

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

Italians, backed by the Catholic Church, aim to stop Sunday shopping

Christian Science Monitor
December 26, 2012
By Giulia Lasagni

Italians are fighting a government lift of regulations on business operation hours, insisting that the move will eventually hurt the small shops and values that have long been the foundation of the Italian business community.

The deregulation, put into effect January 2012, removes restrictions on business operating hours, including Sundays and holidays. It is intended to stimulate competition in what has traditionally been a highly regulated market. However, it has been vehemently criticized by many shop owners, and the campaign against it has received a boost from the powerful Catholic Church.

Campaign organizers argue that working on Sunday has forced employees to sacrifice "important values" and benefited big companies at the expense of small businesses.

Headed by Confesercenti, a leading retailers' business association, and backed by the powerful Italian Bishops Conference, the campaign began at the end of November. Its organizers are hoping to collect the 50,000 signatures required to submit a bill to Parliament by April. The bill would give regions – rather than the national Parliament – the power to regulate Sunday openings. The goal of the bill isn't to outlaw opening on Sundays, but to eliminate "the excesses" brought by deregulation, say organizers.

If it gets the signatures, the bill would most likely be examined after the February election.

“People say: ‘It’s nice to have shops open —continued on page 3

The Three Angels are Flying

“The three angels messages of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth.” Testimonies, Vol. 5, pp. 455, 456.

It is the firm conviction of every faithful Seventh-day Adventist that we were brought into existence by God to fulfill this prophecy. To say that the Advent Message came into being in response to prophecy is a call to every Seventh-day Adventist to wake up from inactivity. As we near the climax of human history, a watching and waiting people, will arise to do a special work in preparing the human race for the end. This work will continue to swell into the Loud Cry of Revelation 18.

“As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel’s message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image.” Testimonies, Vol. 8, p. 118.

To be the heralds of God’s last warning message to the world is an awesome responsibility and a most sacred trust. It means that this movement has a special message from Heaven to prepare men and women for the grand culmination of the plan of redemption.

The Advent Movement, then, did not come into being as the result of human planning. It came in response to the leading of God’s Holy Spirit in order to proclaim the solemn closing of the gospel at this climactic period of history. God’s Spirit will move mightily among His people as we approach the end.

“Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the

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Our Journey Home

As God called ancient Israel to preserve His knowledge of His law and to prepare the world for the coming of His Son; so, He has called us to the same task. The world today has to understand that obedience to God's commandments, through the power of Christ's indwelling Spirit, means to reflect the image of God's character. It is only by this experience that Israel would be holy and happy and would find peace and rest in their journey to the promised land.

To help Moses sustain the great work which God gave him to do (build the sanctuary and conduct its services), God called for tithes and offerings to sustain the work:

"Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering." Ex. 25:2.

"And they came every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work." Ex. 35:21.

As we begin a new year, we pray that your heart may be stirred as you consider supporting the work of this ministry. The different billboards and full-page newspaper ads that we have been placed in the last 20 years are designed to lift up high in to the world the standard of Christ upon which is written: "The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

Starting this year, we are beginning to produce television programs that will be aired on different satellite channels so that millions of more people can be reached by our end-time message. Praise the Lord!

We are not moving backwards to Egypt, nor are we heading to the desert wanderings of Sinai. We want to move forward with the work, see it finished, and enter the promised land. By God's grace and your faithful prayers and support, this next year will be a tremendous blessing in the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes. May God bless each of you in this new year. —The Editors

The Old Testament Idolatry in Modern Times

Jeremiah the prophet described the idolatry of ancient Babylon when he said: "It is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols." Jer. 50:38.

