

# Is a National Sunday Law Coming Soon? The Eternal Gospel Church Weighs in on the Ever-growing Controversy

San Francisco Chronicle  
November 27, 2012

Today, a National Sunday Law is being agitated under the guise of "saving the family" and the "economy." Does this mean that a religious test will soon be required by law? The Eternal Gospel Church, a ministry founded in 1992 by Seventh-day Adventist Believers, has recently published a full-page ad in the USA Today, New York Times, LA Times, and the Tampa Tribune on the controversial and complex issue surrounding Sunday Laws.

"The re-institution of a National Sunday Law would help save the workers, the family, and the economy. This is what the churches, the governments, the secular media, and the labor unions are lobbying for today," says Pastor Raphael Perez of the Eternal Gospel Church. He says his church, which is a member of the General Assembly of Free Seventh-day Adventists, has been on a nation wide newspaper campaign to raise awareness to what he calls "a revival of religious/political ideas of medieval times that are a threat to civil and religious liberties."

Pastor Raphael Perez cites several recent newspaper articles in which he sees society trying to reestablish Sunday as a national day of worship and rest. For example, Perez says that the USA Today newspaper recently endorsed Sunday observance by law in an article written by Gladys Edmunds on Oct. 24, 2007 entitled: "Better Take a Break, Or You'll Break Down." In this article, the columnist reminisced about a "time when almost all retail establishments recognized Sunday as a day of Sabbath and rest from work. They honored and respected that day by closing." She concluded the article by giving one possible solu-



U.S. President Barack Obama, Roman Catholic Cardinal and Archbishop of New York Timothy Dolan, and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney pray together at a Catholic charity event on October 18, 2012 in New York City. (Photo: Getty Image).

tion: "Shut yourself down for a day of rest." And if not, one would suffer the consequences of resting by "force."

A similar article appeared in the Wall Street Journal by Mollie Ziegler Hemingway entitled: "The decline of the Sabbath in America: Less praying, more working and playing." This article published June 15, 2017 and was circulated nation-wide promoting Sunday-keeping and Sunday closing laws as necessary for saving our culture.

**A World-wide Phenomena**—The Eternal Gospel Church claims that there is a world-wide call to restore Sunday as the day of rest through civil legislation. They claim that laws are being agitated that

would compel people to observe Sunday by refraining from work; and, that the media is complicit in this because they only give one side to this issue. Look at a few of these headlines:

- "National Back to Church Sunday Set for Sept. 18 Across America," PRWeb.com, Sept. 14, 2011
- "Sunday Shopping banned in Croatia," Associated Press, July 15, 2007
- "Louisiana Barber Ticketed for Working on Sunday," Fox-News.com, May 27, 2008
- "Sunday Shopping? France Says No," Time Magazine, Dec. 17, 2008
- "New Sunday Shopping Rules Make No Sense," Winnipeg Sun [Canada], May 23, 2012
- "Do we really need more Sunday shopping hours?" Express & Starr [England], March 29, 2012.

—continued on page 4

## The Ecumenical Movement Intensifies

The era of Protestantism has ended. The great gulf which once separated Protestants and Catholics is being closed. The bridge that is bringing everyone together is called ecumenism. This phenomenon is sweeping the ranks of Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and spiritualism.

"The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this three-fold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience." Great Controversy, p. 588.

In the middle of 2012, the Protestant Westminster Abbey's Choir sang for Pope Benedict XVI along with Rome's Sistine Chapel Choir, at a Papal Mass marking the feast of the "Solemnity of St. Peter," on Friday, June 29, 2012. This was a historic occasion of great significance for Anglican-Catholic relations. For the first time in the history of the 500 year split between the Anglican Church [Protestant] and the Roman Catholic Church, the choirs of both churches sang together in a service that was broadcasted live across the world!

According to a June 29, 2012 press release from Westminster-abbey.org, the Protestant Dean from the Anglican Church, the Very Reverend Dr. John Hall, said these kind words about their visit to the Vatican: "The experience of participating in these liturgies in Rome has enriched the Abbey and its Choir and the Anglican tradition of worship." According to the press release, both choirs sang to

—continued on page 3

## Gods Providence or Just a Coincidence?

"Chaos and Natural Disasters are Coming upon the Earth," reads one of the headlines of our full-page ads. These words became a reality this year during the 2012 Hurricane Season. Hurricane Sandy devastated portions of the Caribbean, the Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern United States. Sandy also impacted the Southeastern and Midwestern states and Eastern Canada. The storm became the largest Atlantic hurricane on record spanning 1,100 miles. Sandy is estimated in early calculations to have caused damage of at least \$20 billion and losses that include business interruption surpass \$50 billion, which would make it the second-costliest Atlantic hurricane behind only Hurricane Katrina. At least 209 people were killed along the path of the storm in seven countries.



