Are You A “C.B.” — A Concerned Believer?
By Russell R Standish

From Pastor Russell Standish (pictured left):

In the mid-1980's, I accompanied Pastor O. K. Anderson on a visit to Sydney Adventist Hospital (the largest Adventist medical institution in Australia). There we spent a brief period in conversation with Pastor Larry Laredo, then public relations director for the hospital.

Our exchange of views centred upon the matter of the deterioration of faith and standards within the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia. Larry, a kindly gentleman, thinking to alert me to an attack on my reputation, turned to me and asked in a confidential tone, “Did you know, Russ, that there are even some who call you a ‘C.B.’?”

The letters “C.B.” were an abbreviation of the term “Concerned Brethren,” which had been used to describe a group of very dedicated senior pastors in Australia. They had perceived at an early stage the dangers of Dr Desmond Ford’s teachings at Avondale College and had urged his removal from the post of Chairman of the Theology Department. By the mid-1980’s, Dr Ford was no longer a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But the fidelity of those pastors to their ministerial vows, in which they covenanted before God to preserve the faith, was repaid with scorn, heaped upon their heads by many denominational leaders and a significant number of the laity in the South Pacific. The appellation, “Concerned Brethren,” had thus become a term of derision.

Larry appeared to be unprepared for my reply: “Praise God, aren’t you concerned?”

In 1978, my twin brother Colin and I sat in the office of Pastor Kenneth Wood, then editor of the Review and Herald (now the Adventist Review). He had fearlessly defended God’s truth in a series of splendid editorials. In response, many senior denominational workers, particularly in the educational field, sent him negative letters and some had called for his removal as editor.

In light of these events, we questioned Pastor Wood concerning his sentiments upon learning that there was a strong threat to his work. His reply remained in our hearts: “If I am not prepared to lose my office in defence of the precious truth of God, then I am not worthy of that office.”

We immediately sensed that God was calling each pastor and church worker to such a commitment. Then and there we asked the Lord to accept our pledge to such a standard. How we wish that we had always lived up to that pledge in the years that followed! But now is the time for us to stand for a reformation within God’s church, for as never before our beloved church is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

It is rank darkness that leads men and women to promote unscriptural doctrines such as original sin; salvation in sin; the inability of the Spirit-filled soul to obey the commandments of God; the unfallen nature of Christ; the fallibility of Scripture and of the Spirit of Prophecy; the entry of Christ into the Most Holy Place at His ascension; the view that Creation week occurred over ten thousand years ago; the denial of the remnant status of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; the acceptance of lowered social, entertainment, and moral standards; the permissibility of using alcohol in moderation; the practice of charismatic forms of worship; the restriction of the ministries of certain persons; the hierarchical structure of the church; the acceptability of worldly adornments; abortion on demand; ordination of women; acceptance of the practice of homosexuali-
ty; and many other practices and beliefs of which a pure and holy God does not approve.

Such views were totally foreign to our spiritual forefathers who founded our church upon God’s word, not on worldly principles. Yet these false doctrines and practices are firmly accepted by tens of thousands of church members, including many ordained ministers, and are freely taught in many of our institutions of higher learning.

Colin and I have lain awake praying for our church throughout the world, but inevitably it has been the churches in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States that have been the objects of our most agonized prayers. Unless we call a halt to rampant apostasy immediately, it appears that these churches are doomed to utter demise. In many areas of these nations, error and sin arouse no solemn warnings from our pulpits. Incredibly, it is the preaching of the distinctive doctrines of our faith which arouses the ire of many ministers and leaders. Feverish efforts are undertaken to prevent the flock from hearing the message of righteousness. No criticism of these preachers of righteousness seems so foul that it may not be levelled against the faithful bearers of truth, and against those who choose to listen.

Too long have these loyal Seventh-day Adventists stood such abuse. Surely it is time to press all God’s pastors to serve as authentic Seventh-day Adventist leaders, humbling themselves before Jesus, condemning error, seeking the lost, restoring the wayward, and supporting the faithful. To stimulate the ministry and church leaders to such noble service in the name of Jesus is this work dedicated.


