From the book “the TRUTH, the whole TRUTH and nothing but the TRUTH” (Volume 2)

SDA Emerging churches

(Part-23 of 30)

Pioneer Memorial SDA Church, Michigan

http://www.pmchurch.org

This is the Andrews University campus church with Dwight Nelson as the senior pastor. Notice the following practices and events and ask yourself if this is one reason the university is in spiritual trouble. If you are a true SDA Christian, you will answer with a yes.

Andrews University Campus Ministries Radio (CMRadio) plays modern praise songs and Christian rock music.

A bulletin announcement included information on a Couples Agape Celebration.

http://www.pmchurch.org/article.php?id=531

Small Groups

The “Different Ways to Pray” section under “Leader Resources” has listed “Prayer Models for Small Groups” where these suggestions were given.

- “Popcorn prayer”: “Begins with tiny seed words and thoughts that gradually expand and bounce off others, exploding in prayer and praise until the burst subsides and the room is full of God’s presence. This prayer, as opposed to ‘sentence prayer’ or ‘conversation prayer’ uses only single words, names or short phrases. Prayers can ascend in any order, and even be overlapped.”
- “Learning to Be Silent”: “Silence in our lives isn’t always peaceful; silence can be frightening” as quoted by Henri Nouwen.
- “Touch and Agree”: “Touch, as a physical act, is well-documented for its soothing and healing properties. When you touch and agree, you surround someone in your group who has
a special need, or is about to embark on a special mission. Pray for them while resting hands on their shoulders and head. It’s a tangible symbol that you all agree in asking God to be with them in a special way.” Again, we see here a charismatic activity that belittles the act of laying on of hands. That act is to be reserved for ordaining deacons, deaconesses, elders, pastors, medical missionaries, and Bible workers. Nowhere in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy is it used in any other way.

- **Prayer Walking:** It was stated that prayer walking could be done with a group in a “very natural setting, stopping at various places for prayer and reflection” or “done around a campus or in town pausing at different places for prayers of intercession.”

- **Lectio Divina:** This is a very ancient method of praying and meditating over Scripture. It can be used very effectively in groups. The emphasis is on hearing God’s voice speak to you through His Word.

Whatever happened to the good old-fashioned “get on your knees” type of prayer? Has that become boring to the “postmodern culture”? If so, their spirituality needs to be re-examined.

http://www.pmchurch.org/article.php?id=114
“Small Group Values” included these emerging terms.

- **Openness:** to be “authentic in relationships, sharing our feelings, struggles, joys and hurts.”
- **Safety and Confidentiality:** to “keep in confidence what is said in the group.”
- **Evangelism:** to “expand the community of believers.”
- **Multiplication:** “To see more people connected in Christian community, growing in relationship with Christ.”

Relationships are being stressed here, which are important. However, we must remember that this is also seen as the third stage of the “sacred path” in the prayer labyrinth. In regard to the confidentiality, we must point out again that we are to trust only in Christ, not man.

http://www.pmchurch.org/article.php?id=528
The “Spiritual Body Building” section under “Leader Resources” has a “Nine Dots” exercise in which it is stated that it illustrates the need for “new solutions to old problems,” that sometimes we need to “think outside” our “current framework to find better solutions,” to “break out of the walls of our mental box to find God’s answers in today’s challenges.” It concludes by saying that “to implement God’s vision for church we will also have to overcome some of our preconceived ideas of ‘how to be church.’ ” This is an “out of the box” scenario with a desire to give up traditional methods of church worship services, etc.

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Servant of God
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