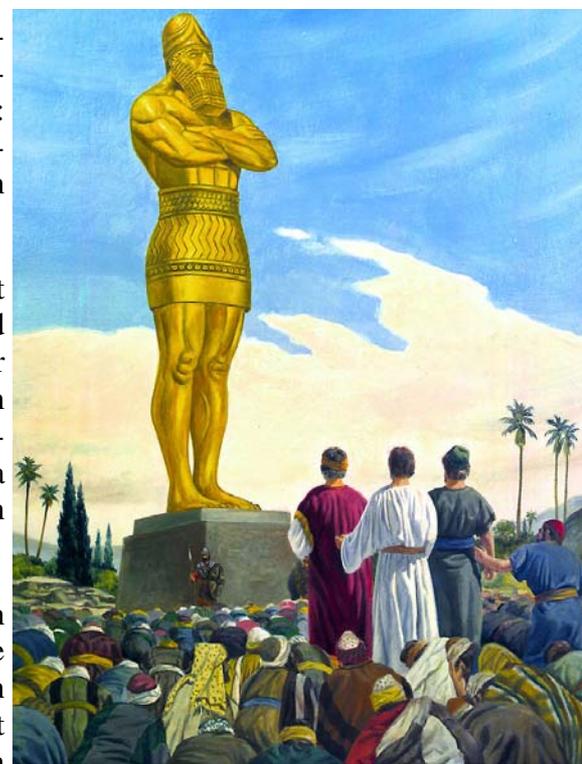
The word mad does not mean anger, but instead "deprived of reason" or "drunk." The Babylonian spirit of fanatical idol worship is used in Scripture as a symbol of being drunk with error or false doctrines.

The prophet also Isaiah gives us a scene of the idolatry that took place in Babylon during their great religious festivals when their gods were carried on carts.

“Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast. They stoop, they bow down together.” Isa. 46:1, 2.

Ancient Babylon had numerous gods and goddesses and the Babylonians carried these images and worshipped and paid homage to them in public. The Babylonians took great care of their idols and preserved and protected them. They would also call upon the people to give honor to their gods and to regard them.

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Authority of Mission

—By Pastor Raphael Perez

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matt. 28:19, 20.

This is where we receive the authority to engage in missionary work. This is the authority that is given to every follower of Jesus to carry the good news of salvation to the entire world.

Do we have a sense of mission, knowing that we are at the end of time? Are we individually being called to engage in missions? Does mission only apply to crossing the ocean and going into a strange land in order to be a true missionary?

The line that defines our mission, according to Jesus, is the line between belief and unbelief. We are commanded to teach all those things which Jesus taught us to those who do not believe. There are so many people in the great cities in our own homeland, as there are in the remote villages or jungles across the seas! There are unbelievers in our very own backyard, and we must have a sense of urgency to reach them too.

Jesus was “the greatest missionary the world has ever known” (Welfare Ministry, p. 118). And He never left His people, but labored endlessly to reach His own. The front line of mission is wherever there are people who do not know Christ or His message for this time! This spirit of mission is to carry on with the work that Christ did.

The early disciples had a sense of urgency and were motivated to work. They went everywhere preaching and teaching to the uttermost parts of the earth. They began in Jerusalem, which became a strong home base. Thousands of Jews were converted to Christ right in Jerusalem.

As the message began to spread it was eventually carried throughout Judea, Samaria, Asia, Rome, Eastern Europe, and Northern Africa, and to the rest of the world. They had no radio broadcast, no television programs, no vehicles to help move them along – but they had a tremendous sense of urgency and the power of the Holy Spirit! Surely, this need and urgency are much more needed today!

We have a tremendous challenge in this end-time generation. We must renew our urgency of proclaiming the everlasting gospel of the Rev. 14 and 18 to the entire world. Because there is an ever increasing rise of godlessness, we must meet this tremendous challenge with the present-truth found in the Three Angels’ Messages.

Another cause for the urgency of mission is the harvest that is ripening all around us. There are thousands who are yet to be brought into

the knowledge of the truth. The Holy Spirit desires to lead souls into the saving power of truth. Never has there been a greater urgency for missions than now. Never has there been greater opportunities with modern technology to proclaim the good news than now.

Many of our people spend their time and energy just wondering how can we ever reach the 7 billion people in this world with our message and never do anything to further the work for this time. With the world’s increasing need for the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14, God has provided ways and means to take His gospel message to the ends of the earth. **Full-page newspaper ads** can reach millions of people all at once with the truth for this hour. We can see the great potential in newspaper ads of reaching so many people. **Radio programs, cable/television/satellite, billboards, literature work, the internet,** and every other means empowered by the Holy Spirit are mighty tools for evangelism for the saving of souls.

Friends, the hour is late and people must know that Jesus is coming and that most importantly, how to be ready. We must help others to get ready for His coming. All of our efforts must be accompanied by the working of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of the people.