However, one month prior to the arrival of Hurricane Sandy, we were able to publish our full-page ad in The Denver Post, The Charlotte Observer, The Tampa Bay Times, The Tampa Tribune, The Sun Sentinel, and in the national edition of The New York Times. The ads were placed in the middle of the main news section of these papers. But the greatest evidence that God is behind His work was in the USA Today.

In early February 2012 we began negotiating with the USA Today on placing our ad in their paper in 2012. After months of delay we were able to negotiate a price from \$199,000 to about \$50,000. One month prior to Hurricane Sandy making landfall, the ad had been secured along with the publication date of October 26, 2012. Obviously, we didn't know that this was the same weekend that Hurricane Sandy was traveling from the Southeast US coast all the way up to the Northeast.

This brought a much greater force and impact to the message, that even a manager at the USA Today asked us if we had a prophet in our church. People were wondering how we were able to warn the world prior to Hurricane Sandy making landfall. The news had been covering this event—coast to coast. And God made it possible for us to warn the nation coast to coast. Let us pray that even greater miracles can happen in this new year of 2013. We thank all of you for standing with us.

# Pray This Year Be Our Best

—by *Pastor Raphael Perez*

As we enter a new year, let us think about how much we owe our God for His blessings throughout the past. We must rehearse our experiences, devotions, decisions, and work which we have done for the Lord.

With so many things happening around us we must pray that this year we may be able to do our best for the Lord. There are several wonderful statements from the Spirit of Prophecy that we can read, however, I like the following:

“The opening of our hearts to our Heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love—this is true prayer.” Signs of the Times, July 1, 1886.

Our lives should be just as the life of our Savior, Whose life was one of a constant living connection with His Father through prayer and meditation of God’s word. His followers in this generation must become this people.

“Unless they are rooted and grounded in the truth of the Bible, and have a living connection with God, many will be infatuated and deceived. Dangers unseen beset our path. Our only safety is in constant watchfulness and prayer.” 5T 141.

This experience is so important to the Christian life, especially to those living in the end time. Peter wrote: “The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” 1 Peter 4: 7.

It is not difficult to think of things about which we should pray, for life is so full of difficulties which we may bring to God. But we must not just pray for ourselves. The Scriptures also speak of several subjects which should have a part in our talks with our heavenly Father.

1. We must pray for victory in our lives: “Pray that ye enter not into temptation.” Luke 22:40.
2. We must pray for those who are suffering: “Pray one for another, that ye may be healed.” James 5:16.
3. We must pray for the work of the third angel to be finished: “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.” Matt. 9:38.
4. We must pray for the conversion of the ungodly: “Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” Matt. 5:44.
5. We are also exhorted to pray “for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Tim. 2:1, 2).

## 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.eternalgospel.com](http://www.eternalgospel.com)

<i>Editor</i>	<i>Contributors</i>
<b>Raphael Perez</b>	<b>Miriam Ponce</b>
<i>Copy Editors</i>	<b>Norma Perez</b>
<b>Patricia Rocco</b>	<b>Maria McGinty</b>

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.

6. And soon we will see our Savior come in the clouds of glory. He counsels us to: “Watch ye therefore, and **pray** always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” Luke 21:36.

And the best thing about prayer is that it is not limited to just being inside the house of God. The word of God makes it clear that the true Christian will be in constant prayer wherever he or she may be found.

1. This can be done in the mountains: “He went up into a mountain apart to pray.” Matt. 14:23.
2. Prayer can be done in the private closet: “When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father.” Matt. 6: 6.
3. It can be done on the housetop: “Peter went up upon the housetop to pray.” Acts 10: 9.
4. Prayer can be done by the riverside: “We went out of the city by a river side where prayer was wont to be made.” Acts 16: 13.
5. It can be done by the water’s shore: “We kneeled down on the shore and prayed.” Acts 21: 5.
6. Prayer can be done in the field: “And Isaac went out to meditate [pray] in the field at the eventide.” Gen. 24: 63.
7. Prayer can be done everywhere: “I will therefore that men pray everywhere.” 1 Tim. 2: 8.

Let us this year live in harmony with these divine instructions. Let us pray wherever we are found in this next year. May we commune with God so that we can forever be men and women of prayer.

