

“CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS.” JUDE 3

To Rest or to Retail? Officials Question State's Sunday Shopping Restrictions

The Dickinson Press
thedickinsonpress.com
Dec. 12, 2010

With today's hectic schedules shopping is rarely being done between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the week. To give shoppers more opportunity, talk exists of a legislative bill allowing businesses to open before noon on Sunday, a practice prohibited to some retailers in North Dakota.

“I would say it's likely that —continued on page 3

The Romeward Trend

By W.L. Emmerson
Signs of the Times Vol. 89 No. 11
November 1962

Without question, there is urgent need to study this startling phenomenon of modern Protestantism and to discover its meaning.

When we look at non-Roman Christendom today we discern two tendencies of immense significance. The first is the increasing eagerness of the non-Roman churches for reunion among themselves. This finds its chief expression in the World Council of Churches. Stemming from the International Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910, the World Council was officially organized in 1948 at Amsterdam, and today comprises from extreme Protestant bodies like the Baptist, Congregationalist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Reformed on the one hand, to Anglican, Old Catholic, and almost the entire Orthodox Church on the other.

The second significant trend in the ecclesiastical world today is the growing cordiality between these non-Roman churches and the Roman Catholic Church, indicated by the steady stream of church leaders who have been paying "courtesy calls" on the pope.

In one sense these two trends may be —continued on page 5

French Shops are Defying Sunday Closing Laws

Food Shops Ignore Sunday Trade Law

The Connection
France's Leading English Newspaper
March 8, 2010

MANY supermarkets and convenience stores are breaking the new law on Sunday trading by staying open all day, a newspaper investigation has found.

Le Parisien found small local food shops (superettes) in Paris belonging to chains including Carrefour, Franprix and Monoprix serving customers until as late as 22.00 on Sundays.

Since last August, shops in France have been allowed to serve customers until 13.00 on Sunday —continued on page 3

Adventists Attend Ecumenical “Peace Pole” Ritual

Interfaith Project celebrates
all faiths on World Peace Day

by Tim Rios
Brentwood Press
Thepress.Net
Sep 09, 2010

An Antioch, CA group known as The Interfaith Peace Project will be putting its own spin on the International Day of Peace, celebrated Sept. 21.

Since its inception by the United Nations in 1981, the event that's also known as World Peace Day has been celebrated by nations, political groups and churches all over the world. Under the auspices of Father Tom Bonacci [a Roman Catholic Priest from St. Ignatius Church of Antioch], the Interfaith group is planning the International Day of Peace Celebration for East Contra Costa, a full weekend of religious diversity held in the name of peace and understanding.

“It's been somewhat low-key,” said Walter Ruehlig of past events. Ruehlig, with wife Cynthia, heads up the

—continued on page 5

Ted Wilson's First Crisis as President

Is He Calling for an End to
the Self-supporting Work?

2010 Annual Council, Oct. 8-13, Silver Spring, Maryland—Members of the General Conference Executive Committee, the highest ruling body of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, gathered at the Adventist world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, for the committee's Annual Council on October 8-13, 2010. The main purpose of the Annual Council is to hear institutional and departmental reports, vote changes in church policy, and approve the church's world budget.

During the Sabbath, Ted Wilson gave the Sabbath sermon entitled “Remember Your Name” on Oct. 9, 2010. In it he commemorates the 150 year anniversary of the name “Seventh-day Adventist.” He gives a description of the meaning of the name—the Sabbath, the Second Coming of Christ, the Three Angels' Messages, Creation, the Spirit of Prophecy, and Sanctification. He also reminds

—continued on page 4



Nancy DiMaggio performs a Pomo ritual, asking the “holy spirit” to reside within the peace pole. The indigenous religion of the Pomo people, Native Americans from Northwestern California, pray to powerful deity of the “Kunula,” the Coyote spirit healer [Photo by Justin Lafferty].



Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church addresses the Annual Council at the denomination's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, Sunday October 10, 2010. Looking on is his assistant for evangelism, Mark Finley. [photo: Ansel Oliver, Adventist News Network]



The General Conference Executive Committee at the 2010 Annual Council. [photo: Ansel Oliver]

“Here I Stand!” said Martin Luther, but....

Where Do We Stand?

—by Pastor Raphael Perez

Almost five hundred years ago Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the old Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This document listed the abuses and misguided practices and doctrines held by the Roman Catholic Church. This eventually led to his famous trial at Worms in 1521. There he stood with his face lifted up and with one hand resting on the Bible and the other pointing to heaven as he declared boldly before the Roman Catholic hierarchy and to the whole world, “Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me!”

Practically all historians agree that that was the event that started the Protestant Reformation. His hammer strokes were heard around the world. The whole world knows where Luther stood. There is no question about that. He made it clear to all that he derived his authority not from popes or prelates, kings or councils, but solely from the word of God. Courageously he challenged the papal system and its doctrines. He defied the false claims and prerogatives assumed by the priests. There can be no question as to where he stood.

But the question before us is, “Where do we stand?” What is our position with regards to papal supremacy which is engulfing the world today? What are the principles of present-day Seventh-day Adventists in relation to the rise of the central role of the Vatican in the ecumenical movement? Does the world know where we stand? What is the message which we proclaim to the world? These are questions which should concern us, for about them there is much confusion in all the churches. The spirit of Martin Luther and the positions which he stood for have become almost non-existent today.

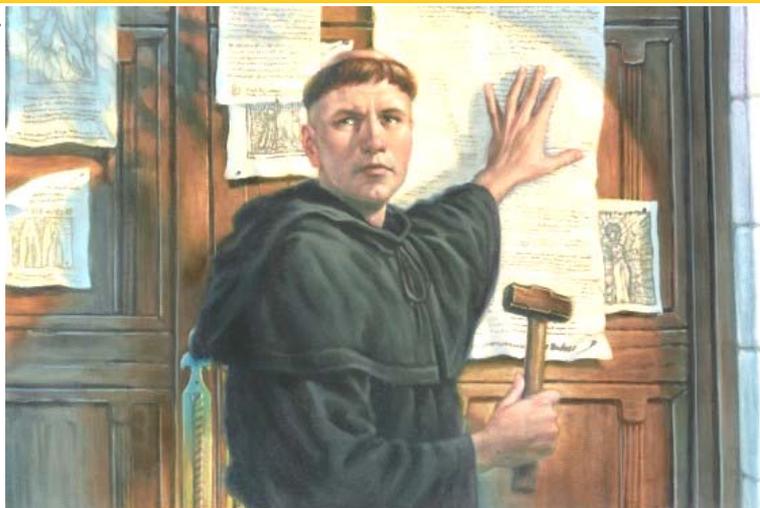
Today we see Protestants returning to a “full-union” with Rome. We also see Protestant Americans joining hands in dialog with the Papacy in order to change our culture. [See page 6 of the Eternal Gospel Herald] Where is the stern voice of rebuke protesting these compromises on the part of Protestants?

