

Old Paths

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant. Psalm 25:14

A Very Special Request

The name Bill Stringfellow should need no introduction. For several years Elder Stringfellow worked in pastoral and evangelistic capacities before beginning a book writing and publishing ministry. His book *All in the Name of the Lord*, also titled *The Ultimate Ripoff*, has been distributed by the thousands. In the last few years Elder Stringfellow has produced some excellent, high-quality videos that contain the three angels' messages. Especially notable is the famous series *The Red Flag Waving* which was used of the Lord to open thousands of eyes to the truth about the nature of God and His only begotten Son. I am still amazed at the number of people I have met who say that their first exposure to this precious truth came from *The Red Flag Waving*.

As many of you are aware, this past year Brother Bill had to discontinue his ministry due to a long ongoing battle with cancer. Many, many prayers have been sent to our dear heavenly Father in his behalf and I know personally that Bill and Dee have greatly appreciated each and every one! They have also appreciated your understanding of Bill's need for rest and privacy. However, in talking with Bill by phone recently, he asked me to send a note to the readers of *Old Paths* to the effect that while he is still tired and in need of strength building rest, he would greatly appreciate hearing



Bill Stringfellow

from as many of you as possible that can send a *short* note or card. Nothing that needs a reply or is controversial is needed now, just simply a note of encouragement. Bill's address is: HC 69 Box 817, Spencer, TN 38585. You can also send an e-mail note or card at: bill&dee@multipro.com.

Not only does Bill need some encouragement at this time, but Dee really needs our support as well, so don't forget her.

"Sounds like a good idea" you maybe thinking to yourself at this time. Don't wait until tomorrow! Get started now and help bring some courage and cheer to this faithful warrior who has labored so hard for you, me, and other like precious souls. I know that Bill and Dee will appreciate it lots, and lots, and lots, and lots!

Smyrna Camp Meeting

We at Smyrna wish to announce that we will be hosting a camp meeting this August, 8th-12th. The camp meeting will be here in beautiful Turkey Wallow Hollow with the Smyrna Chapel serving as the meeting facility and Brother Glen Ford's orchard field serving as the camp ground area.

We are currently in the planning stages and hope to have a variety of excellent speakers sharing God's Word. The fellowship will be excellent so start planning now to attend.

Last year several expressed concern that both of the major camp meetings were held while most schools were still in session. We do hope that the timing will help to accommodate those who could not attend last year.

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Hands Across the Gulf

by Allen Stump

“Protestantism is now reaching hands across the gulf to clasp hands with papacy, and a confederacy is being formed to trample out of sight the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and the man of sin, who, at the instigation of Satan, instituted the spurious sabbath, this child of papacy, will be exalted to take the place of God.” (*Special Testimonies*, Series A, No. 1b, p. 38)

The above statement was published in 1892. Its truthfulness is even more applicable today than when it was written over 100 years. The following news report and commentary is subject for serious consideration by all who claim to be commandment keepers standing under the blood stained banner of Prince Immanuel.

The Adventist News Network bulletin, as reported on the church’s web site from February 15, 2000, carried a news story concerning a “joint statement drawn by the Roman Catholic Church and the Adventist Church in Poland.” Before commenting further, we will quote the news release in its entirety. The highlight and bold emphasis has been supplied.

“Adventist Church Cannot be Treated as a Sect,” Say Adventists and Catholics in Poland

Warsaw, Poland ... [ANN]

“*The Seventh-day Adventist Church cannot be treated either as a ‘new religious movement,’ or as a sect,*” declares **a joint statement** drawn by the Roman Catholic Church and the Adventist Church in Poland.

Recognizing each other’s autonomy and independence, the document was issued following **15 years of dialogue** aimed at better understanding of the teachings and practice of the Catholic and the Adventist Churches, as well as **improving relations** without compromising each other’s identity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The document does not deal with doctrinal and theological issues. During the years of meetings, both sides presented their theological views and doctrinal positions in the interest of better understanding between both confessions. “*Our Church recognizes that such dialogue cannot be a dialogue of compromise, but one of cooperative spirit and common understanding,*” Lyko explained. “**We are doing nothing different except what the early pioneers of our Church supported and advocated.** It is always better to engage in a respectful conversation than in a confrontation that often prevents achieving desired changes,” he said.

