and dwell upon the discouraging features of their experience, while they seem to lose sight of the heavenly Father's power and His matchless love. All this is as Satan would have it. It is a mistake to think of the enemy of righteousness as clothed with so great power, when we dwell so little upon the love of God and His might. We must talk of the mightiness of Christ. We are utterly powerless to rescue ourselves from the grasp of Satan; but God has appointed a way of escape. The Son of the Highest has strength to fight the battle for us, and 'through Him that loved us' we may come off 'more than conquerors.'

"There is no spiritual strength for us in constantly brooding over our weakness and backslidings, and bemoaning the power of Satan. This great truth must be established as a living principle in our minds and hearts—the efficacy of the offering made for us; that God can and does save to the utter most all who come unto Him complying with the conditions specified in His word. **Our work is to place our will on the side of God's will.** Then, through the blood of the atonement, we become partakers of the divine nature; through Christ we are children of God, and we have the assurance that God loves us even as He loved His Son. **We are one with Jesus. We walk where Christ leads the way;** He has power to dispel the dark shadows which Satan casts across our path; and, in place of darkness and discouragement, the sunlight of His glory shines into our hearts." *Testimonies*, volume 5, 740-742.

My prayer is that we may be faithful in placing our will on God's side of the issues, and that we may be among those who sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Your Brother in Christ, Jeff.

CHURCH GROWTH-

At the General Conference in Toronto, Canada, church leaders reported impressive church growth numbers: Every 28.91 seconds, someone becomes a Seventh-day Adventist, while every 4.73 hours, a new Adventist church is organized. The church, which hit the 10 million member level last year, now has more than 11 million members, with more than 91 percent coming from outside of North America.



According to G. Ralph Thompson, outgoing secretary of the group's General Conference, its worldwide administrative body, the Adventist church gained 1,090,848 members in 1999. While not reporting a number for those leaving, church officials said that for every 100 members who joined in the last five years, 24 left.

The church is growing fastest in the countries of Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Nepal, where membership jumped 63.19 percent between 1994 and 1999. In addition, China now has 250,000 bap-

tized members and 2,600 congregations; due to the government allowing churches to be built with outside funding.

Of the group's 12 global divisions, only the Trans-European Division, which covers Western Europe and much of the Middle East including Egypt, Israel and the Gulf States, reported a decline of .35-percent. However, that region also reported a bright spot: the number of Seventh-day Adventists in Israel has grown from 50 in 1985 to 500 today.

SNEAK ATTACK ON FOURTH AMENDMENT-

A provision buried in S. 486, the "Methamphetamine Anti-Proliferation Act of 1999," would allow the Justice Department to secretly search any residence without notification. The bill was passed by the Senate without this provision being challenged. It nows moves to the House of Representatives. If signed into law it will fly into the face of the Fourth Amendment protection against unwarranted searches. *The New American*, July 31, 2000.

“Our country shall **repudiate** every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

Repudiate: To cast away; reject; discard. *Websters Dictionary*, 1828 edition. The *Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act* was signed into law by Governor Keating earlier this week. The Oklahoma law restores the “compelling interest/least restrictive means” test in free exercise cases.

Oklahoma is the eleventh state to enact its own *Religious Freedom Restoration Act*. The other ten states are Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas.

In addition, the recent decision by the Ohio Supreme Court in *Humphrey versus Lane* (May 24, 2000), brings to eight the number of states that have judicial decisions interpreting their state constitution to provide strict scrutiny in free exercise cases. The other seven states are Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

From a *Pacific Union Conference, Department of Public Affairs & Religious Liberty*, email alert.

WASHINGTON, June 8-Alpine meadows will disappear, along with many coastal wetlands and barrier islands. Cities will be hotter and more humid. Ski runs will be scarcer, the demand for air conditioners will increase and scientists will have to combat a likely resurgence in insect-borne diseases such as malaria. This is the weather forecast for the late 21st century, when average US temperatures will have risen by 5 degrees to 10 degrees.

The Alpine meadows of the Rockies likely will disappear, the report claims. Ocean levels will rise. The Great Lakes are predicted to decline. Entire ecosystems may shift northward.

ASSAILED BY some critics as too pessimistic and little more than guess work, that assessment-made by a dozen government agencies and hundreds of scientists in and out of government-is of a country coping with global warming.

Four years in the making, their report, called *Climate Change in America*, reflects the most ambitious attempt to gauge the impact of climate change on America. It will be released next week and later presented to Congress, which asked for the assessment a decade ago. The *Associated Press* obtained a late draft of the report’s overview summary.