We also solicit yours prayer and support for our ministry this year. We have plans to do more this year than we did last year—by God’s grace. God bless you all.

**Letters** Hello my name is Joseph; I came across your site and read some of your Eternal Gospel Herald publications. I found your publications far better than the Focus and Adventist world magazines that we get. I am writing this letter to let you know that I will print the following issues 7.8, 7.9 & 7.1 on a normal A4 paper printer to distribute to the Brethren. I live in Birmingham United Kingdom and fellowship with the brethren at north field Birmingham . Your evangelism tools are better than what we are using here, ours seems to have an ecumenical approach, and greatly lacking the sinners need for Christ, the third Angles message righteousness by faith. Have a good day. Thank you for your articles and placing your trust in Jesus. Sincerely, **Joseph W., United Kingdom.**

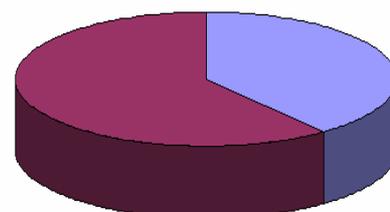
Dear Sir, I liked your full page advertisement in the September 15, 2012 New York Times Newspaper! Could you tell me what year the worship day went from Saturday to Sunday? Why do most Protestants, Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics have Sunday as their day of worship? How could they all be wrong? Could you send me your free books on Spiritualism and the Dead? I would love to study it. Thanks for your help. Yours truly, **Paul McHale from Ohio.**

Dear Pastor Perez, Thank you for the ministry that the Lord has given you and I’m so thankful for the Ministry Updates. Thank you for being a faithful Pastor and warning the people about what’s coming. I want to be ready when He comes. Sincerely in Christ, **Alice Dewese from Michigan.**

Pastor Raphael, May God continue to bless your ministry so many lost souls will accept Christ Jesus’s sacrifice so His Bride will be ready for Him to come and take us to be with Him for eternity. Praise His Holy Name! Your sister in Christ, **Mary Jane Grafton from Illinois.**

## Oklahoma Camp Ground

**This project is so that we can accommodate more people during camp meeting due to our limited space.** **\$23,000 Raised for Sleeping Facility**



—continued from page 1 “Ecumenical Movement Intensifies”

the Pope the famous song written by Giovanni Pierlugig de Palestrina called “*Tu es Petrus*” or “*Thou art Peter*.”

Of course the lyrics to this song include these words: “That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Unbelievable! What an abomination! One of the reasons for the great divide or the great gulf between Protestants and Roman Catholics is over the role of Peter. Catholics claim that Jesus Himself made Peter His earthly successor and supreme leader of the newly formed church. Therefore, according to Catholic theology, the popes are the successors of Peter and possess supreme authority over all spiritual matters.

Protestants believe from the study of the Scriptures that the church was founded on Jesus the Rock, and Peter was just another apostle and had no more authority than any of the others.

But that was not all. Another song that was sung to Pope Benedict XVI was John Tavener’s song entitled “Hymn to the Mother of God.” The song is a praise to the Virgin Mary and says: “In You, O Woman full of Grace, The angelic choirs and the human race, All creation rejoices! O sanctified Temple [Mary], Mystical Paradise, and glory of Virgins.”

This is also amazing! How can Protestants sing praises and calls to worship and reverence to the Virgin Mary—a dead person? How far has Protestantism fallen away from Bible truth! This is preparing the world for spiritualism and the three-fold union that is coming (Rev. 16:13, 14).

“Under the influence of this threefold union, [Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and Spiritualism—the three unclean spirits of Revelation 16:13] this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” Great Controversy, p. 588.

It is amazing as you consider the speed and implications of these great steps in the development of ecumenism. So much has transpired in the last couple of years within Protestantism than we could ever have imagined. The great gulf between the churches has truly disappeared. We are seeing something that was inconceivable in previous generations.

Now what does all this mean for Seventh-day Adventists, and how should we relate to the ecumenical movement? It is true that there has been many among us who believe that Seventh-day Adventists should try to “go along” with the ecumenical movement and become involved directly or at least participate with them as far as it is possible. The arguments for our involvement are many – from the need to promote religious liberty to the notion that we shouldn’t alienate ourselves from the opportunity to witness to other Christians.

While it is true that we must be kind and even charitable to all people, we must first, above all else, be honest and faithful to our calling. Any Seventh-day Adventist who does not express this conviction has obviously forgotten certain basic facts about the Adventist Movement.