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

“*Over the years, however, as the exchange of information between us took place, we noted many confessional similarities but also differences. **The Catholic side recognizes in the document the Christocentric character of our beliefs, and especially our belief in the Trinity,** as well as*

ecclesiological identity of the Church, a status affirmed by an act of the Polish Parliament. On our part, we spoke of a need to change attitudes toward our denomination and recognized the openness of the Catholic Church, especially in recent times, toward the Bible," Lyko explained. [Ray Dabrowski]

This "joint statement" was the result of "15 years of dialogue" between Adventist and Catholic leaders. The claimed purpose was to help improve relations between the two groups. Now while we as individual Christians should always seek to understand and be able to relate to other individuals better, how can this fraternization on a corporate level be reconciled with 2 Corinthians 6:14-17:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

Corporate Adventism has lost its way so badly that it no longer sees the papacy as anti-christ, but rather as a fellow Christian denomination with which to socialize! Since the 1955-1956 evangelical - S.D.A. conferences and The Vatican II Council, corporate Adventism has taken a much softer line on the system once described as the "beast of Revelation thirteen," "the anit-christ," "the great harlot," etc.

These talks were conducted by the highest officials from the respective parties with Poland. Further the "dialogue was *conducted on the basis of partnership* ..." "Partnership" means to be in association or have an agreement with the party in partnership. How can this be harmonized with the teachings of the Bible? How can we claim to have concourse with those who acknowledge allegiance to the Pope, whom the Spirit of Prophecy defines as "the representative of Satan?" (*Great Controversy*, p. 50)

The whole article from Adventist News Network smells of compromise and a desire to be accepted by Babylon. This reminds one of *Questions on Doctrine* with its plea for acceptance from the churches of Babylon. The Church proclaims loudly how wonderful it is that the Catholic Church in Poland proclaims that the "Adventist Church cannot be treated as a sect!" After these talks, how loudly can they proclaim the

final warning message of Revelation 14 and 18 plainly and clearly?

How can we "proclaim with a loud voice" that Rome is the beast and her Sunday is the mark of the beast when we are requesting that they do not call us a "sect?" God's true people have always found rejection, not acceptance, from the world. The Jews accused Paul of belonging to a "sect." (See Acts 24:5.)

Prof. Zachariasz Lyko stated: "*As for us, we wanted to sit down together and recognize that Christian love requires a different kind of relation in the society we are a part of. As Seventh-day Adventists we seek to take a positive approach to other faiths. We have stated this publicly and this document affirms our attitude [sic].*" What does "Christian love" really require? If you unknowingly had a deadly disease and I knew about it, yet held the truth back from you thereby keeping you from seeking needed help, would that be love? Is it loving to hide the truth? God's Word says that, "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [suppress NKJV] the truth in unrighteousness." (Romans 1:18) The world is about to enter into its greatest crisis ever. Does love require a "different kind of relation" to the man of sin?

Prof. Zachariasz Lyko in the news release also noted that, "*We are doing nothing different except what the early pioneers of our Church supported and advocated.*" Really? The following statements are but a few of many hundreds that could be produced to show the early Adventist thoughts about the papacy.

"BROTHER HIMES: – Permit me to drop you a few thoughts on the historical facts of the last year, compared with the prophecies in the word of God. The little horn of the 7th and 8th chapters of Daniel, the man of sin of the 2d chapter of 2d Thessalonians, the latter part of the beast and the image-beast of the 13th chapter of Revelation, are evidently prophecies concerning the Popes of Rome." (William Miller - Letter of February 13, 1849 to Josiah Himes, *Memoirs of William Miller*, p. 368)

"The fifth angel pours out his vial upon the seat of the beast, and darkness like that which overspread Egypt pervades his kingdom. This judgement is inflicted especially upon the papacy, the seat of the beast being Rome, and his kingdom being his subjects wherever they are found." (Uriah Smith – *The Biblical Institute*, p. 230)

The history of the terrible beast, Rome, has been written; and the papacy, symbolized by the little horn,

has fulfilled its twelve hundred and sixty years of blasphemy and terrible persecutions; and its civil power was taken away eighty-two years since. (James White – *The Signs of the Times - Signs of the Second Advent*, p. 8)

“It is this continual service of our great High Priest, which the man of sin, the Papacy, has taken away.” (A. T. Jones – *The Consecrated Way*, p. 99)

Professor Lyko commented that “*as a Church, our side was not interested in compromising any of our fundamental beliefs.*” This is not presenting an accurate picture of the whole matter. It implies that we are not changing our beliefs to be accepted or to have these talks with Rome. The fact is, the church changed its statement of beliefs concerning the papacy over seventy years ago! The Adventist Church’s official and current statement of fundamental beliefs does not now need to be altered or compromised because it says absolutely nothing about the papacy! The current statement stands in silence regarding the papacy contrasted to the first statement of belief published by Seventh-day Adventists in 1872. Statement number thirteen says:

“XIII. That as the man of sin, the papacy, has thought to change times and laws (the laws of God), Dan. 7:25, and has misled almost all Christendom in regard to the fourth commandment, we find a prophecy of a reform in this respect to be wrought among believers just before the coming of Christ. Isa. 56:1, 2, 1 Pet. 1:5, Rev. 14:12, &c.” (*A Declaration Of The Fundamental Principles Taught And Practiced By The Seventh-Day Adventists – 1872 Battle Creek Mich.*)

This statement was published in a *Signs of the Times* editorial and in the *S.D.A. Yearbook* during the years, 1889, 1905, 1907-1914.