Modern Protestantism and liberal, contemporary Seventh-day Adventism believe that the characterization of the Roman papacy as Antichrist, the beast of Revelation 13, the man of sin of 2 Thessalonians 2, the Great Harlot of Revelation 17, or the Little Horn of Daniel 7 as clearly unchristian and hateful. But God specifically placed these words in the scriptures to be applied and understood. Revelation chapters 12-18 describe in length the battle between the church of God and this great rebellious power. We cannot ignore these important depictions of prophecy. If we don’t understand the working of this Antichrist power, inspiration says that we will one day find ourselves on the wrong side of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

“Those who become confused in their understanding of the Word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist.” Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 947.

We must not forget that as Martin Luther grew in his understanding and

appreciation of the truth found in the scriptures, he also grew in his recognition that the Papacy was the Antichrist. Luther saw that the doctrines of papal infallibility, a teaching in which the pope presumes to have greater authority than the Bible in religious matters, and the “spirit of antichrist.”



The Protestant Reformation would have never happened without the belief the Pope was in apostasy for taking prerogatives that belong only to Christ. If the Papacy isn’t leading the world into rebellion against God’s word then why leave the fellowship of Rome. If the Pope, one man, really represents the authority of Christ on earth then what right do we have of being separate—if the reasons for being a Protestant don’t exist anymore?

Millions of sincere Christians gave their lives for the Protestant faith during the Roman Catholic Inquisition. Are we to imagine that they died in vain? Absolutely not. Can we afford to betray those who gave their lives to give to us the clear teachings of scripture. Luther almost lost his life for his preaching and writings. Can we afford to betray the God whose hand was guiding the Reformation?

Because God foresaw the decline of Protestantism in the end times, He raised up the Seventh-day Adventists to preach clearly the final truths describing the end of the Great Controversy found in Rev. 12-18. Back in the 1840’s when the Protestant churches rejected the 1st Angel’s message, they became part of Babylon. At that time 2nd Angel’s message applied to Protestant churches as well. Since that time the 3rd Angels’ message has never been accepted by neither the mainstream Protestant churches and much less the Roman Catholic Church.

We should not be sitting down trying to unite in fellowship with the fallen church but rather give them the final warning message that God has for all of His children found in those churches. For this reason God has had to raise up self-supporting ministries, to give to the world a very distinctive message, just God raised up Luther. We must move forward with our historic Seventh-day Adventist message—which includes exposing the sins of Babylon. We must continue to remind our people to continue to give this message through billboards, newspapers, radio, and truth-filled publications (see 5T p. 136).

Please continue to help us with your prayers and support because there is much work to be done in this time of great spiritual darkness. May God help us in this trying hour.

Letters

Dear Eternal Gospel, Thank you for sending me the book “The Antichrist Identified.” It opened my eyes in a way I never imagined. Please send me the free book that you advertise in the Antichrist Book. I want to learn more about the Lord’s Day. I want to know how it was changed and how to avoid the mark of the antichrist. Please send me all available information on this subject. Thank you for the opportunity to receive these materials free. May God bless you. **Stephen Lawrence, Arkansas.**

Dear Pastor Perez, Thank you for your publication “The Eternal Gospel Herald.” I do appreciate so much the articles on present truth, counsels, and warnings. I gained a lot of insight from your articles. I appreciate your coverage of the recent General Conference Session 2010 in Atlanta. The information and pictures were great. Thank you, **Mary Scott Kyser, Colorado.**

Dear Eternal Gospel Church, I live in South Africa and I have just heard about you just last week. I was on the website and I love everything I read about your ministry. I admire that you are an example of loyal Seventh-day Adventists. Thank you for the wonderful work which you are doing. I have not been a Seventh-day Adventist for a long time. I have seen a lot of things that are happening in the church and have been shocked. That is why I am so pleased to learn about brethren like you. I pray that I will be able to follow your example and I pray that I will have the courage to stand up for what is right. Thank you very much, **Alta Strydom, South Africa.**

Dear Eternal Gospel Church, I just finished reading your magazine “The Antichrist” and I am compelled to write to you thanking you for sharing these truths with me. Can you please send me a copy so that I can have one for myself. I would also like to receive other available literature. Thank you. I am a **Reborn, Protestant Christian _____ Folsom State Prison, California.**

Dear Pastor Perez, Thank you for your faithful witness and for keeping us up-

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL HERALD

PO Box 15138 West Palm Beach, FL 33416
1-800-769-2150 eternalgospel@att.net

Subscription: **FREE**

If you wish to receive a free subscription of this publication, please contact our office at: PO Box 15138, West Palm Beach, FL 33416 | 1-800-769-2150 email: eternalgospel@att.net

Online Edition: www.eternalgospelherald.com

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Editor</i> | <i>Contributors</i> |
| Raphael Perez | Miriam Ponce |
| <i>Copy Editors</i> | Norma Perez |
| Patricia Rocco | Peter Prestol |
| | Maria McGinty |

The Eternal Gospel Herald is published from West Palm Beach, Florida, USA, by the Eternal Gospel Church, a ministry that was founded in 1992 by Seventh-day Adventist believers to bring true, genuine, world-wide revival and reformation by proclaiming the Third Angel’s Message. The Eternal Gospel Herald is sent to you free of charge, with much love, work, and sacrifice. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy of the information contained herein. This publication is printed to communicate the issues and subjects pertaining solely to the development and fulfillment of the third angel’s message and the advance of Christ’s character in the lives of God’s faithful people. We hope and pray that you will not only enjoy it but that it will be informative and spiritually enlightening to all of you. It is only by the grace of God and the support of each of you that we are able to participate in publishing, radio, newspapers, billboards, and foreign missions.