As we have entered another year, there is an urgency that is even greater than previous generations. We then must take the gospel to the whole world for it is the most urgent need for this hour. We thank God for the marvelous providences in all that is being done today. Yet there are many more fields that are ripe for harvest. God is ready to give His Holy Spirit without measure. Must He wait longer? Must millions more will go down into a sinner’s hopeless grave without hearing the good news of salvation?

Yes, mission is a fundamental principle in Adventism and the very means which God will use to finish His work. He commands us to go and share this wonderful message so that others may live. What is your response in this hour of unprecedented urgency? We appeal for your help for the work that we are currently doing. Your prayers and support are always appreciated and without God’s grace and your contributions it would not be possible to reach the millions of people that are being reached throughout the world.

Letters



To the blessed people who have shared this good news with me, Thank you! My name is Norman, I live with my brother Kenneth, who has a subscription to your paper and has shared these papers with me. I have enjoyed reading it and I wish to subscribe to these also. I will be moving to another address sometime soon so, I will be letting you know when and where to send these to me. In the meantime, you can send them to me at this address. May God bless you and keep watch over you in this perilous hour of earth’s history. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen! **Norman from Oregon.**

Hi! My name is Mr. McCormick, can you please send me a Free Book, so I can learn God’s Word. I can read it to people who cannot read.. I want to know about God, my Father in heaven and my Lord Jesus Christ, who died for my sins and the people who believe in him. I know, I do it with all my heart and soul. I thank you for helping me. Amen, **Mr. McCormick from Arizona**

Dear Brothers and Sisters at The Eternal Gospel Herald; as the Lord Jesus draws near, there is our part to do, in letting people everywhere know about the salvation of the Lord and the times we are living in now. If you can, please send me here in prison 3 English “National Sunday Law” books and 3 in Spanish. I so much would appreciate it. People here and everywhere need to know the truth about this time. May the Lord bless you and keep you ready for His coming, I pray for you, brothers and sisters. Thank you, your brother in Christ with much love! **Daniel from Kingman, Arizona**

Oklahoma Campmeeting

Dates: April 18-20, 2014



Speakers:
Evangelist Christopher Hudson
From Oregon, Pastor Herold
Cortez from Colton, California;
Raphael Perez from Eternal
Gospel Ministry and others

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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 “The Three Angels are Flying”

earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.” Great Controversy, p. 612.

We must always remember that Seventh-day Adventism was never meant to become just another of the many Christian denominations. God never intended that we become sidetracked or distracted or even try to compete with a membership and numbers just as all the other churches. It was never God’s plan to sacrifice so much effort and service to create another mainstream denomination. We are a worldwide restoration and reformatory movement designed to prepare human beings to face the final judgment.

God raised us up a special people so that the world could be stirred with the preaching of the eternal gospel in the setting of the special messages of the three angels of Revelation 14. Because of the impending judgment, this gospel needs to be heralded with a new urgency and a new fervor and never allow side issues to derail us from the work given for this hour.

First Angel’s Message

“Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come” (Rev. 14:7).

The command to fear God is to show Him proper reverence, respect, and awe as the Judge of all the earth. This message is extremely urgent because of the condition in which the world is now. The world has lost its belief in God! The false gods of vice, fashion, and appetite are sweeping away the masses into a godless age! Men and women have forgotten that we are called upon to give glory to God, which includes to reveal His character in our own life. But sadly, the world glorifies sin and unrighteousness. This message is given because we have forgotten to recognize God as our Creator and to render Him true worship by keeping all of His commandments including the Seventh-day Sabbath.

“The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God...It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep His commandments, will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment.” Great Controversy, p. 438.

The Second Angel’s Message

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8).

The second angel’s message is a warning against Babylon the Great and against her daughters – which symbolizes the organized apostate religions in the closing days of earth’s history. In particular, Babylon is a reference to those religious organizations that have allied themselves with the different political powers to oppose God’s true people. This is exactly what is happening today. The churches have united with the state. They have become one! This world-wide proclamation is a warning to all the churches reminding them that they are to be united to Christ and not the world through political entanglements. It is Babylon, who has made the nations drunk with false religious teachings and who has sought the support of legal enactments to enforce her false theories.

