Emerging church movement

Shalem Institute

http://www.shalem.org

The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation (Washington D.C.) is one of the leading centers of contemplative spirituality and for training “spiritual directors.” It offers various resources and programs for clergy, lay leaders, spiritual directors, and individuals. They “honor each individual spiritual path” and welcome those who seek to learn the contemplative way. The question is asked: “Do you wish to deepen your spiritual life?” The Personal Spiritual Deepening Program is a resource for anyone wanting to “integrate a contemplative orientation.” This institute was founded in 1972 by Tilden Edwards (an Episcopal priest and author), and Gerald May (1940-2005), an author who practiced medicine, psychiatry, and spiritual counseling. The institute’s mission is to spread the new spirituality prayer to Christianity. Two of its programs offered include the Earth Mystics series and the Group Spiritual Direction Workshop & Retreat. This institute teaches that “contemplation includes a reverence for the Divine Mystery, finding God in all things, or being open to God's presence, however it may appear.” SDAs have trained at this institute and teach its practices to SDA members. We have to wonder why, when pantheistic practices are clearly involved.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 291: Already there are coming in among our people spiritualistic teachings that will undermine the faith of those who give heed to them. The theory that God is an essence pervading all nature is one of Satan’s most subtle devices. It misrepresents God and is a dishonor to His greatness and majesty. Pantheistic theories are not sustained by the word of God. The light of His truth shows that these theories are soul-destroying agencies. Darkness is their element, sensuality their sphere. They gratify the natural heart and give license to inclination. Separation from God is the result of accepting them.

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Martein Rana Mondal
Servant of God
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