—continued from page 1 “North Dakota Debates Sunday Law”

something may come up, but I wouldn't say for certain at this point,” said Jeb Oehlke, vice president of governmental affairs at the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. North Dakota's Sunday closing law, in which a revised version was enacted in 1973, deems conducting “business or labor for profit in the usual manner and location” between midnight and noon on Sundays, a Class B misdemeanor, according to the North Dakota Century Code.

The law also prohibits the sale of certain items, including appliances, most clothing, musical instruments, building supplies and jewelry, among others, between those times, according to the Century Code.

With roots stemming back to the early 1900s, the law was “strictly adhered to for a long time” and gradually, has undergone many amendments including in 1979, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 2001 and 2003, said Jack McDonald, a Bismarck-based attorney.

“There's a lot of emotion and policy behind this law...and mainly it's not so much religious as it is urban and rural,” McDonald said. “What the small towns see in this is fur-
ther erosion of them and that if
you allow unqualified sales, it's going to destroy these small towns.”

Some see it as an infringement on the freedom of enterprise.

“Our policy statements support a complete repeal of that law,” Oehlke said. “I don't know for certain that the bill will be introduced, but we're talking about it. That's kind of one thing we promote the freedom to do what you want with your business hours. If you want to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we think you ought to be able to do that ... it should be the business owner's choice, not the government's choice.”

A representative of the state's Legislative Council said it cannot confirm or deny an upcoming bill regarding the Sunday closing law until its filing or until a Legislator makes it public.

While concerns with the state's Sunday law are not heard daily by the Chamber, they are heard, Oehlke said.

Mike Rud, president of the North Dakota Retail Association, said the law was quite controversial after it passed and association membership was divided, but since then, members have been somewhat mute on the topic.

“I think people have settled into it and do what they need to do to comply with the law and I don't think it's a real big issue at this point,” Rud said. “There might be some movement afoot to change the opening time to be before noon. I think you might see a bill on that this session.”

Rud said the Association discussed the law at its last board meeting this summer and feels the group will remain fairly neutral on the bill.

Craig Newby, owner of Newby's Ace Hardware in Dickinson, said if the law was amended to allow a Sunday opening before noon, he would probably go for it.

“I don't know that I would push for it I guess,” Newby said. “It's just something I guess that we would probably go along with and we would be open if that's what it came to.”

Stark County State's Attorney Tom Henning said in his nearly 12 years as state's attorney, prosecution of Sunday law violators has been rare, if at all.

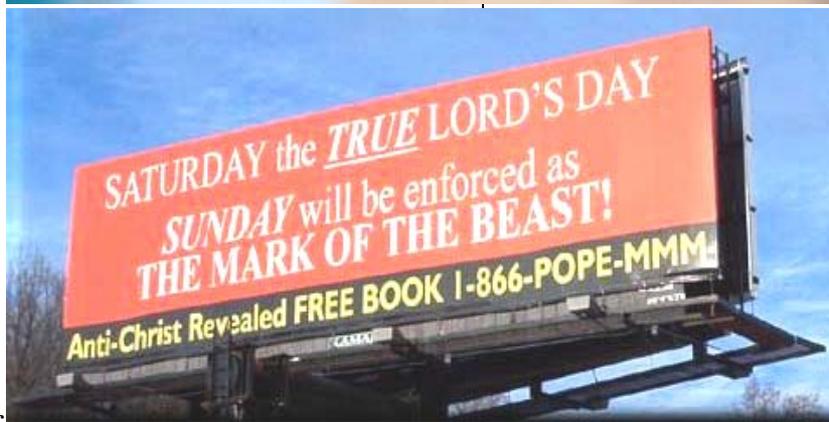
“It is so well complied with by the local merchants that I don't recall ever receiving a complaint,” Henning said.

Oklahoma Spring Camp Meeting
April 22-24, 2011

—continued from page 1 “French Shops Defy Sunday Law”

afternoons - an hour later than before. Retailers in areas classified as tourist zones and family-run corner shops are the only ones that can open all day.

A spokesman for the CFTC trade union said shops were taking advantage of the confused rules on what counts as a tourist zone.



He said the problem of illegal late opening had been growing since last November and shops were putting pressure on workers to accept Sunday shifts with no increase in their hourly wage.

The owner of a Franprix mini-market in Paris's 11th arrondissement told Le Parisien: “We're supposed to close the doors at 13.00 but our group's policy is to open all day on Sunday. I've been working here for a year and I've never been stopped.”

“Sundays bring in an extra 10-15% in revenue. It gets very busy from 18.00. People like proximity and being able to do their shopping when it suits them.”

A Carrefour City manager, whose shop stays open until 21.00, said the students who took the Sunday shifts appreciated the extra money.

According to Paris trading standards, 30 fines were handed out last year for illegal Sunday opening. Shops caught ignoring the rules face a penalty of up to €7,500 per employee.

However, Le Parisien says legal action against the supermarket chains themselves is difficult, because the outlets tend to be independently run franchises.

Editor's Note: Praise the Lord that somebody is resisting these Sunday laws. Where are God's modern-day Elijah messengers that should be sounding the alarm against Sunday legislation? We need to be at the front of the battle against the Sunday movement and not at the tail. “I do hope that the trumpet will give a certain sound in regard to this Sunday-law movement...The truth should be presented in short articles, in clear, distinct lines, giving special points in regard to the Lord's Sabbath.” Councils to Writers and Editors, p. 97.

We were told exactly how to combat the Sunday movement. We cannot stand by idle and allow the false doctrine of Sunday, the wine of Babylon, to be forced upon the people.

In France you are fined for violating the Sunday closing laws—a penalty of up to \$7,500 euros (\$10,337 US dollars) per employee!!! This is exactly what Revelation 13:16-17 describes “that no man may buy or sell save he that had the mark.”