STARK PROJECTIONS “Based on the best available information, most Americans will experience significant impacts” from Earth’s warming, the report concludes. Among the findings:

- Entire ecosystems may shift northward as temperatures increase.
- The Alpine meadows of the Rocky Mountains likely will disappear.
- Forests in the Southeast may break into “a mosaic of forests, savannas and grasslands” and sugar maples could disappear from Northeastern forests.
- Ocean levels will rise, causing wetlands, marshes and barrier islands to disappear or - when the geography allows-be force inland.
- The Great Lakes are predicted to decline because of increased evaporation causing yet different problems.
- Some coastal cities, faced with sea level rise and more frequent storm surges, may have to redesign and adapt water, sewer and transportation systems. The study does not attempt to put a cost to such improvements.

TOO DARK A FORECAST?

Some critics have charged it paints too dismal a picture and plays down potential benefits of warming-increased crop yields and warmer winters that may make life more pleasant in some areas, for example.

The document acknowledges “a complex mix of positive and negative impacts” if, as most climate scientists predict, pollution in the atmosphere raises temperatures worldwide by an average of 4 degrees to 9 degrees over the next 100 years.

An early draft of the overview summary was attacked in December as having “an extreme, alarmist tone” on predicting impact on human health. The summary has been revised with more emphasis on the uncertainties of predicting health impacts.

WARMING TRENDS

Nevertheless, the study says higher temperatures and increased rainfall likely will exacerbate air pollution, saddle large cities with more frequent and severe heat waves, and lead to the spread of waterborne or insect-carrying diseases including malaria in the Southeast.

Warmer weather will reduce the mountain snow pack, curtailing the summer runoff that feeds irrigation across much of the West and complicating water management.

Tree, fish and animal species will migrate northward everywhere. In the Pacific Northwest, the salmon may shift north to Alaska, replaced by warmer water species. In Alaska, the rising temperature is expected to cause further thawing of permafrost, damaging roads and buildings.

But warming also bring positive results, the study says.

Trees will grow faster and the amount of timber in America's forests-especially hardwoods-will increase steadily through the century.

Farmers will be able to grow more crops, although both in agriculture and forestry, there could be increased threats from pests and fire.

However, society can lessen environmental threats-and the "future vulnerability of the US population to the health impacts of climate change depends on our capacity to adapt," according to the late draft.

For example, more rain is predicted for the arid Southwest. That could bring new vegetation-and more flash floods-to desert lands. *Associated Press.*

CASTRO SAYS JESUS CHRIST WAS A COMMUNIST-

Cuba's Catholic-educated President Fidel Castro, one of history's most famous communists, believes Jesus Christ shared his political faith. Christ chose the fishermen, because he was a communist, Castro said in comments carried by state media Friday, referring to Christ's choice of humble fishermen from the Sea of Galilee to be his first disciples. Castro, whose once-stated atheism is believed to have possibly mellowed in recent years, made the comment during a National Assembly debate on the local fishing industry. His brother Raul Castro-second-in-command in the ruling Communist Party headed by Fidel Castro-concurred entirely. I think that's why they killed Jesus, for being a communist, for doing what Fidel defined as Revolution . . . that is to say, changing the situation, he said.

Fidel Castro, 73, was educated at a Jesuit-run High School in Havana. But after his 1959 Cuban Revolution, he established a socialist and officially atheist state, and declared himself a non-believer. Church-state ties were tense. But in recent years, most notably during Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Cuba in 1998, Castro has avoided defining his personal view on Christianity and preferred to insist that he respects all religions." *Reuters*, July 15, 2000.

SOLAR STORM SMACKS EARTH-

A massive storm on the surface of the sun Friday hurled a plume of solar plasma toward Earth that over the weekend could frazzle satellites, disturb the electric grid and interrupt airplane's radio chatter. Friday, the early blast of radiation from the solar storm had already caused minor glitches in some satellites, according to government space scientists. Despite those scientists' forecasts of more disruption, the Federal Aviation Administration and local utilities said they expected the storms to cause no problems for their operations. Scientists at the Space Environment Center in Colorado monitored the explosion on the sun early Friday and estimated that it was the largest solar radiation storm since 1989...The storm, which covered an area hundreds of times larger than Earth, spit out what scientists call a coronal mass ejection a huge plasma cloud containing billions of tons of charged particles roaring out of the sun's atmosphere. That cloud could have shot out in any direction, but in this case it happened to be headed directly toward Earth, according to NOAA's predictions. *The Chicago Tribune*, July 16, 2000.