
A NEW ORDER

has come into the Church

by Kirk & Cathy Weedman revision 1.4

***“A new order of things
has come into the ministry.
There is a desire to pattern after other churches,
and simplicity and humility are almost unknown.
The young ministers seek to be original,
and to introduce new ideas
and new plans for labor.” 2SM 18***

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists... Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.” 1SM2(}4

“The Lord is indignant at men who... carry out plans which the Holy Spirit has condemned. I am more surprised than I can express at your failure to discern that God has not set up these men. The new order of things ought to alarm you, for it had not the sanction of heaven.” 1888 1525

EGW sees in vision -Celebration in the church

“The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit. ...the Lord showed me that erroneous theories and methods would be brought into our camp meetings, and that the history of the past would be repeated. I felt greatly distressed.” 2SM 36,37 “I have been shown that deceptions like those we were called to meet in the early experiences of the message would be repeated, and that we shall have to meet them again in the closing days of the work.” 2SM 29

Revivals based on emotion & excitement

“New and strange things will continually arise to lead God’s people into false excitement, religious revivals, and curious developments. ...fanaticism will take the place of well-regulated, well-disciplined, heaven-ordained efforts to carry forward the work to its completion.... People should not be educated to think that religion of an emotional order, bordering on fanaticism, is the only pure religion.” 2SM 17-21

Theatrical (drama) performances

“I am instructed that we shall meet with all kinds of experiences and that men will try to bring strange performances into the work of God. We have met such things in many places. In my very first labors the message was given that all theatrical performances in connection with the preaching of present truth were to be discouraged and forbidden.... The light given me was, ‘Give this no sanction.’ These performances, which savored of the theatrical, were to have no place in the proclamation of the solemn messages entrusted to us.” Ev 137

Strange fire (celebration) will come into the work of God

“In every institution in our ranks there are dangers threatening us. In every place where large interests are centered, Satan will work with all his deceiving power upon every mind that he can use to hinder the work that God designs shall be accomplished. Thus it has been in the past, and thus it will continue to be.... Deception will come to human minds, paralyzing spiritual discernment, and the deceiver will succeed in mingling the common fire with the sacred, until sacred things are brought down to a level with common, earthly imaginations, and conducted after the manner of worldly maxims, meeting the world’s standard, but having not the superscription of heaven.” RH 5-30-99

Repeating the history of Israel .imitating the world

“Satan’s snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people.” ST 160 “The marks of distinction between Christ’s professed people and the world, have almost disappeared. They follow after the abominations of the nations around them, as did ancient Israel.” 4bSG 66 ‘Like ancient Israel the church has dishonored her God by departing from the light, neglecting her duties, and abusing her high and exalted privilege of being peculiar and holy in character.... They have joined with the selfish and world-loving.’ 2T 441

Conforming to the world’s customs in order to evangelize

“Many urge that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs they might exert a stronger influence over the ungodly. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the Source of their strength. Becoming the friends of the world, they are the enemies of God.” pp 607 “In their efforts to reach the

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people, the Lord’s messengers are not to follow the ways of the world.” Ev 508 “I am instructed to say... there is to be no compromise in order to meet the world’s standards. God’s commandment-keeping people are not to unite with the world to carry various lines of work according to worldly plans and worldly wisdom.” MM 61 “God’s workmen must not follow after the world’s practices and customs in the least.” B Echo 5-21-94 “It is made manifest when church-members follow the maxims of the world, that spiritual discernment is gone.” RH 8.23-92

“What was the origin of the great apostasy? How did the church first depart from the simplicity of the gospel? By conforming to the practices of paganism, to facilitate the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen.” GC 1 384 “In forming an alliance with a heathen nation, and sealing the compact by marriage with an idolatrous princess, Solomon rashly disregarded the wise provisions that God had made for maintaining the purity of His people. The hope that this Egyptian wife might be converted was but a feeble excuse for the sin. In violation of a direct command to remain separate from other nations, the king united his strength with the arm of flesh.” AH 64

SDA Church Uniting With the World

The following is a **summary** of research we have compiled into a notebook of articles from the Adventist Review (AR), the internet, and other sources. **The** notebook is provided upon request.