“We should now be doing our very best to defeat this Sunday law. The best way to do this will be to lift up the law of God and make it stand for all its sacredness.” Ibid. p. 98.

Soon these very laws will come not only to Europe but to America and to the rest of the world. Let's get ready and prepare ourselves and others for this final hour.

Oklahoma Building Fund

As many of you already know, we have been raising some funds to install a baptistery at our Oklahoma campground. This means that the current chapel building has to be extended so that we can have space for the baptistery. As we go to press for this current issue of The Eternal Gospel Herald, we have currently raised \$5,270 of the \$19,600. That represents a total of 27% of the total funds needed. We praise the Lord for all of you who have helped with this expense. We also reported to you that the baptistery was donated to us. Praise the Lord! God is so good. For those of you who have had the opportunity to visit our Oklahoma campground, you know that a provisional location for baptisms have been taking place under the lunch pavilion. At times the cold weather makes it a bit uncomfortable, but we never complain. We praise and give God all the glory for all the good things He has done.

—Pastor Raphael Perez

—continued from page 1 “Ted Wilson’s Presidential Crisis”

the church that 2010 marks the 150 year anniversary when the name “Seventh-day Adventist” was officially adopted by the church. Then he goes on to make an appeal to seven different segments within Adventism who have either forgotten the meaning of the name or who have not lived up to the high and holy standard of the name “Seventh-day Adventist.”

The following list is taken from Ted Wilson’s Sabbath sermon during the 2010 Annual Council on October 9, 2010. He here calls upon seven different groups of people who he believes have strayed from living up to the name “Seventh-day Adventist.”

1. To those, including us as leaders, who at times have not followed God’s guidance in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy or the prompting of the Holy Spirit, but have willfully followed our own way and made the politically correct decision instead of standing courageously for what we knew to be right: we must all resolve to submit ourselves humbly before the Lord and *remember your name*.
2. To those of us who have neglected consistent Bible study and prayer and allowed even good things to crowd out Jesus; to those who have allowed television, popular music, hobbies, the Internet, video games, interschool sports, and a myriad of other things to crowd out time for the Lord: *Remember your name!* Refocus on Jesus, His word, prayer, and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy.
3. To those who have forgotten that practical Christian service is the inevitable expression of your relationship with God: *Remember your name!*
4. To those who find themselves drifting far from the theological center of the Word and the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: *Remember your name!*
5. To young people who are caught up in living life in the fast lane with little regard for the church: *Remember your name* and come home.
6. To those who are older and have become fossilized and static and stale in their Christian experience, which probably includes a lot of us: *Remember your name!*
7. **To independent groups or ministries who have found themselves somewhat distant from official church connection and have accepted tithe for support. Contact your local church and local conference and return to a warm and appropriate relationship refusing to accept tithe and encouraging members to return their tithe through the storehouse of the local church. Remember your name!**

We would agree that the first six groups listed have forgotten what it means to be and to live up to the name Seventh-day Adventist. And it is possible that some groups and ministries who are “somewhat distant from the official church” have departed from the faith and have forgotten the meaning of the name Seventh-day Adventist.

But where Ted Wilson fails to consider or at least acknowledge is that many lay groups, organizations, and ministries are deeply committed Seventh-day Adventists whose fundamental motivation is deeply rooted in a sincere zeal for the historic faith and a willingness to give all in the effort to save the “faith once delivered unto the saints” Jude 3.

Ted Wilson stipulates, as many others before him, that all of the tithe must only be paid to the local church who is under the watchful eye of the conference. The tithe is then forwarded up to the Union, then the Division, and finally the General Conference. According to church leaders, tithe is never to be given, much less used by any other group, organization, ministry, or person because the “conference” is the “only” organization that can be considered the “storehouse” and “treasury” of God. And a failure to follow this plan is a failure of being a Seventh-day Adventist, thereby failing to follow God’s plan.

Self-supporting Work Prophesied

According to Ellen White, tithe should always be faithfully returned to God and used to support the ministry. ***But the question is to which ministry?***

“The members must awake out of sleep and begin to inquire, How is the money which we put into the treasury being used? The Lord desires that a close search be made.” The Kress Collection, p. 120.

It has been prophesied that God will raise up His own workers because too many have become silent, some have compromised, while others have apostatized as we have seen from the highest levels of the church down to the local pastor. This is the reason why God has had to raise up self-supporting ministries that are not part of the “regular lines” such as was Elijah in Mt. Carmel or John the Baptist in the wilderness. And in these last days the servant of the Lord has said:

“Let me tell you, that **the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things**, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will

always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. **God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.**” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 299.

As God raises up His own workers they are to be supported by tithe because those who have been in charge of the expenditure of the Lord’s money have failed in the discharge of their duties. When that time comes, individual judgment is necessary in deciding where to send tithe.

“**He will call men from the plow and from other occupations** to give the last note of warning to perishing souls.”—Testimonies, Vol. 9 p. 170.

“Most startling messages will be borne **by men of God’s appointment.**” Testimonies, Vol. —9 Testimonies, p. 137.

“**The Lord will raise up men** who will give the people the message for this time.” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 170.

“When a church proves unfaithful to the word of the Lord, whatever their position may be, however high and sacred their calling, the Lord can no longer work with them. **Others are then chosen to bear important responsibilities.**” Manuscript Release, Vol. 14, p. 102.

“It was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed, and his people should remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God. **As they refused to do the work which he had appointed them, others were raised up to proclaim the message.**” Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4, p. 292.

These self-supporting workers raised up by God, the Lord of the “storehouse,” are doing the work of the ministry which the vast majority refuse to do. They must be supported by tithe. Notice in the following statement how Ellen White encourages self-supporting work and the paying of tithe to such workers.

“The Lord works through **various agencies**. If there are those who desire to step into new fields and take up new lines of labor, **encourage them to do so.** Seventh-day Adventists are doing a great and good work; let no man’s hand be raised **to hinder his brother.** Those who have had experience in the work of God should be encouraged to follow the guidance and counsel of the Lord. **Do not worry lest some means shall go direct to those who are trying to do missionary work in a quiet and effective way. All the means is not to be handled by one agency or organization. There is much business to be done conscientiously for the cause of God.**” Spalding-Magan Collection, p. 421.