Lyko’s goes on in the news release to say, “*The Catholic side recognizes in the document the Christocentric character of our beliefs, and especially our belief in the Trinity.*” The most important and fundamental doctrine in Christianity is agreed upon by those who claim to be God’s remnant church and the man of sin! This should cause some serious thinking. The Adventist pioneers did not believe in the dark papal doctrine of the Trinity! Notice this bold admission by George Knight in *Ministry* magazine:

“Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination’s Fundamental Beliefs.

“More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of

the Trinity. For Joseph Bates the Trinity was an unscriptural doctrine, for James White it was that ‘old Trinitarian absurdity,’ and for M.E. Cornell it was a fruit of the great apostasy, along with such false doctrines as Sunday keeping and the immortality of the soul.

“In like manner, most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would have trouble with fundamental belief number 4, which holds that Jesus is both eternal and truly God. For J.N. Andrews ‘the Son of God...had God for His Father, and did, at some point in the eternity of the past, have beginning of days.’ And E.J. Waggoner, of Minneapolis 1888 fame, penned in 1890 that ‘there was a time when Christ proceeded forth and come from God...but that time was so far back in the days of eternity that to finite comprehension it is practically without beginning.’

“Neither could most of the leading Adventists have agreed with fundamental belief number 5, which implies the personhood of the Holy Spirit. Uriah Smith, for example, not only was anti-Trinitarian and semi-Arian, like so many of his colleagues, but also like them pictured the Holy Spirit as ‘that divine mysterious emanation through which They [the Father and the Son] carry forward their great and infinite work.’ On another occasion, Smith pictured the Holy Spirit as a ‘divine influence’ and not a ‘person like the Father and the Son.’” (George R. Knight, *Ministry*, October, 1993, p. 10)

Not only is George Knight brazen enough to admit that: “Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination’s Fundamental Beliefs,” but in the *Ministry* article, he is candid and honest enough to label the Trinity doctrine as the “new theology” for Adventism.

Ellen White clearly described the root of the problem in a *Signs of the Times* article:

“The Lord has pronounced a curse upon those who take from or add to the Scriptures. The great I AM has decided what shall constitute the rule of faith and doctrine, and he has designed that the Bible shall be a household book. *The church that holds to the word of God is irreconcilably separated from Rome.* Protestants were once thus apart from this great church of apostasy, but they have approached more nearly to her, and are still in the path of reconciliation to the Church of Rome. *Rome never changes.* Her principles have not altered in the least. She has not lessened the breach between herself and Protestants; they have

done all the advancing. But what does this argue for the Protestantism of this day? It is the rejection of Bible truth which makes men approach to infidelity. *It is a backsliding church that lessens the distance between itself and the Papacy.*" (*Signs of the Times*, February 19, 1894)

It is a lack of a Scriptural foundation that is the root of this backsliding. The Trinity doctrine is based on pagan teachings incorporated into the Catholic Church rather than God's Word. Notice the admission to the lack of plain Scriptural support for the Trinity doctrine: "While no single scriptural passage states formally the doctrine of the Trinity, it is *assumed* as a fact by Bible writers. ... *Only by faith* can we accept the existence of the Trinity." (*Adventist Review*, Special issue, vol. 158, number 31)

How much more apostasy is necessary for some to understand that the once faithful church has become a harlot? But you say, "Brother Allen, the ship is going through, stay with the ship, it is God's only vessel." Yes, I have read statements that seem to promise clear sailing to the heavenly harbor if we only remain on board, yet the Jews had the following promise:

"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD." (Jeremiah 31:35-37)


When Christ left the temple and said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 28:13), the leaders read Jeremiah and declared Jesus to be an imposter, or an offshoot! In *Christ's Object Lessons* we read the following concerning the attitude of the Jews:

"The Jewish people *cherished* the idea that they were the favorites of heaven, and that they were *always to be exalted as the church of God*. They were the children of Abraham, they declared, and *so firm did the foundation of their prosperity seem to them that they defied earth and heaven to dispossess them of their rights*. But by lives of unfaithfulness they were preparing for the condemnation of heaven and for separation from God." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 294 - emphasis supplied.)