Willow Creek Association

WCA is an “interdenominational” organization. It’s purpose is to train & assist churches in changing to a new style of worship .celebration. They provide; leadership conferences, ministry workshops, books, music, drama sketches, videos, training tapes, evangelism and spiritual gifts training courses.

Many SDA churches (mostly celebration churches) and some conferences are members of this organization, and attend their conferences regularly. (Several Review articles mention about going to WCA.)

In the WCA newsletter two SDA pastors write about sending teams of up to 20 at a time to WCA conferences. One church “sent close to 90 people” to WCA.

Below is a list of some terms (key words) used in WCA material. If you watch carefully, you will also see these terms used in SDA material.

Culturally relevant: Being like the world, culture.

Generation X: The younger generation. The new style of church is to please the taste of the Gen X’ers, rock music, drama etc. Net 98’ is for the Gen X’ers.

Unchurched: Those who don’t like church, or nonnally don’t go to church.

Seekers: Those **who are not believers** but **may be seeking a church.**

Likeminded: **Being like, thinking the same as another church. All the churches who join WCA profess to be likeminded with WCCC.**

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Planting (celebration) churches

The Adventist Review (AR) article, Jan. 6, 1994, shows that in 94’ our leaders were studying worldly statistics (Barna) to determine and learn (from the world) the best methods for evangelism. Planting celebration churches has evolved from studying worldly statistics.

McClure says “We need to change.”

“To accomplish this immense task [presenting the gospel], changes will have to take place. We need to change. So we have come here to change the way this division thinks about church planting. We have come here to change the way this division prioritizes church planting. We have come here to change the way this division prepares people to do church planting.” AR Dec. 1996 “Alfred C. McClure’ s passion for soul winning through church planting was evident from the first moments of his keynote address. He pointed out the need to change.... He left no doubt that we are going to have to change our thinking.” AR 12-19-96

This is the new method of evangelism

“Church planting needs to be recognized as true evangelistic work for God. New. Different. Bold. Unusual. Unsettling perhaps. But definitely true evangelistic work.” AR Dec. 1996

“Church planting is becoming a major evangelistic thrust of the Adventist Church in North America.” AR Dec. 19, 1996. *NADEI internet website* says: “But now the church has heard God’s call to pick up the church planting shovel. Once again it takes it rightful place among the tools of evangelism.”

What is planting churches?

It is starting (planting) a new church with a new method. A “culturally relevant” Church. Celebration! “There are whole hosts of people out there who could be reached by a different style of ministry... Adventists need to new *kinds* of churches..., planting churches that are truly both Adventist and culturally relevant will be addressed as this initiative develops.” AR Sept. 19, 1996 McClure says, “However, while our theology is uncompromisingly biblical, our methodology needs to be predominantly cultural.” AR Dec. 1996

What is a “culturally relevant” Church?

“Part of our task as Adventists is to translate--to convert eternal principles of the Adventist message into the people’s immediate context. That means leading into our message through their culture, through their interest. ...a contemporary worship... ‘contoured to the needs and exoectations of unchurched people” AR 3~

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What is the New Wine & New Wineskins?

Their interpretation of the new wine is the new method (celebration) that is to be poured into new bottles .the newly planted churches. *NADEI internet website* “Some say we are witnessing His Spirit create new Wineskins in the

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form of new churches. “...we must be a praying church in the business of teaming with the Master in creating new Wineskins---planting new churches.”

How important is the plan to plant churches?

“McClure used the meetings to sound a call to move the church toward a major church-planting strategy.... The committee voted a resolution that calls for every union and conference executive committee in North America to make the organizing of new churches a high priority.” AR Dec. 19, 1996 McClure says, “Today we drive a corner stake. Today we pour a footing. ‘Today we nail the theses to the church door in Berrington. Today this division launches the *most* aggressive and intentional church-planting initiative in its history.” AR Dec. 1996 “...we are mandated by Jesus Christ Himself to present ‘this gospel of the kingdom’ to this continent in the most alluring manner we know how. There is no greater issue for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.” *ibid.* “Russell Burrill says church planting will be a ‘front-burner issue’ in North America for years to come.” AR Sept. 19, 1996

Celebration

4.5 million dollars was spent on the New Life Celebration

church. This says a lot about the leadership’s priorities and where our money is going. Net 98’ will be culturally relevant for the Gen Xers.. Celebration style.