An End to Self-supporting Work?

Self-supporting work needs and depends on tithe and offerings. For the President of the General Conference to say that all tithe should only go to the conference is like the rich man who had many lambs, yet still took the poor man’s only lamb to feed his friends [2 Sam. 12:1-5].

According to a Adventist New Network article dated Oct. 12, 2010 entitled, “Stable Tithe, Offerings Notable as Adventist Church Withstands Economic Downturn,” Robert Lemon, the treasurer for the World Church reports that in 2009 \$1.9 billion dollars was received by churches in tithe worldwide.

The church makes almost “\$2 BILLION” a year in tithes alone, and they are concerned that faithful workers or tithe-worthy lay organization who live month-to-month and week-by-week might receive a little drop of funds compared to the billions that they get? Can you imagine if one-tenth from these funds would fall in the hands of the true self-supporting ministries? The message would circle the world in a matter days. The world would know the truth for this time as it was known in the early 1840’s.

This attitude on the part of the leadership would wipe out and destroy the self-supporting work. It’s sad to say but this kind of thinking is not supported by the writings of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, in fact, it goes contrary to them.

No Monopoly on Tithe

“**The Lord has not specified any regular channel through which means should pass.**” Spalding-Magan Collection, p. 498.

All the means is not to be handled by one agency or organization. There is much business to be done conscientiously for the cause of God.” Spalding-Magan Collection, p. 421.

“Institutions that are God’s instruments to carry forward His work on the earth must be sustained. Churches must be erected, schools established, and publishing houses furnished with facilities for doing a great work in the publication of the truth to be sent to all parts of the world. **These institutions are ordained of God and should be**

—continued on page 7

—continued from page 1 “Adventists Attend Peace Pole Ritual”

local Day of Peace steering committee. “But this year, it’s happening on a grander scale.”

Indeed, numerous churches from all over the area plan to attend and participate in the weekend’s events: Antioch Christian Center, United Methodist Church, Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, Seventh Day Adventist Church, First Congregational Church of Antioch, the Hindu community, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Islamic Center of East Bay, the Sikh community, Sufism Reoriented, Baha’i Faith and many other religions.



Sierra Lynne sings with the crowd during Sunday’s dedication of the peace pole at St. Ignatius Church in Antioch, part of the Day of Peace festivities (Photo: Lafferty).

In 2002, the UN officially marked Sept. 21 as the International Day of Peace. Since that day falls on a Tuesday this year, the Interfaith group plans to celebrate over the weekend of the 18th and 19th in order to help the community prepare for the actual Day of Peace.

“We want to bring more of a civic presence this year,” Ruehlig said. “To raise people’s awareness to the

21st by leading a more peaceful life, doing more witnessing, and monitoring thoughts and actions.”

The event kicks off on Saturday evening at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, where a large tent will be raised. Highlights for the evening will include the LDS [Mormon] choir singing at 6:15 p.m. and an Interfaith Candle Lighting from participants who will dress in their common garb. The tent will be open all hours for an all-night prayer vigil. “People are signed up to pray in shifts all night,” said Ruehlig. “But anyone can come in and pray or meditate.”

A large portion of the Interfaith Peace Project’s library will be set up in the tent, displaying books on world religions. Several copies of sacred texts will be available for people to browse. “Some may get to see the Quran or the Book of Mormon for the first time,” Ruehlig said.

All through the night, an 85-person Sufi choir [Sufism is the mystical dimension of Islam] will recite the names of God every 15 minutes in several languages. A portable labyrinth will also be available to visitors for a meditative walk.

On Sunday, the Seventh Day Adventist choir will perform at 1:15 and 1:45 p.m. and a 12-foot tall, six-sided red cedar Peace Pole will be planted into the St. Ignatius’s grounds. On each side of the pole, the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” will be inscribed in English, Filipino, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Vietnamese, French, Korean and Ibo.

During the Peace Pole ceremony, a Native American group will perform a dance and chant rituals, inviting others to join in, as 12 white doves will be released.

Refreshments will be provided by the Filipino and Sikh communities.

“The beauty of this day is that we are all opening ourselves to be non-judgmental, Ruehlig wrote in an e-mail. “Though it is the public side of a larger phenomenon, a grassroots call for brotherhood, the International Day of Peace can be celebrated anywhere and by anyone. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon or just sitting in quiet meditation. When one man marches, there is a ripple. When an army marches in unison, let alone millions, the earth quakes from the immense impact.”

The International Day of Peace Celebration will take place at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 3351 Contra Loma Blvd., on Saturday, September 18 from 6:15-8:30 p.m. (with an all-night prayer vigil from 8:30 p.m. to Sunday at 9 a.m.) and Sunday, Sept. 19 from 1:15 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Walter Ruehlig at 925-756-7628, 925-864-0314 or e-mail walter.ruehlig@gmail.com.

Editor’s Note: This is one of the most abominable ecumenical services that we have seen in quite some time. Pagan chants to pagan gods, prayer in the local Roman Catholic church, and then a Sunday celebration to commemorate the “peace pole.” Why are the leadership allowing the “good” name of Seventh-day Adventist to become associated with this great abomination. This is exactly what is described in Rev. 18:2 as “a cage every unclean and hateful bird.” What is Ted Wilson doing about this? How can anyone allow this to happen?

—continued from page 1 “The Romeward Trend”

regarded as parts of the same "ecumenical movement," but really we should note a fundamental distinction between them. For while the non-Roman churches are drawing increasingly close together and "union churches" are in the process of being formed across confessional barriers. There is no likelihood within any measurable period of the non-Roman churches being ready to "submit" to Rome in the interests of reunion. As a matter of fact, each of the recent visitors to the Vatican has made it clear that there is a wide gulf between non-Roman and Roman Christendom.

These visits, however, do clearly show a growing readiness, in spite of continuing doctrinal differences, to find a basis of cooperation with Rome, and even a willingness to accept the leadership of Rome as "first among equals" for the creation of a "Christian front" against the outright atheism of the communist East and the growing materialism and secularism of the West.