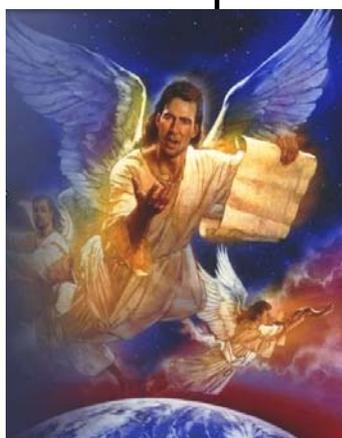
“In this scripture the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel, [Revelation 14:8.] is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth, the minds of the people have become darker.” Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4, p. 421.

The Third Angel’s Message

“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.” (Rev. 14:9-10).

The third angel’s message is a solemn warning against false worship, the worship of the beast and his image, and against receiving the mark of the beast. The people of God will face the two-horned beast of Revelation 13 which will demand that all the world worship the first beast. All who refuse will face the threat of death (Rev. 13:15). Furthermore, those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast are threatened with an economic boycott (Rev. 13:17). However, those who accept the mark of the beast will drink of the wrath of God.

This is the issue for all those who are living upon the earth. This issue



is sharply drawn between the commandments of God, particularly the Seventh-day Sabbath, and the commandments of men – the spurious Sunday Sabbath. The issue is not over the a day. It is over WHO IS GOD.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Rom. 6:16.

If Jehovah is God, then we will obey Him and keep His commandments the way He gave it. Or, if the Antichrist of the last days is god, then we will keep his commandments which are in opposition to the true God. Prophecy predicted that the Antichrist power would attempt to change God’s seventh-day Sabbath:

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws [the part of God’s law the deals with time – the Sabbath]: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” Dan. 7:25.

“False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious Sabbath [Sunday]. This is Satan’s plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation.” Bible Commentary, Vol. 7 p. 976.

Because of the urgency of this message, many of our people will try to smoothen this message or not give it with all the emphasis the God demands because of fear: “Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” Rev. 13:4. Brethren, there will be just a few who will be involved in the work of sounding the voice of warning.

The Time to Act is Now

These will be the final warning messages given to the world. All of this takes place before the second coming of Christ and will result in preparing a harvest for His coming (Rev. 14: 14-20). The startling urgency of the message becomes apparent when we realize that we are living at the time when this crisis is just before us. It is while men and women on earth are still capable of receiving the message and of acting upon it that the final test will take place. The time of the giving of the three angels’ messages in this solemn, crucial hour is now. The world today needs to hear the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ preached with new urgency and in the setting of the three angels’ messages.

—The Editors

—Continued from page 1 “Italians backed by the Catholic ...”

on Sunday.’ But I don’t make extra sales on Sunday,” says Aldina Orlandini, who has run a clothing shop in a busy downtown street in Reggio Emilia, an affluent town near Bologna, since 1978.

Ms. Orlandini says deregulation hasn’t hurt her business, since her store can count on a steady pool of customers. Still, she says, the measure is just wrong.

“People have the right to rest one day per week. Am I not a human being? Don’t I have a family?” Orlandini says. “The law should mandate a day off.”

But for Mauro Bussoni, the vice director of Confesercenti and the coordinator of the “Free Sunday” campaign, the problem is more systemic. “This measure favors certain retailers,” he says.

Deregulation hasn’t increased sales, and it has only increased costs for small businesses, since putting together shifts during the holidays is easier for big stores, which are more able to pay the extra costs, including overtime, Mr. Bussoni argues.

Bussoni says he fears that without regulation of the days and hours stores can operate, a competition will emerge in which only the fittest survive at the expense of mom-and-pop operations, which are already being hit hard by the recession. Istat, Italy’s statistics bureau, recently reported that retail sales for October 2012 were 3.8 percent lower than in October 2011. The process, he says, would change the face of Italian cities, threatening the quality of life of people, such as senior citizens, who rely on neighborhood stores.

The campaign’s organizers argue it’s more than a matter of competing business models, but defending the right of

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As ancient Babylon passed away, prophecy predicted the rise of mystic, modern Babylon the Great. The Prophecy described a new end-time Babylon that would rule over the kings of the earth. [Read Revelation 17]. In the history of the world, Rome alone—both in its pagan period and its modern papal counterpart, can fulfill this prophecy.

Ancient pagans had their Queen of Heaven: “The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.” Jer. 7:18.

Today this ancient pagan queen has been revived in the “church” and has given her a new name—Mary the Queen of Heaven! Just look at how people venerate, pay homage, and worship the images and pictures of the Virgin Mary, and you will get of glimpse of the worship and idolatry that was found in ancient Babylon.