In *The Desire of Ages* we find these comments on Jeremiah and when we read these words, let us remember that they were written about people living nearly 2000 years ago, but the counsel is for those living today?

"The Jews regarded their natural descent from Abraham as giving them a claim to this promise. But they overlooked the conditions which God had specified. Before giving the promise, He had said, 'I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people. . . . For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.' Jer. 31:33, 34.

"To a people in whose hearts His law is written, the favor of God is assured. They are one with Him. But the Jews had separated themselves from God. Because of their sins they were suffering under His judgments. This was the cause of their bondage to a heathen nation. Their minds were darkened by transgression, and because in times past the Lord had shown them so great favor, they excused their sins. They flattered themselves that they were better than other men, and entitled to His blessings.

"These things 'are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.' 1 Cor. 10:11" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 106) 

Treasure of Life

Many are the loves and treasures
that we lose throughout the years.
Some—to never be recovered;
some that, often, reappear.
Youth and health of heart and courage
wane away with trials of time.

Happy hopes and happy wishes
lose themselves in life's decline.
But the love of God is endless,
from the day that we are born.
As our treasures of salvation,
when all else is lost or gone. Matthew 19:21

Patricia L. Osborne



Two Faces of Rome



By Allen Stump

On Wednesday, March 8 (Ash Wednesday) it was reported that Pope John Paul II would be making a historic apology Sunday, March 12, seeking “forgiveness for the world’s one billion Roman Catholics: for sins against Jews, including the Holocaust, and for centuries of sins against other victims of holy wars, forced conversions and church oppression, sins dating back to the Inquisition and even the Crusades.” (MSNBC - March 8, 2000) Sunday March 12, was dubbed the Vatican as the “Day of Pardon.” (See *L’Osservatore Romano*, March 15, 2000.)

MSNBC in its report stated that Cardinal Roger Mahoney in Los Angeles, anticipating the Pope’s call for forgiveness, made a public apology “directed at some of the most controversial past targets of church criticism: divorced and remarried Catholics, victims of sexual abuse by the clergy, women and homosexuals.”

L’Osservatore Romano, the official newspaper of the Vatican, reported on the pope’s apology. The introduction to the front page article, “Let us forgive and ask forgiveness!” stated:

“The confession of sins and the request for pardon, in the form of a solemn prayer of the faithful, took place after the homily. There was a confession of sins in general, of sins committed in the service of truth, of sins that have harmed Christian unity, of sins against the people of Israel, of sins against love, peace and respect for cultures and religions, of sins against the dignity of women and the unity of the human race, and of sins related to the fundamental rights of the person.” (*L’Osservatore Romano*, March 15, 2000)

Sins against homosexuals and sexual sins by the clergy were not mentioned by the pope. Of special

interest though, was the inclusion of sins against the people of Israel. This happens just as the most traveled pope in history had a scheduled trip to the holy land less than two weeks from the time of the speech.

But exactly what measure and type of guilt did the pope confess? MSNBC reported that most experts agreed that the church was not admitting corporate guilt, but that the sweeping apology was for the “human sins by the church’s sons and daughters, not the church itself.” In his homily, the pope quoted from his Bull, *Incarnationis mysterium*, p. 11 stating: “in this year of mercy the Church, strong in the holiness which she receives from her Lord, should kneel before God and implore forgiveness for the past and present sins of her sons and daughters.” (*L’Osservatore Romano*, March 15, 2000 – emphasis supplied.)

In the third section of his homily, the pope went on to “implore divine forgiveness for the sins of all believers.” (*Ibid.*)

In the fourth part of his homily, the pope said, “we cannot fail to recognize the infidelities to the Gospel committed by some of our brethren, especially during the second millennium. Let us ask pardon for the divisions which have occurred among Christians, for the violence some have used in the service of the truth and for the distrustful and hostile attitudes sometimes taken towards the followers of other religions. (*Ibid.* – emphasis in original.)

In his reflections given after the Sunday mass, the pope stated that:

“... the Church does not cease to implore God’s forgiveness for the sins of her members.
“... Today’s act is a sincere recognition of the sins committed by the Church’s children in the distant and

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO
WEEKLY EDITION IN ENGLISH
THIRTY-THIRD YEAR
N. 11 (1634) - 15 March 2000

HOLY FATHER CELEBRATES 'DAY OF PARDON'
Let us forgive and ask forgiveness!