From the Editor:

The term “Concerned Brethren” is used less frequently amongst Adventists today, and its true meaning is even less understood by the younger generation, born many years after the theological controversies that shook the church in Australia in the 1970’s and 1980’s. In recent years, whenever the term had been used by men of influence within the denomination, it was generally said in a condescending manner to revile the fidelity and beliefs of those people who opposed the errors of the New Theology and the apostasy that attended its teachings. As a case in point, a dreadful example of this disparagement is given below, which did not reflect well upon the person who made these remarks:

“You see, we subtly set ourselves up on pedestals and those who are right are the most dangerous among us. Whether we are right on any extreme of this continuum of righteousness by faith, there are those who are so committed to righteousness at all costs — not only righteousness by faith, but righteousness in deeds and words and actions — that they feel called to sit in judgment: they are — I think you have a name for them in the South Pacific that has, thank the Lord, stayed in the South Pacific — called the Concerned Brethren — that even shortens to the C.B.’s. These are people who feel called to sit in judgment on anybody else’s sins or their righteousness or lack thereof.

“I would hate to be known as a C.B. because it’s very simple. The Bible says that judgment is reserved to God. Right? Judgment is reserved to God. If I sit in judgment on you, I am taking an attribute and a privilege that belongs to God alone….So you have those on one extreme who are so right they are looking around at the sins of everybody else that makes them feel just a little more holy, as they point out the sins of the church, of the leadership, or anybody else they can find.” Robert Folkenberg (General Conference President 1990 – 1999). [Transcript of a sermon delivered at the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre, Australia, on Sabbath, November 15, 1997. Verbatim transcript was typed by the editors of The Anchor from a tape recording].

The unspoken logical conclusion drawn from this statement is that those who voice their concerns regarding doctrinal errors or wrong practices in the church ought not to be listened to, let alone tolerated. By impugning the motives and maligning the characters of these “concerned brethren” who are compelled by conscience to take a noble stand for the truth of God, the door is left open for sin and apostasy to flourish even further within our ranks. Inspiration gives a different perspective towards those who are impelled by the Holy Spirit to deliver the ministry of reproof in genuine love for the salvation of their fellow man:

“Jesus Himself never purchased peace by compromise. His heart overflowed with love for the whole human race, but He was never indulgent to their sins.”

“At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for all the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world….These sighing, crying ones have been
holding the words of life; they had reproved, counselled, and entreated.

“...[T]hese humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honour and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favour of any....They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, pp. 209, 210

“Of all the sins that God will punish, none are more grievous in His sight than those who encourage others to do evil. God would have His servants prove their loyalty by faithfully rebuking transgression, however painful the act may be. Those who are honoured with a divine commission are not to be weak, pliant time-servers. They are not to aim at self-exaltation, or to shun disagreeable duties, but are to perform God's work with unswerving fidelity.” Review and Herald, February 4, 1909

“Jesus Himself never purchased peace by compromising. His heart overflowed with love for the whole human race, but He was never indulgent to their sins. He was too much their friend to remain silent while they were pursuing a course that would ruin their souls....The servants of Christ are called to the same work, and they should beware lest, in seeking to prevent discord, they surrender the truth. They are to 'follow after the things which make for peace' (Romans 14:19); but real peace can never be secured by compromising principle. And no man can be true to principle without exciting opposition.” Desire of Ages, p. 356

Christ was a “Concerned Brother” --- unafraid and unimtimidated to call sin by its right name. By loving the sinner and hating sin in equal measure, He delivered His message faithfully, refusing to wear the yoke of silence to preserve His reputation and His life. All the prophets and apostles of God were “concerned brethren” --- including the women who laboured with Paul in his ministry. The Protestant reformers were “concerned brethren” --- risking their lives to unveil the deceptions of the papacy, bringing the light of God's word to the people. Many of the early Adventist pioneers, including James and Ellen White, were “concerned brethren” --- delivering the straight testimony to the fledgling church in the face of formidable opposition from various quarters within the denomination.