Oasis Christian Center

A culturally relevant-planted church. (in McClure’s article on Planting

Churches) A video of this church may be obtained.

SI)A Saturday night (Sunday keeping) church! (In the winter when the sun goes down at 4:30 or 5:00 and they have church at 6:00 or 7:00, what day are they worshipping on? In the winter this is a SDA Sunday-keeping church!!!)

Church worship is celebration, with a live band, drama, comic strips, magic shows, and some dancing. Church bulletin contains Classified Ads. Member of WCA. –The Gleaner (NW SDA paper) says this is an SDA church, but their church bulletin says they are interdenominational.

Quotes from their material say they are the “Lighter side of church”, providing “entertainment with a punch,” “humorous drama”, “a fun place to bring your family.” Their emphasis is to “create a church for people who don’t like church.” (the unchurched).

Hamilton Community Church

A culturally relevant-planted church, a church for the “unchurched. (in McClure’s article on Planting Churches) Member of WCA. ..Their 7-step strategy comes from Willow Creek. Sabbath School includes classes in “weight control” and “money management.”

The church bulletin, April 5, 1997, says “Go fly a kite at the church house on Saturday, April 19th, immediately following the worship service..., materials to make a kite will be provided”.

Christ Advent Fellowship

A culturally relevant-planted church, a church for the unchurched.

A new style of Adventism .“gospel focused” They believe that works have nothing to do with our salvation. And that “the life of discipleship is lived working from victory, not toward victory.”

Member of WCA .They say they are “likeminded” with Willowcreek Community Church (a non-SDA celebration church), Damascus Road Community Church (a SDA celebration church), Oasis Christian Center (a SDA celebration church), and Saddleback Community Church (a non-SDA celebration church).

Grace Place is an “Interdenominational” church sponsored by CAF. There basic beliefs are united with other Protestant churches.

Worship style .“Expect a band playing lively, contemporary, praise and worship music.” “Refreshments are served in the lobby before and after services. Contemporary music with a full band is a part of every service.”

Sabbath is observed very lightly. “We see ourselves as a

'Saturday Alternative'.... If you have to work or have other commitments on Sunday, maybe you would benefit from starting the weekend Saturday morning at Grace Place. We are not in existence to compete with other area churches..." "God may and should be worshiped on every day of the week, therefore we do not intend for the day of worship to be a point of controversy or division with other Christians."

They believe the Bible is the only source of authority, and that the gift of prophecy given Ellen White is different from the OT prophets. And we should "weigh carefully" what she says "discarding what is erroneous or misleading."

Damascus Road Community Church

/ Coffee house

"Evangelical" SDA church -Member of WCA
 "Likeminded" with "Christ Advent Fellowship" (SDA celebration church), Saddleback Church (non-SDA celebration church), and Willow Creek Association (non-SDA, celebration)
 COFFEE HOUSE is a Saturday evening night-club, located in the fellowship hail of Damascus Road Community Church. It is "a place where Christian artists who are out there on faith... can come and be heard, and be supported by the community. Great entertainment, great food, great fellowship, lots of fun and very very cheap. ...Coffeehouse is \$2! Plus you can get homemade desserts and endless coffee.... We also support an Open Mic where whosoever will may come and have the stage to entertain singing, drama spoken word, comedy, etc."

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A letter from the pastor states "Our church is well known for loudly and boldly proclaiming the Gospel" On June 15, 1997 the "Full Gospel Boogie Band" performed.
 SS leaders trained by WCA. Youth Sabbath School class contains "30 minutes of high-energy competition games, food, loud music, informal social time." Children's S.S. class "has a monthly birthday party" with "birthday cake" in class.

SDA Celebration Churches & Members of WCA

The following is a list of churches and conferences that are either members of

WCA (past or present) or have a contemporary style of worship or Both.