On Sunday, 12 March, the First Sunday of Lent, Pope John Paul II celebrated Holy Mass in St Peter's Basilica and asked the Lord's forgiveness for the sins, past and present, of the Church's sons and daughters. The sacred liturgy began in front of Michelangelo's statue of the Pope, the Holy Father said that the Church, like Mary, embraces her crucified Son and asks the Father for pardon. Then the Litany of the Saints was sung as the pontifical procession moved towards the altar of the Confession, where the 19th-century crucifix from the Church of St Marcellus 'of Carac' was placed, along with seven candles which were lit during the request for forgiveness. The confession of sins and the request for pardon, in the form of a solemn prayer of the faithful, took place after the homily. There was a confession of sins in general, of sins committed in the service of truth, of sins that have harmed Christian unity, of sins against the people of Israel, of sins against love, peace and respect for cultures and religions, of sins against the dignity of women and the unity of the human race, and of sins related to the fundamental rights of the person. Each category was introduced by representatives of the Roman Curia and was followed by the Holy Father's prayer and the chanting of a triple Kyrie eleison. Afterwards the Pope kissed the crucifix as a sign of veneration and the chanting of pardon. Here is a transcription of the Holy Father's homily, which he preached in Italian.

1. "We implore you, O Christ's name: be recalled to mind for our sake. God made him who did not know sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:21).

2. These are words of St Paul which the Church recalls every year on Ash Wednesday, at the beginning of Lent. In the Lenten message the Church desires to be particularly united to Christ, who moved to the Father, began his messianic mission by going into the wilderness and fasting there for 40 days and 40 nights (cf. Mt 4:1-13). At the end of that fast he was tempted by Satan, as we are told briefly by the Evangelist Mark in today's lectionary (cf. Lk 4:1-13). Matthew and Luke, on the other hand, deal more fully with Christ's struggle in the desert and with his definitive victory over the tempter, "Beast, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'" (Mt 4:10).

3. The One speaking in this way is he "who did not know sin" (2 Cor 5:21), Jesus, "the Holy One of God" (Joh 1:1-3).

4. He made him who did not know sin to be sin (2 Cor 5:21). A few moments ago, in the second reading, we heard the apostle's exhortation made by the Apostle: "What are these words meant? They are, and in effect are, a paradox. How could God who is Father himself, 'make' his Only-begotten Son, sent into the world, 'to be sin'? Yet this is exactly what we read in the passage from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. We are in the presence of a mystery, a mystery which at first sight is baffling, but is clearly written in divine Revelation. Already in the Old Testament, the Book of Isaiah speaks of it with in-

5. On 12 March, the First Sunday of Lent, spiritual exercises began in the Holy Father's presence in the Benedictine Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace. The exercises are being conducted according to the following schedule:

Sunday, 12 March
6.00 p.m. — recitation of Vespers, introduction, Eucharistic adoration and Benediction.
Monday, 13 — Friday, 17 March
8.00 a.m. — recitation of Lauds, meditation.
10.15 a.m. — recitation of Midday Prayer, meditation.

6.30 p.m. — recitation of Vespers.
8.15 p.m. — meditation, recitation of the Holy Rosary, Eucharistic adoration and Benediction.
Saturday, 18 March
8.00 a.m. — recitation of Lauds and conclusion.
The recitations are being given by Archbishop Francesco Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, titular Archbishop of Vadod, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, on the theme: "Witnesses to Hope".
During the retreat, no audiences are being held, including the General Audience of Wednesday, 15 March.

Ash Wednesday
The Holy Father's homily for the start of Lent is on PAGE 3

Cardinal Kung
The Church's oldest Cardinal, Ignatius Kung Ping-ning, died in the USA on 12 March. The Pope expressed his sympathy in a telegram. See PAGE 3

Pilgrims
On 6 March the Holy Father met thousands of pilgrims who had come for the previous day's beatifications. See PAGE 4

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past
SPECIAL INSERT

Holy Father begins Lenten retreat with members of the Roman Curia
On 12 March, the First Sunday of Lent, spiritual exercises began in the Holy Father's presence in the Benedictine Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace. The exercises are being conducted according to the following schedule:

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The Holy Father venerates a 19th-century crucifix after asking God's forgiveness for the sins of the Church's sons and daughters.

recent past, and a humble plea for God’s forgiveness.” (*L’Osservatore Romano*, March 15, 2000 – emphasis supplied.)

The emphasis in all these confessions is on individuals and not on the corpus. This would be in keeping with papal tradition and dogma such as Pope Gregory VII’s proclamation that the church had never erred, nor would it ever err, according to the Scriptures. It also agrees with the boast that Rome never changes. If she as a church had to repent, it would indicate that she was in error at a time in her history and would need to change.


From one perspective, Rome presents a face of a church that does not change. From another perspective, Rome presents the face of a changing church. History and inspiration tell us that the first perspective is the correct one.

“When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power in sustaining a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal Sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and State. There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.

“Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Catholic Church. She presents a fair front to the world, *covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties, and declaring that her spirit of persecution no longer exists.* But she is the same as in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up at the peril of their lives to expose her iniquity; the same as when she assumed the power to control kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. She may clothe herself in Christlike garments, the better to carry forward her purposes; but she still retains the venom of the serpent, and her principles are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in churches, and in the hearts of men. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when it crushed out human liberty, and slew the saints of the Most High.” (*Signs of the Times*, November 8, 1899 – emphasis supplied.)

The outward face of the Papacy (not the individual Catholic) is one that claims her spirit is much changed since the days of the persecutions, but her real inward spirit remains unchanged.

An interesting examples of this paradox is the church’s position against capital punishment. The Catholic Church is in the forefront of the fight against the death penalty. While they present a face which cries out for mercy and pity, their past history and real face is one without mercy. As Revelation thirteen

reveals, apostate Protestants will unite to do the very work that the papacy desires. Yet as the scroll unrolls, it is becoming clearer all the time that as the Protestants take the forefront on the persecution of God’s commandment keeping people, the papacy will present the face of the merciful. It is very likely that it will be nuns and priests who will be protesting the death penalty against commandment keepers, while the Protestants do the work that Rome inwardly is very desirous of seeing accomplished. 

More News of Evangelical Unity from the Adventist News Network

(The following report came from the Adventist News Network of March 7, 2000.)

The “Meeting of U.S. Church Leaders,” an annual gathering of heads of Christian churches from around the nation, has elected Seventh-day Adventist Dr. Bert B. Beach as the vice chair of the group’s steering committee. More than 30 church leaders participated in the February 23-25 meetings, including leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

“This ongoing appointment is an indication of the growing esteem in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church is held by many of the titular heads of the churches in the United States,” says Beach, a past director of the Church’s Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department.

Beach, who has represented the Adventist Church at the meetings for the last 15 years, sees the annual gatherings as an invaluable way of connecting with national church leaders in an environment of informal fellowship.

“We pray together, enjoy devotional meetings, and form friendships,” says Beach, who adds that no substantive decisions are made at the annual meetings. “It’s simply an opportunity to meet, consult, and recharge; to put away hostilities and worship together as fellow Christians.”

The February meeting of the “U.S. Church Leaders” at Asheville, North Carolina, was a special millennial gathering where speakers explored the “Gift of the Holy Spirit.” A prayer, written by meeting participants, asks God to use United States Christians “In preparing Your Kingdom, That Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

Beach, Inter-Church Relations director for the Adventist Church, has been a Church administrator and religious

Continued on page 12.

Two New Web Sites

We are very pleased to announce two new web sites that have been designed to help make the three angel's messages available to anyone who has access to the world wide web.

present-truth.net


Smyrna Gospel Ministries has launched a web site dedicated to the presentation of the truth to a non-Adventist audience. This new site, developed and maintained by Brother Lynnford Beachy, can be found at: <http://www.present-truth.net> This site has the current and all back issues of *Present Truth*. It also has the journal especially for ladies, *Hearth to Hearth*. Besides its newsletters, it will contain several tract studies and books that are designed for readers from a wide variety of backgrounds.

I believe that as you visit present-truth.net you will appreciate how Lynnford has made the site very navigable and easy to locate whatever material you are looking for within the site. Please share this web site's URL with your friends and loved ones who use the Internet and need to hear present truth.

restorationministry.com

Restoration Ministries of Jamaica has also recently uploaded to the world wide web a new truth-filled information center. There new site can be found at: <http://www.restorationministry.com>. Please note carefully that it is restorationministry.com, not restorationministries.com. Brother David Clayton writes to tell us:

“All the back issues of our newsletters *Open Face* are available for reading or downloading from the site as well as the tracts and booklets which we have available. In addition we have a listing of our audio and video tapes. All three tapes of the Godhead series may be listened to live in real time by simply clicking on the appropriate button.

“We are truly thrilled at this new avenue for witness. We praise our Father for the open door.” 



Home Page from present-truth.net



Home Page from restorationministry.com

Translation of Truth-Filled Materials

We are excited to announce that the work of sharing printed materials concerning the truth about God and our Saviour is progressing beyond the confines of the English language. We personally know of materials being translated into Spanish, Polish, German, Dutch, and Afrikaans. In fact, Brother Jacob Poreda from Poland recently sent us some sample copies of materials that he has translated into the Polish language. These titles, in

English, include, *The Spirit of Antichrist* by David Clayton, *God's Mystery Finally Understood* by Joe Harricharan, *Hear, O Israel* by Jacob Poreda and *Present Truth*, a translation of several different materials on the gospel by Jacob Poreda.