The Scriptures represent both ancient Babylon and its modern present-day counterpart as making the nations drunk on the mysterious wine of error, which dims the understanding. Thank God for the clearest words of scripture which says “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim. 2:5.

“Spiritualism is about to take the world captive.” Signs of the Times, May 28, 1894.

Many have asked us why are putting out billboards on the state of the dead and the Virgin Mary. Even though the Sabbath is the main issue in the end-time conflict between good and evil, Satan will use modern spiritualism to captivate the world with his deceptions.

He will deceive many into believing that God is sending messages through spiritualism/dead telling people that the Sabbath has been changed from Saturday through Sunday. And because Jesus has purchased the souls of these lost sheep, it is imperative for us to support this kind of work and reach as many people with the truth that will expose the popular error of this time.

—The Editors



—Continued from page 3 “Italians backed by the Catholic ...”

workers and shop owners to spend time with their families.

“On Sunday, leave us alone,” says Mina Giannandrea, a shop owner and the president of FEDERstrade, a Rome retailers’ association that’s also participating in the campaign. “People who shop on Sunday are selfish; they don’t think about those who have to work on Sunday,” Ms. Giannandrea says.

The importance of family time is the message that has perhaps resonated the most with the Catholic Church, which has thrown its support behind the campaign.

“Freedom without truth, without a higher end is mere caprice,” said Archbishop Giancarlo Bregantini, stressing the importance of a day of rest as mandated by the Bible in an interview with Vatican Radio.

Supporters of deregulation emphasize the freedom it gives consumers – a different notion of freedom than embraced by the Confesercenti cam-



Pope Benedict says the Virgin Mary is the Foundation for Peace

Zenit News [Zenit.org]

January 2, 2013

By Junno Arocho

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated mass at St. Peter's Basilica yesterday for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. While acknowledging the tensions growing in the world due to a "selfish and individualistic mindset", Pope Benedict expressed his hope that peacemaking efforts in the world would testify to "mankind's innate vocation to peace."

Pope Benedict said that the root of how one can obtain peace can be found in the gospel of Luke. The Holy Father recalled the Virgin Mary's "even tempered" demeanor, though not finding room at the inn.

"This is the interior peace which we ought to have amid the sometimes tumultuous and confusing events of history, events whose meaning we often do not grasp and which disconcert us," the Pope said.

Concluding his homily, the Holy Father invoked the Virgin Mary to aid all in contemplating the face of Christ. "May she sustain us and accompany us in this New Year: and may she obtain for us and for the whole world the gift of peace," the Pope said.

Editor's Note: Where in the Bible is Mary described as the answer to all the modern problems facing the world? Why is she given titles that only belong to God? “Immaculate Virgin,” “Refuge of Sinners,” “Most Pure,” “Gate to Heaven,” “Queen of Heaven” and many more titles that don't apply to her in the Bible. We are told the Mary is at the right hand of Jesus and God interceding in behalf of sinners? Is she even alive or enthroned in heaven? Where is the Bible evidence for such teaching?

Mary, as well as Joseph, Peter, and Paul, are asleep awaiting the call of the Life-giver during the resurrection of the last day. Never do the scriptures command the faithful followers of Jesus to seek help from the dead. Never do the scriptures command us to erect images in their honor and to pay homage to them or bow down to them.

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?” Isa. 8:19.

paign. Deregulation has given customers the ability to make purchases whenever it suits them, and stores should take advantage of this during the economic downturn, says Giovanni Cobolli Gigli, the president of Federdistribuzione, an association of Italian retail chains.

Editor's Note: In this article we can see how the churches are putting pressure on elected officials to not allow Sunday to become deregulated. Sunday is becoming a issue throughout Europe as the churches are uniting with labor unions.

Soon, this Sunday agitation will be seen on a larger scale throughout the whole world. We have been told that “legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law.” (5T 450). Can we not see from this article that prophecy is being fulfilled on a smaller scale? Soon these arguments will become international. We must now sow the seeds of the Seventh-day Sabbath truth before the crisis begins. It will be during that crisis that all the seeds of truth sown shall bear their fruit.

God has been telling us this for over a hundred years. Let us hope and pray that we can do the work that needs to be done before it's too late.