The primary reason why we must remain true and stand apart from these ecumenical entanglements is because of the Loud Cry/Latter Rain message. We believe that soon this message will finish the work prior to the coming of Christ. And this message clearly says, “*Come out of*

*her [who is “her” if not Babylon and all her daughters], My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*”

Revelation 18 is to lighten the whole world with its glory. This message along with Revelation 14 is Earth’s Final Warning and must be given in a “loud voice.” These messages are to continue to be proclaimed until the close of human probation. These messages are the very “heart” of the Remnant Church. In fact, it was because of these messages that we even exist today as a separate people!

In the name of all that is sacred and holy; How can we in one breath say, “Let us join” and in the next breath say, “Come out of her, My people?” The answer is we can’t! That would bring “confusion.” If ever there was a time in which it was necessary that we should understand the reason for our existence, and why it is that we must stand apart, that time is now.

We didn’t join the Remnant Church of Revelation 12:17 just because the people were nice or because they were doing charity and humanitarian works. These things are important and have their place in the church today. But we should never join a religious movement simply because it has nice people.

The true reason for joining the Remnant Church is because within that group of people is found *a life and death message*, a message that is totally different from that which is given by all the ecumenical churches. And it is our prayer that the life and death messages of Revelation 14 and 18 will help us to be nice people who love one another and who do good works of charity.

But most importantly, this group of people is preparing the world for the final test between the laws of men and the laws of God. This group is exposing the great deceptions that will cause the eternal ruin to millions. This group of people is truly preparing a people to receive the seal of the living God and to stand in the day of Christ’s return. By God’s grace, let us become this faithful people who will be true to the calling.

“(1) The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, (2) the inroads of Spiritualism, the (3) stealthy but rapid progress of the

papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from Heaven.” The Great Controversy, p. 606.

This is the work which we must do. The world must be warned as to what constitutes the beast, the image of the beast, his mark—and most importantly, how to avoid them all and how to receive the seal of the living God. This is the testing message that will be the central theme as we come to the close of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

“It is for the interest of all to understand what the mark of the beast is, and how they may escape the dread threatenings of God. Why are men not interested to know what constitutes the mark of the beast and his image? It is in direct contrast with the mark of God.” 7BC 979.

- The Editors



**The Protestant and Catholic choirs sing to Pope Benedict XVI during a Papal Mass.**



**Pope Benedict XVI greets the Protestant leaders - choir directed by James O'Donnell and the Dean of Westminster Abbey, Dr. John Hall.**



**The Protestant choir bows before the Pope at the Vatican.**



Pope Benedict created seven new saints on Sunday, October 21, 2012, including the first Native American to be canonized, in the Roman Catholic Church.



Pope Benedict XVI presides over a special mass to canonize seven new saints. In his address, he called upon everyone to turn to the Virgin Mary who is the Queen of all the Saints. [REUTERS].



—continued from page 1 “Sunday Laws are Coming”

- “Trade Unionists Campaign Against Sunday Trading” PolskieRadio, [Poland, March 5, 2012
- “North Dakota Catholic Conference Says Sunday Law Benefits All People” EWTN News, July 15, 2011
- “Sunday Shopping Linked With Less Happiness,” New York Times, Sept. 3, 2010
- “Guarantee that Sundays will be Work-free, EU Leaders Urged,” The Sofia Echo [Europe], March 24, 2010
- “German Court Enforces Day of Rest,” ABC News, Dec. 3, 2009

**Preparing the World for a Universal Sunday Law?**—The Vatican, head of the world’s largest Christian denomination, has also weighed in on the Sunday Law question: “The pope said traditional family values and Sunday rest were key to escaping the ills of modern society... Particularly in a period of economic crisis and social unease, families should celebrate Sunday as the day of man and his values.” - Pope Says Family Values are Key to Escaping Modern Ills, AFP News, June, 3, 2012.

Surprisingly, the U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled in two separate cases [McGowan v. Maryland, 1961, and Braunfeld v. Brown, 1961] that Sunday laws are not a violation of the First Amendment – which separates church from state – but rather, Sunday Laws are “secular” and are designed to improve the “health, safety, recreation, and general well-being” of its citizens.

**A Lesson from History**—Pastor Raphael Perez says that we should learn from history and not make the same mistakes of the past. He says that on the surface all these Sunday Laws sound quite refreshing. However, he claims that we cannot ignore that in Colonial America, Sunday Laws, or Blue Laws, were established as early as 1655 by the Puritan Christians in an effort to try to compel the people to attend their religious services - by law! Failure to do so would result in fines, imprisonment, and even death.