We praise God that the message is going as streams of light clear around the world.”

Editors



**Polish edition
of The Spirit
of Antichrist**

New Chapel in Jamaica

For the past fifteen years the brethren in the Mandeville area have resisted the suggestion that there was the need to build a meeting house. Somehow the warmth and fellowship of meeting in a home church seemed to have an appeal that we were loath to relinquish. Sometimes, however, circumstances have the last word and this proved to be the case. A few weeks ago we found it necessary to begin building a meeting house capable of accommodating the growing numbers who sometimes congregate in

and around Brother Bill's home for Sabbath worship. The new meeting house, still in the process of being built, should be able to hold close to a hundred people.

On Sabbath, February 19, 2000, we had our first meeting in the unfinished building with Pastor Allen Stump of West Virginia being our guest speaker for the day. This first meeting gave us an intimation that perhaps we may soon have to think of doing something else, for the chapel was unable to house all those who came that day and a

number of persons had to find seats on the outside!

We wish to use this means of expressing publicly our appreciation to our Father for His guidance and provision. Our sincere thanks also to all those who have contributed in one way or another to this project, even if it was only by means of your prayers and well wishes.

David Clayton



New Chapel



Inside the Chapel



An Eager Group

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." Jesus answered them in the words of the Lord's prayer. "When ye pray," he said, "say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

Christ did not give us this prayer to repeat as a form. He gave it as an illustration of what our prayers should be,—simple, earnest, and comprehensive. "Our Father which art in heaven." The word "our" expresses a sense of human brotherhood; "father," that of childlike trust.

In ancient times there was usually associated with the name "father" all the affection and tenderness now centered in the word "mother." Affection and strength were combined; the exalted and stronger served the weaker. When we say, "Our Father," we worship God in truth. When we say, "Who art in heaven," we worship him in spirit. This petition carries the suppliant away from earth and human beings, to One who is unerring in judgment, compassionate, merciful, pure, and holy.

"Hallowed be thy name." Thus we give expression to our reverence for the divine nature. All true prayer will first recognize the presence of God, whose eye is open to all that his creatures do. The supplicant's first work is to honor God by giving expression to his reverence.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth." In heaven the will of God is perfectly carried out. Love to God makes his service a joy. On earth there are rebellion and variance. The disobedient and rebellious can not understandingly repeat the Lord's prayer. Their will has never been submitted to discipline; and until they are brought into conformity to the will of God, they can not intelligently pray that his will may be done in earth as it is in heaven. It should be the prayer of every true follower of Christ that God will subordinate everything in this world to his will.

Our temporal necessities are also to be the subject of our petitions. We are to call upon God for the very bread we eat. "Give us this day our daily bread," Christ said. But we are not to ask God for food, and then sit idly down, and do nothing. In order to supply our wants, our Heavenly Father puts work into our hands, that we may co-operate with him in answering our prayers.

"Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us." We can not repeat this prayer from the heart, and dare be unforgiving; for we ask the Lord to forgive our trespasses against him as we forgive those who trespass against us. Very few realize the true import of this prayer. If those who are unforgiving comprehended the depth of its meaning, they would not dare repeat it, and ask God to deal with them as they deal with their fellow mortals.

Strength of character consists of two things—power of will and power of self-control. Many youth mistake strong, uncontrolled passion for strength of character; but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real greatness and nobility of the man are measured by

the power of the feelings that he subdues, not by the power of the feelings that subdue him. The strongest man is he who, while sensitive to abuse, will yet restrain passion, and forgive his enemies. Such men are true heroes.

"Lead us not into temptation." God sometimes allows Satan to tempt his children, that he may prove them. If they rely on their own strength, they will fail under the trial; but while they realize their inability to help themselves, and trust wholly in God, he will provide a way of escape for them. There are times when it is necessary for men to be exposed to dangers, and be placed amid corrupting influences, but a sense of their dependence on God will lead them to keep their hearts uplifted in prayer every hour for strength to resist and grace to overcome. The experience gained in these conflicts will fortify the soul to pass unscathed through more trying scenes.

Christ prayed to his Father in behalf of his followers: "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Sin and pollution abound on every hand; and daily, hourly, the prayer should go forth from hearts that realize the dangers, "Deliver us from evil." The Christian who offers this prayer, realizing his weakness, makes the temptation of the enemy powerless.

"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint," Christ said. To every child of God the words of inspiration are spoken: "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." "The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

Mrs. E. G. White. (*Youth's Instructor*, December 7, 1899)

Letters

Thank you very much for the 2 videos on Hebrews 9 and on the Judgment. Enclosed is \$20.00 cash to cover the cost and shipping of it. Watched them, and glad that I ordered.