During the last several decades, “concerned brethren” such as pastors M. L. Andreasen, Austin Cooke, Colin and Russell Standish, George Burnside, David Lin, Ron Spear, Joe Crews, and many others too numerous to mention, courageously took their stand against the New Theology which invad-ed the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There were “concerned brethren”, like Pastor Kenneth Wood, who spoke against the trend of worldliness coming into our educational institutions. Then there were still others, like the late Vladimir Shelkov, who was incarcerated in the Soviet prison system in Siberia for many years for refusing to compromise with the Communist authorities. Every one of God's true “concerned brethren” refused to be cowered into silence, regardless of the consequences. We can do no less today, if we want to be accounted by God as His faithful watchmen upon the walls of Zion.

“Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, p. 281

The reader is strongly encouraged to read Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, pp. 266, 267 and Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, pp. 209 – 211 to see how God’s true people --- ministers and laypeople --- will express their concerns over the sins in the church. Only those who “sigh and cry for the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” will receive the seal of the living God and be numbered among the righteous, to be welcomed with holy joy into the city of God.

Are you a “C.B.” — a concerned believer?

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Faithfulness and Christlikeness in a Religious Crisis

This is the title of a balanced and thorough compilation assembled by the former manager of Highwood, Peter Mutton, regarding the ministry of reproof in the church. The book addresses issues and answers questions that are met by those whom the Lord has instilled with a genuine love for the truth to take an unwavering stand for the right. Statements from the pen of Inspiration are set forth in their correct context to show the continuing necessity of the straight testimony being kept alive in the church.

While we are always to cherish the love of Jesus in our hearts for the erring — uprooting all belligerence, mean-spiritedness, and vindictiveness from our characters — timidity, cowardice, and dislike of reproof are to be equally avoided. The reader is encouraged to study this matter prayerfully. The book costs A$10 plus postage, and is available from Remnant Ministries.

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Remnant Herald No. 140, Jan/Feb 2012
So many “conservatives” are afraid to speak up, that there is a “conspiracy of silence” that undermines spiritual accountability and leads to greater impiety. Recent revelations of cover-ups in the Catholic Church leave questions some are afraid to ask. How much cover-up goes on amongst us? Do we support a similar protectionistic stance? Revelations of shady dealings at a Maryland Adventist Hospital over eight years ago would never have come to light had there not been a public accountability issue. But why is there so little spiritual accountability? Why are we reluctant to speak up? Partly because we fear to be labelled intolerant. The result is that compromise goes unchecked, sin goes unconfronted, false teaching goes unhindered, and moral standards are at an all-time low.

The modern idea of tolerance has been pressed upon us for so long now, that it has taken on a life of its own. Those with high standards who won’t let their children rent blockbuster movies, eat junk food, watch cartoons, or date are shunned and ostracized. Those who oppose GraceLink (the General Conference Sabbath School curriculum for kindergarten and primary school children), intercollegiate sports and drama are ridiculed and scorned. Faithful souls must not accept this sorry state of tolerance. We must have the same attitude that Jesus had, but spiritual accountability demands that public sins be publicly addressed. Jesus openly reproved sin, but loved the sinner. He reproved the wrongdoers with tears in His voice and gladly helped to free the sinner from it. He had high standards and didn’t flinch when they were attacked. Can we do any less and still be faithful stewards?

In April 1976, in a sermon that was broadcast on radio in the United States, a prominent Seventh-day Adventist preacher gave a description of what it would be like on earth when Jesus returns again in the clouds of heaven. Using the imagery of how people spend their Saturday nights in a big city, he provided a panoramic scene for this event:

“Saturday night in town! The streets are full of people — some shopping, others on their way to places of amusement. Wages have been paid, now they are being spent. It’s an exciting night. It is the end of the cycle of seven days. It winds up a period of time known around the world. It’s a big night in town, Saturday night!”