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|--------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| Alaska Conference of SDA Church MD | AK | New Hope SDA Church MD |
| Arizona Family Centre Church MD | AZ | New Life Comm. SDA Church MD |
| Camelback SDA Church MD | AZ | Silver Spring SDA Church MD |
| Catalina Hills Fellowship (MI) | AZ | Sligo SDA Church |
| Gentry SDA Church ME | AR | Brunswick SDA Church ME |
| Azure Hills SDA Chm'ch ME | CA | Freeport SDA Church ME |
| Celebration Center ME | CA | Wakefield SDA Church ME |
| La Mesa Adventist Church SDA Church MN | CA | Minnetonka SDA Church MN |
| Milpitas Adventist Center MI | CA | Southfield SDA Church MI |
| Mountain View SDA Church NC | CA | Fletcher SDA Church NC |
| Paradise SDA Church NC | CA | Foster Memorial SDA Church NC |
| Pacific Union Collage Church SDA Church NE | CA | College View SDA Church NE |

Placerville SDA Church CA Center for Creative
Ministry NE
The Place (Thousand Oaks SDA) CA Sunny-
vale SDA Church NV
Tracy SDA Church CA Buffalo Suburban Church
NY
Denver First SDA Church CO Church of the Advent
Hope NY
Durango SDA Church CO Greater NY Conference of
SDA ..NY
Christ Advent Fellowship CO Christ Fellowship OH
Forest Lake SDA Church FL Kettering SDA Church
OH
Mandarin SDA Church FL Beaverton SDA Church
OR
New Community SDA Church FL Corvallis SDA
Church OR
Florida Hospital SDA Church FL New Life
Celebration OR
Alanta North Church of SDA GA Pioneer Christian
Fellowship OR
Peachtree SDA Church GA Sunnyside SDA Church
OR
Stone Mountain SDA Church GA Sunset Christian
Fellowship OR
Glen Ellyn SDA Church IL Hanover SDA Church
PA
I-Innsdale SDA Church II. South Hills Bible
Fellowship PA
New Life SDA Church IL West Chester SDA
Church PA
Hutchinson SDA Church KS York SDA Church
PA
New Life Community Church KS Dakota
Conference of SDA SD
North Shore Adv. Fellowship MA Madison
Campus SDA Church TN
Damascus Grace Fellowship MD South Greene
SDA Church TN
Damascus Road Comm. Church .MD Burleson SDA
Church TX

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Fondren SW Worship Center TX
Wasatch Hills UT
Alexandria SDA Church VA
Courthouse Road SDA ChurchVA
Community Praise Center VA
Kelso-Longview SDA ChurchWA
Meadow Glade SDA Church WA
New Life Christian Fellowship ...WA
North Hill Christian Fellowship .WA
Oasis Christian Center WA
Tacoma Central SDA Church WA
Calgary Mountain View Canada
Creekside **Comm. Church** ...Canada
Door of Hope **SDA Church**... Canada

New Church Plant Canada
New Life SDA Church Canada
North Oshawa Church Canada
Saint Albert SDA Church Canada
Saint Catharmnes Church Canada
SDA Church in Canada Canada
Sun Valley Fellowship Canada
The Open Door Canada
“The Present **Order of Things Must Change, or the wrath of**
God **will fall upon his** instrumentalities **that are not** working in
Christ’s lines.” SpTAO9 5

What has God called us to do?

“Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, **and to** the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith **the** Lórd; Behold I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.” Jeremiah 18:11 “Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord’s house, all the words that I command thee to speak **unto them**; diminish not a word. If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way...” Jeremiah 26:2 “Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord (GOI): Repent, and turn [yourselves] from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.” Ezekiel 14:6

Show my people their sins

“Cry Aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgressions, **and** the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1 “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations...” Ezekiel 16:2

Why? ..because we must acknowledge our sins & repent

“...the Lord said... **Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say**, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for **I am** merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger **for** ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and... have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord.” Jer. 3:11-13

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More copies may be obtained by request. Kirk & Cathy
Weedinan

10049 S. Township Rd. Canby, OR. 97013 503
266-7211
weedk@jps.net Copyright© 1998 –

UPDATE: Christ Advent and Damascus Road Church have both left the SDA conference since the original printing. Sadly others are fast filling their places.