The significant thing about these two parallel movements is that they are exactly in line with the prophetic picture which the Bible gives us of the religious situation in the last momentous days of the world's history.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of the book of Revelation, John records a series of visions which he was given depicting the development of the culminating apostasy of the last days. First, he saw a power designated "the beast" which, after exercising a tyrannical spiritual domination over the lives of men for many centuries, would suffer a "deadly wound" (Revelation 13:3); to be followed, however, by such a spectacular recovery that "all the world" would wonder "after the beast." There is no difficulty in recognizing this as the church of Rome which, after its zenith of power in the Dark Ages, was almost extinguished by the French Revolution and the democratic upheavals in nineteenth-century Europe, but which today is experiencing such a resurgence.

The revelator goes on in his prophecy to declare that contemporary with the resurgence of "the beast" there would come into existence "an image to the beast" (Revelation 13:14), a parallel ecclesiastical organization of the non-Roman churches which would so water down the "protest" which led to their exodus from Rome that they would become a virtual "image" of the Roman "beast." And no one who has studied the development of the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century can have failed to notice the progressive Catholic tilt which has changed what was a predominantly "Protestant" association of churches.

It would be reasonable to assume that these two parallel religious movements will finally merge into one great lastday apostasy, but according to the prophecy this amalgamation will not take place. Instead, to the end "the beast" and "his image" will remain independent. There will, however, be increasing cooperation between the two, with "the beast" taking the lead in the development of the final apostasy against God. Perhaps this is what we are beginning to glimpse in these Anglican, Episcopal, Baptist, and now Presbyterian "courtesy calls" on the pope.

Which brings us to the culmination of John's prophetic survey of the last days. Parallel with the resurgence of "the beast" and the increasing cooperation with it of the "image to the beast," there will be a drawing together of a third group of faithful believers, only a "remnant" (Revelation 12:17) by comparison with the multitudes being blindly led into the final apostasy of Christendom, but who in the power of the Spirit will not "worship the beast and his image" (Revelation 14:9), but will "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Verse 12.

These, and not the great churches slipping steadily into the clutches of the great apostasy, are the true people of God in the last portentous days of earth's history. More important, therefore, than the recognition of the resurgence of "the beast" and the crystallization of "the image to the beast" in the modern ecumenical movement, is our personal association with the faithful "remnant" who will bear the final witness for God amid the apostasy of the last days.

"Come out of her," "and be ye separate" (Revelation 18:4; 2 Corinthians 6:17) is the call of God to His people as apostasy deepens in the earth. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," is the signpost pointing the way to God's true church in the last days.

Editor’s Note: This 1962 Signs of the Times article predicted precisely the present-day ecumenical movement. All would be moving towards Rome. Little did the author know that some of our own people would be swept down the ecumenical path towards Rome. The servant of the Lord predicted this happening in Adventism. “They are following in the track of Romanism.” (TM p. 362).

The Roman Apostasy Deepens

Roman Catholics and Lutherans Prepare for Full Unity

Pope Benedict's Address to the Lutheran Church

December 15, 2010
chiesa-cattolica.com

Dear Lutheran Friends,

I am happy to greet the representatives of the Lutheran World Federation on the occasion of your official visit to Rome.

Last year marked the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, which has proved a significant step along the difficult path towards re-establishing full unity among Christians and a stimulus to further ecumenical discussion. In these years leading up to the five-hundredth anniversary of the events of fifteen seventeen, Catholics and Lutherans are called to reflect anew on where our journey towards unity has led us and to implore the Lord's guidance and help for the future. I am pleased to note that, for the occasion, the International Lutheran – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity is preparing a joint text which will document what Lutherans and Catholics are able to say together at this point regarding our closer relations after almost five centuries of separation. In order to clarify further the understanding of the Church, which is the main focus of ecumenical dialogue today, the Commission is studying the theme: Baptism and Growing Church Communion. It is my hope that these ecumenical activities will provide fresh opportunities for Catholics and Lutherans to grow closer in their lives.



EDITOR'S NOTE: "Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution." Great Controversy, p. 564.'

Brethren, we had better wake up. There is no time to lose. There is a zealous movement within Roman Catholicism to fast-track the ecumenical movement.

1. We can see that what is happening in the Lutheran Church is also happening to the rest of the religious organizations. Pope Benedict is calling for the reestablishment of "full unity" with the Lutheran church. So much for the historic events of 1517 [Please see editorial on page 2]. 5T 136

2. We can also see how the pope is establishing annual meetings with the World Council of Church in order to have a more "intimate" relationship. The objective is to speak with "one" voice on "ethical" and "theological" topics. The truth is that Rome wants her voice to be the one voice to all the churches and to the world. It is sad that Seventh-day Adventists are members of the organization called "Christian World Communions," a branch of the World Council of Churches. John Graz, of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is the General Secretary of the Christian World Communions. We must seriously ask ourselves, "What is our position on the Second Angel's Message? This message is at the center of the threefold message of Revelation 14. If there is ever a people who should stand apart from Rome with its new plans for the World Council of Churches it should be us.

3. Rome also has new plans for America as she has for the rest of the world. Because the Vatican acknowledges America's super-power status and recognizes that this nation has tremendous influence, Rome wants to set up a series of talks or "dialogs" with the United States Government! And the points to be addressed in these talks is over "faith" and "culture." Ellen White warned us in the following statement: "Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of State, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations...The Jesuits rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and wherever they went, there followed a revival of popery." Great Controversy, p. 234.

What has been predicted in Revelation 13 and 17 is coming to pass. God has given us an opportunity to work for Him. We need to give the three angels' messages to the people while we still have time.

Vatican, World Council of Churches to Meet Yearly

Zenit.org New Agency
Dec. 13, 2010

ROME, DEC. 13, 2010 (Zenit.org).— The new secretary-general of the World Council of Churches met with Benedict XVI earlier this month.

The objective of the annual event is to "define a methodology of common witness and proclamation of the Gospel, to speak to the world with one voice, above all on ethical and theological topics," L'Osservatore Romano explained in a report Wednesday.

The annual meetings will be more intimate than the current workings on relations between the Church and the council. The current commission was created in 1965 and has 36 members, 18 from each side.