By Elvis Placer
“But we take it now for this broadcast as a symbol of something bigger yet — a picture of a day coming, and we shall call it ‘The World’s Last Saturday Night.’”

“That day will be the end of man’s unhappy history as apparent director of world affairs, the end of man’s self-seeking, godless life; the end also of his gospel opportunity, and the beginning of judgment. The end of heedless, indifferent, worldly life — the end of the money-mad, selfish, pitiful, pornographic race for pleasure….

“When the day of the Lord comes ‘as a thief,’ millions will be surprised, unready, but they will begin to pray. These prayers will be petitions of despair. They will be too late….As they feel the earth shaking and hear the trumpet sounding in the clouds, they will surge forth in consternation from crowded theatres, night-clubs, palatial residences, costly apartments, and condominiums, business houses, from everywhere, to prostrate themselves before the coming of the Son of man ‘in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory’ Matthew 24: 30.” Voice of Prophecy News, April 1976. H. M. S. Richards, Senior.

A book was published by Pacific Press Publishing Association (designated as the missionary book for 1970), which was widely disseminated across the United States. It contained this description of what another prominent Seventh-day Adventist preacher said would happen when Christ comes again:

“What will happen when this new world Leader appears? What will all the various governments do about it? How will the churches react? What will be the effect on the stock exchange? More important still, how will it affect individuals — you and me and everybody?”

“His coming invasion of the world will have a similar miraculous result. Hospitals and convalescent homes will be emptied, their one-time occupants bursting with new life and vigour, radiant with joy and gratitude at their sudden restoration to health. Even the worst patients in mental homes will be brought back to sanity….Thousands upon thousands will rejoice at His touch upon their poor, confused brains.”

“Part of His master design is full employment for everybody. And the jobs He provides will never run out….And there can’t be much time left for us to change our position — if we need to. For the hour is late. The Man the world needs most will soon be here. He may even now be on His way.” Man the World Needs Most, pp. 76, 78, 82, 86. Arthur S. Maxwell 1970

A common link in the two accounts given by these men as to what will happen when Christ comes again is the absence of any mention of the seven last plagues! In H. M. S. Richards’ sermon, the end of probation occurs at the second coming of Christ; the same is true in Arthur S. Maxwell’s book. Pastor Richards repeated this again in another part of his sermon:

“When the world’s last Saturday night comes, the destiny of every person, whether Jew or Gentile, is already unchangeably fixed. The righteous will remain righteous; the wicked will remain wicked.

“Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as His work shall be” (Revelation 22: 12).

“Certainly this seals the destiny of every man. There is no provision for the filthy man, for the lover of pornography — unspiritual rottenness — ever to return after that night. It will be all over.”

The scenario of life going on as normal — “business as usual” — right up to the very hour of Christ’s second coming bears a remarkable resemblance to the words of a popular religious song, enthusiastically sung by many Christians:

"The marketplace is empty, no more traffic in the street.
All the builder's tools are silent, no more time to harvest wheat.
Busy housewives cease their labor, in the courtroom no debate.
Work on earth has been suspended as the King comes through the gate.

“Happy faces line the hallway, those whose lives have been redeemed.
Broken homes He has mended, those from prison He has freed.
Little children and the aged hand in hand all a-glow;
Who were crippled, broken, ruined, clad in garments white as snow.

“I can hear the chariot's rumble, I can see the marching throng.
And the fury of God's trumpet spells the end of sin and wrong.
Regal rolls are now unfolded, heaven's grandstands all in place.
Heaven's choir is now assembled, start to sing 'Amazing Grace.'

The King is Coming. Bill Gaither 1971

H. M. S. Richards’ sermon made no reference to Christ walking on the earth whereas, in Arthur Maxwell’s book, there is a very strong inference that He will walk the planet, emptying the hospitals and mental asylums “on a global scale” with “His touch” (his words)! Both men spoke about judgment for the wicked but did not explain the order of events as to when unrepentant sinners would be punished with everlasting destruction. To omit any reference to Revelation 16, to leave the impression that life will go on in its unvarying round right up to the moment when Jesus will come (whether in the
clouds of heaven, or, worse, to walk upon this earth), is a most serious dereliction of duty to deliver the truth about last day events in their correct Scriptural order.