California

Well – you’ve done it again. *Old Paths* is a joy to receive. I read it from cover to cover and this time I went over a great deal of it with a friend. We both agreed that we had much of how the trinity came about cleared up in our minds. I had never put that together, nor had she but it makes perfect sense and puts everything into perspective. We both devoured it Sabbath afternoon. We looked everything up and shared our feelings on the phone. Lynnford thank you so very much.

Would it be possible to get the January and February copies of *Present Truth* and to put me on the mailing list for it?

Also, I would love to have the “Formulation of the Doctrine of the Trinity,” that was in *Old Paths*, and May of 98’s “The Abomination of Desolation.” I had them but passed them on to my son.

North Carolina

Thank you sincerely for the publication and the pamphlets you have mailed. My prayers continue for you all particularly for Hans’ healing and well being. Enclosed is \$100 Money Order for your work and ministry.

Pennsylvania

My Sister and I would like to be placed on the *Old Paths* mailing list.

North Carolina

So glad to hear you are all on the mend. God is good!!

We keep you all in our prayers. Also congratulations to the Beachys.

Would like to have the videos by Williams and Clayton.

Florida

Wow! One of the best *Old Paths* ever!

The very core of the First Angel’s Message. Fear God and give glory to him. Not the trinity god (strange god) of Anti-Christ who speaks marvelous things against the God of gods, and doesn’t regard the God of his fathers, or the fathers of Christianity Christ and the Apostles. (Daniel 11:36, 39) For the hour of his judgement is come. Unto twenty three hundred days then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. The use of chazown verses mar’eh. Christ’s command to make Daniel understand mar’eh is so clear a child could understand it. 1844 is as true as the 70 weeks and can’t be separated from it. To do so would be to deny Jesus was the Messiah for that chain of perfect truth establishes him. Worship of the true God is the essence of the true Gospel. Those who know this and proclaim it are, Flying in the midst of heaven carrying the Everlasting Gospel to every creature. Sabbath is a Seal of our God, he who made heaven and earth the seas and the fountains of waters. The three messages must be received in order according to the Prophet. We are that small group of the end who are part of the original. We are Seventh Day Adventist!

What a time to be alive.

Pennsylvania

God be with you and keep you as you present the truth for this time.

Ohio

Thanks for your faithfulness. Lynnford’s articles in *Old Paths* and *Present Truth* are delightful.

May you continue to stand up for truth.

Arizona

We want to encourage everyone in this movement that the work in Southern Illinois continues. We are thankful for all of your prayers, letters, and phone calls. We pray for all of you too, because we truly are living in “perilous times.”

Please continue to pray for us. We will do likewise for all of you. This message will go through, because the truth is unstoppable! God bless all of you.

Illinois

Greetings in Christ from us here in Ohio. We faithfully read and study *Old Paths* as we receive them. They are truly a source of strength and inspiration. may God continue to bless all of your efforts in publishing the truth.

Ohio

Thank you for sending me all the materials and books about the subject of the Trinity. I am studying them and want to record an audiocassette on this matter for the Spanish-speaking members of the church who need to know this very badly.

I already translated into Spanish an article by David Clayton ... and would like to translate others for my brethren and sisters at the church, and for anybody who wants to hear about these exciting “present truths.”

I may help you in the translation of your literature into Spanish, work that I am doing for many years for my brothers and sisters here in Miami, Florida. So definitely I would be glad to translate your materials if you want me to do so. Besides this, I love the present truth.

Florida

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“Smyrna Camp Meeting” continued from page 1.


Currently some of our facilities will need to be upgraded to be able to provide for those coming. We have plenty of space for tents and RV’s, but RV’s must be self-contained as we have no hookup facilities. Our kitchen space is very limited and usage may have to be rationed. There are two motels within ten miles and several within forty miles.

With this issue there has been enclosed a self-addressed post card survey. If you are interested in coming or would like to comment on camp meeting, please fill out the card and return it to us as soon as possible. Or, you can e-mail concerning the camp meeting at campmeeting@smyrna.org. As soon as we can get an accurate estimate of how many might come we can accurately plan to be able to meet the needs of those coming.

We will have more details about the camp meeting in next month’s *Old Paths*. 

“More News” continued from page 7.

liberty advocate for over 48 years. He currently also serves as vice president of the International Religious Liberty Association, and is the elected secretary of the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Commu- nions—an office he has held for the past 29 years. [Bettina Krause]

This is the same Bert Beach, who on May 18, 1977, presented Pope Paul VI with a gold-covered medal- lion with a symbol of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on it. (See *Review*, August 11, 1977.) 

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