The Pope expressed interest in "the way we are developing and planning our future work."

Moreover, Benedict XVI urged putting "the Bible at the center of the theological talks and reflections, to reinforce the visible unity of Christians."

Vatican Seeks Faith-Culture Dialogue With US

Zenit.org News Agency
Dec. 10, 2010
By Genevieve Pollock

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the pontifical council, noted in a video interview, "The United States is a very diverse place with various cultural and social differences, which create an important perspective, one that we would like to engage on the part of the Pontifical Council for Culture, on the part of the Holy See, and, indeed, on the part of Christianity around the world."

Monsignor Melchor Sánchez de Toca y Alameda, undersecretary of the dicastery, affirmed: "The influence of cultural tendencies in the United States has a ripple effect throughout the world. That's why it's so important for the Church to begin a new dialogue with culture in the United States."

The pontifical council and the Camartis Institute have issued a call for proposals for a variety of events and projects to promote this dialogue. ZENIT interviewed Max Bonilla, the president of the Camartis Institute.

ZENIT: Why is the Vatican focusing on the United States in particular for these initiatives?

Bonilla: For two reasons, mainly. The Holy See [Vatican] is well aware that the cultural influence the United States exerts on the rest of the world is very significant.

To enter into a dialogue with the leaders that influence culture so as to understand them more deeply, to pose important questions that challenge assumptions and ultimately that help those cultural influences serve the purpose of improving society, these are objectives that are important to the Holy See. The influence of the United States in world culture makes this initiative a very important one.

The second reason for such interest is that the Holy See [Vatican] has also a real concern for the well-being of the people within the United States and would like to challenge the cultural assumptions that are currently in place to help make our society a better one.

—continued from page 4 “Ted Wilson’s Presidential Crisis”

sustained by tithes and liberal offerings. As the work enlarges, means will be needed to carry it forward in all its branches.” Testimonies, Vol. 4 p. 464.

“The tithe should be used to support medical missionaries who devote their time to treating the sick. In response to such statements as these, I am instructed to say that the mind must not become so narrowed down that it cannot take in the truth of the situation.” Medical Ministry, 245.

It’s quite possible that those who want a monopoly on the tithe or who desire to keep it away from faithful agencies—which have been raised up by God to do a work that is being neglected—are really showing that they are the enemies of truth. Whether President Wilson is doing this knowingly or not doesn’t change the facts. It is a call that could virtually collapse the work that is being done by faithful self-supporting workers, a work that is being neglected at large. We should help these workers, not work to see them wiped out or destroyed for the lack of funds.

Prohibitions Against Supporting Apostasy

There are certain prohibitions against using tithes. What happens when tithe is being used to support lawyers, in some instances Roman Catholic lawyers, to persecute in the courts of law fellow Seventh-day Adventists? As we have reprinted in past issues of The Eternal Gospel Herald, we have a letter in our office written by the General Conference in which they state that tithe is used to pay for all litigation.

How does God see this: “When troubles arise in the church we should not go for help to lawyers not of our faith...In appealing to unbelievers to settle difficulties in the church they are biting and devouring one another. These men cast aside the counsel God has given, and do the very things he has bidden them not to do. They show that they have chosen the world as their judge, and in heaven their names are registered as one with unbelievers. Christ is crucified afresh, and put to open shame. Let these men know that God does not hear their prayers. 3 SM 299.

What if the tithe is being used to promote the false gospel, an ecumenical gospel, or the new theology? These lies originate from the devil himself. What then is our duty? Would God approve the use of millions of dollars of His sacred tithes to be used for these activities. Ted Wilson and many church leaders completely ignore these following statements:

“It would be poor policy to support from the treasury of God those who really mar and injure His work, and who are constantly lowering the standard of Christianity.” Testimonies, Vol. 3 p. 553.

“There are fearful woes for those who preach the truth, but are not sanctified by it, and also for those who consent to receive and maintain the unsanctified to minister to them in word and doctrine.” Ibid., Vol. 1 pp. 261- 262.

“As there are woes for those who preach the truth while they are unsanctified in heart and life, so there are woes for those who receive and maintain the unsanctified in the position which they cannot fill.” Ibid., vol. 2 p. 552.

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.” Testimonies to Ministers, pp. 409- 410.

It is a failure on the part of the church members to support or to maintain the devil’s gospel. That is not a proper use of tithe. Tithe should only be used to support the true gospel ministry that is preaching the historic truths found in Revelation 14:6-12.

Some may reason that our responsibility is just to pay the tithe and leave it up to the leadership what to do with it regardless of the apostasy. But what does God say about this?

“The members must awake out of sleep and begin to inquire, How is the money which we put into the treasury being used? The Lord desires that a close search be made.” The Kress Collection, p. 120.

Don’t Depend on the Conference

“The Conference Committee will take your capital and will appropriate it for this very object. But the Lord has made us individually his stewards. We each hold a solemn responsibility to invest this means ourselves...It is not in the province of the Conference or any other organization to relieve us of this stewardship. If you lack wisdom, go to God, ask him for

yourself, and then work with an eye single to his glory.” 1888 Materials, p. 1442.

“God does not lay upon you the burden of asking the conference or any council if you shall use means entrusted to you by God as you shall see fit, to advance the work of God in destitute towns and cities, and impoverished localities...The high-handed power that has been developed, as though positions had made men gods, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. It is a curse wherever, and by whomsoever it is exercised. This lording it over God’s heritage will create such a disgust of man’s jurisdiction that a state of insubordination will result.” Ibid. p. 1444

Why did God leave us these clear-cut statements on the tithe issue? Why did He tell us not to allow the conference how we give our tithe?

Because, our Savior knew that just before His second coming that “the enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith”(ISM 204). Today, we are dealing with a liberal gospel that has become the prevailing emphasis in the church. The Social Gospel, The Ecumenical Gospel, the Celebration Movement, and the New Theology are rampart throughout the world field.

And because “nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement” (Ibid., p. 204) God in His wisdom gave us counsel on what to do during this time. We are to support those who still hold high the banner of Christ in which is inscribed the three angels’ messages—the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This is the reason why God has ordained the self-supporting work.