“Also in Europe, during the Middle Ages, at the Council of Laodicea

## The Reason for Our Virgin Mary Billboards

Pope Benedict created seven new saints on Sunday, October 21, 2012 at the Vatican. This ceremony included the first Native American to be canonized. Thousands of pilgrims from around the world came to the Vatican to witness the ceremony recognizing the saints, who included Kateri Tekakwitha, a sixteenth-century Mohawk Indian convert. In the crowd present was a 12-year-old boy who survived a potentially fatal flesh-eating virus, which the Vatican attributed to miraculous intervention by Saint Kateri.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Pope Benedict XVI declared: “Before concluding this celebration, let us turn to her who is the Queen of all the Saints, the Virgin Mary. Today we would especially like to entrust missionaries to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary...May the holiness and witness of these saints inspire us to draw closer to the Son of God who, for such great love, came to serve and offer his life for our salvation. God bless you all!” Zenit.org, October 22, 2012, “On World Mission Sunday.”

Pope Benedict XVI praised the Virgin Mary and called upon all to turn to her. He is pushing for more and more devotion and dedication to Mary and the dead saints. This is opening the door to spiritualism. As watchmen on the walls, we must lift up a voice of warning and expose this fatal error that, along with the Sunday Law movement, is sweeping the world and preparing them for destruction! The doctrine of the immortality of the soul, which makes possible to have all the saints in heaven, must be exposed for what it truly is—this teaching is called in the bible, “the doctrine of devils” (Rev. 16:14).

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions.” GC 588.

“The inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked.” GC 606.

Should there be any question as to why we need to expose this error! It is through this teaching that Satan has ensnared the world under his deceptions. And God declares that this doctrine of Babylon must “be unmasked.” This is exactly what our billboards, newspaper ads, radio programs, and publications are doing. And because God said the doctrine of the immortality of the soul must be exposed, why then are some of our Seventh-day Adventist brethren opposed or indifferent to this kind of work? How then can we reach those precious souls that are still in Babylon? God has a people there that He wants to bring into his fold.

May the Lord help us to keep placing more billboards, more newspaper ads, more radio programs, more missionary publications, and every other means to reach people with the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14 while the door is still open. Soon the door will forever be closed. Let’s remain faithful to our calling and be found doing the work God has given us.

—The Editors

363-364 A.D., Canon 29, church and state united to persecute those who didn’t follow the Sunday Law” says Pastor Perez, a former Roman Catholic seminary student now turned Seventh-day Adventist.

**Voice of Dissent**—Not everyone is convinced that Sunday Laws are good for society. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas gave a dissenting opinion against the establishment of Sunday by law in *McGowan v. Maryland*, 366 U.S. 420 (1961): “The Court picks and chooses language from various decisions to bolster its conclusion that these Sunday laws in the modern setting are civil regulations. No matter how much is written, no matter what is said, the parentage of these laws is the Fourth Commandment; and they serve and satisfy the religious predispositions of our Christian communities.”

Also Charles Spurgeon, the famous 19th Century Baptist preacher, sums up his dissent against Sunday Laws when he said: “I am ashamed of some Christians because they have so much dependence on Parliament (government) and the law of the land. As to getting the law of the land to touch religion, we earnestly cry, ‘Hands off! Leave us alone!’ Your Sunday bills (Laws) and all other forms of act-of-Parliament religion seem to me to be all wrong.” *American State Papers, Bearing on Sunday Legislation*, p. 737.

“Remember that religious legislation, regardless of how innocent or beneficial it may appear, always seems to bring persecution to minority groups,” explains Pastor Raphael Perez. Perez feels that he is in the minority group because His church keeps the Seventh-day, or Saturday, as the Sabbath instead of Sunday. He concludes by reiterating a call to religious liberty and calls for toleration, “America became great because of its free institutions. Our U.S. Constitution forbids the establishment of a state church and forbids the church from using the state to punish the voice of dissent. These principles established by the Founding Fathers made this nation a bastion of liberty, freedom, and justice for all.

**Editor’s Note:** This article that was published in the San Francisco Chronicle was syndicated world-wide through Yahoo News, Google News, World-News.com, DigitalJournal.com, and a dozen other news agencies, reaching millions of people. This interview came as a result of our extensive newspaper campaign in which we recently published our full-page ad in various newspapers such as the USA Today, New York Times, LA Times, and many others.