Only God Can Dictate Your Conscience

“The high-handed power that has been developed, as though positions had made men gods, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. It is a curse wherever, and by whomsoever it is exercised. This lording it over God’s heritage will create such a disgust of man’s jurisdiction that a state of insubordination will result.” 1888 Materials, p. 1444.

No man is to stand in the place of God and attempt to control one’s conscience. That is for the work of the Holy Spirit. Notice the following inspired statements:

“By exercising your own judgment, giving where you see there is need in any line of the work, you are putting out your money to the exchangers.” 1888 Materials p. 1443.

Every man has been made a steward of sacred trusts; each is to discharge his trust according to the direction of the Giver; and by each an account of his stewardship must be rendered to God.” Testimonies, Vol.7 p. 176.

“Do we individually realize our true position, that as God’s hired servants we are not to bargain away our stewardship? We have an individual accountability before the heavenly universe, to administer the trust committed us of God.” Testimonies to Ministers, 361- 362

Ellen White’s Own Testimony

“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.” Spalding-Magan pp. 215, 216.

We praise God that throughout the history of the church, God’s work has continued to move forward. We know that the work will not cease because of the lack of funds. May we consecrate our lives and our substance to be used by God in a way that is pleasing to Him. Notice this wonderful promise when God’s people give generously to His cause:

“When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd’s voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd.”

- The Editors



EDITOR'S NOTE: We are truly living in the last days. Spiritualism is running rampant and is sweeping the entire Christian world. Rome is leading the way to open the doors by spreading its deadly wine [Rev. 17:2] throughout all America! This should be a wake-up call to every Seventh-day Adventist that while we have been sleeping, the devil has been hard at work.

"If every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us." Evangelism, p. 694.

Apparently, this national Catholic billboard campaign is being conducted by the women in the church which includes "stay-at-home moms." Here we can see how the devil is hiding behind these poor, deceived souls. If the devil could use these women to conduct his business then where is God's army for this time? We should not just be depending on just a few brethren. The hearts and minds of all our people should be motivated to work for God too. If more people would unite to help with the work, we wouldn't allow the devil to steal "a march upon us." We could be coordinating and moving forward with more projects so that many souls can be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

We are not dealing with just "stay-at-home moms" or a religion or some institution. We are not just dealing with some form of government. We are dealing with what the Bible describes as "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Rev. 15:5.

The warfare is against the mother of all abominations of the earth! That's what God says. Ellen White describes this power as "Satan's right hand man" (7BC 910). What is described in the book of Revelation is Satan's Master Plan of Deception which he is using to bring the entire world to himself, to give to himself worship and honor. This power is the bride of Satan just like the remnant church is the bride of Christ.

"Spiritualism is about to take the world captive...superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of Spiritualism in the future." Evangelism, p. 602.

Pope Benedict XVI is telling to world to listen for the Virgin Mary. These 800 Virgin Mary billboards and the pope's message is preparing the world to receive the mark of the beast. By God's grace and the support of each of you, more billboards containing the truth of the Sabbath and a warning against the mark of the beast are going to be coming out. We cannot be silent at this time. Jesus is coming soon, and that is our Joy!

Pope Urges Giving Mary the Gift of Prayer

Underlines Importance of Listening to Our Lady's "Message"

ROME, DEC. 8, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI blessed a basket of roses today that was later placed at the feet of the Column of the Immaculate [an image of the Virgin Mary], but reminded those present that the most precious gift one can give to Mary is prayer.

The Pope said this today, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, during his annual visit to the image of the Immaculate Conception in Rome's Piazza di Spagna. The column of the Immaculate was erected in 1857, shortly after the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

"We are gathered around this historic monument, which today is all surrounded by flowers, sign of the love and devotion of the Roman people for the Mother of Jesus," the Pontiff said. "And the most beautiful gift, and most pleasing to her, that we offer is our prayer, the one we bear in our hearts and which we entrust to her intercession."

The Holy Father then reflected that even more important than gifts or offerings is the act of listening to what Mary has to say. "She speaks to us with the Word of God, which became flesh in her womb," the Holy Father stated.

800 Virgin Mary Billboards Across America

Moms Fund Billboard Evangelism

The Denver Post. Nov. 24, 2010

Call it a random act of evangelism. Nine Catholic mothers in their late 20s to mid-40s, who meet monthly to pray the rosary, helped raise \$1,000 to put up two billboards in the Denver area. Blessed Mother looks down at traffic from two panels, 14 feet by 48 feet, on eastbound Interstate 76 just past the Pecos exit and on northbound South Santa Fe Drive at Iowa Ave. The billboards, almost two weeks old, are slated to remain up at least through mid-November.

"This is My Time," reads the legend next to an image of Mary, Mother of God. Underneath are listed a website, Mej.com, and a telephone number, directing people to a mission called Caritas of Birmingham in Alabama.

Caritas is dedicated to informing people of the supernatural appearances of Blessed Mother to six people at Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Marian apparitions supposedly began in 1981, in what was then Yugoslavia, and have continued, for some of the visionaries, to this day. "Mary is trying to call us all back to Jesus," said Silja Haagenson, a prayer group member. The Catholic Church has not officially recognized the apparitions at Medjugorje, as it did at Fatima and Lourdes, but millions of faithful have made pilgrimages there over the past three decades.

The local billboards are part of a national campaign in which Catholics have funded 800 billboards in 30 states. "It's just a gentle reminder of this amazing event occurring now in the world," said Lisa Fixler, a Denver mother of three who formerly worked in broadcast media sales. "Our prayer group does have a special devotion to Our Lady of Medjugorje," she said.

The prayer group, which includes stay-at-home moms, a nurse, women with doctorates and businesswomen, took eight days, with the help of another prayer group, to raise the cash for printing and shipping the artwork. The women were able to obtain "remnant" or free, unused billboard space.

"We really don't know how it's doing," Fixler said of the billboard effort. "It's pretty random. We just have to trust that some people are seeing it and investigating Medjugorje for themselves." She said a few months ago she never would have anticipated this course of action. Group members became aware of the billboard campaign and jumped on. "God is driving the bus here," Fixler said. "It just felt like a higher power was making it happen."