To ignore the biblical teaching of the millennium — the 1000 years when the earth shall remain barren and desolate (Jeremiah 4: 23 - 27), to be populated only by Satan and his demonic hosts (Revelation 20: 1 - 3), with the saints reigning with Christ in heaven (Revelation 20: 4, 6), while the wicked lie dead awaiting the second resurrection (Revelation 20: 5; John 5: 29) — to ignore all this by proclaiming:

"...in the not far distant future He will take over the government of our world and set up His own kingdom of righteousness and peace...." *Ibid*, p. 93

is tantamount to believing that the evangelicals’ understanding of Christ’s reign on earth is credible. This is preparing the mind to accept the crowning act of deception which will bewitch humanity — Satan’s personation of Christ, to shimmer in dazzling brightness like “an angel of light” (2. Corinthians 11: 14). The reader is encouraged to read again the vivid portrayal given by Sister White in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 624, 625, that describes the overmastering delusion which will deceive the whole world except those who have fortified their minds with the truths of the Bible. Only they will be able to declare, when commanded by the world to worship this cosmic “Christ”:

"...[that we have been] warned...against just such a foe, who is man’s worst enemy, yet who claims to be God; and that when Christ shall make His appearance, it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels, and thousands of thousands; and that when He shall come, we shall know His voice." *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888

In October 1986, in response to a letter written by a very concerned Adventist who said that the book, *Man The World Needs Most*, should no longer be sold by his ministry, the speaker of The Quiet Hour Search Telecast, LaVerne Tucker, wrote the following:

“Naturally I was a little bit taken back when you started your letter; but by the time I had finished it, I said to myself, ‘Well, I have never read that book. How did we get that book in our warehouse?’...I would like to have taken the book out of circulation so that you would not be able to say that The Quiet Hour distributes this book. But again I want you to know that I do appreciate your bringing these problems to my attention. Just know that this book, when we print our next catalogue, will not be listed as one of the books available from our warehouse.” Letter from LaVerne Tucker

er to Mrs. I. Scott, of Azalea, Oregon, October 1, 1986 (full copy of Brother Tucker’s letter available from the author).

Through the efforts of a very few Seventh-day Adventists who were concerned enough to take a stand against the erroneous teachings of this book, it was eventually withdrawn from circulation, many years after it was first published.

Such aberrations of truth, by men whose names are still recognized and honoured by many Seventh-day Adventists today around the world, were symptomatic of earlier compromises that had an eroding effect upon their public witnessing. The following examples are furnished, not to defame the dead, but to highlight the inherent danger of compromising our faith in order to please people. In so doing, we weaken our hold upon the Advent message, which will influence others to do the same.

H. M. S. Richards Snr. (right of picture) allowed the late Walter Martin, the evangelicals’ expert on cults, to speak to his employees at the Voice of Prophecy studios in 1956. This happened when dialogues were undertaken between himself, with the editor of *Eternity* magazine, Donald Barnhouse, and the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (*Eternity, September 1956*).

In July 1962, H. M. S. Richards, along with the editor of *Ministry* (Roy Allen Anderson), and the speaker of It Is Written (George Vanderman), attended the 10th annual Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI) convention in Seattle, Washington. Pastors Richards and Anderson were invited to speak before hundreds of Pentecostal and charismatic businessmen and leaders.

“There were representatives of many faiths assembled for a common purpose: Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Dutch Reformed laymen, Methodists, Lutherans, Nazarenes, Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists — and hosts of others — all meeting at the feet of Jesus!

“The thing that made this FGBMFI convention different is that the people there didn’t let the denominational affiliations or traditional ties keep them from...
unity of Spirit and purpose. On the contrary, where else could you go to find such cordiality and unity among peoples of varying faiths and worship habits? When you step inside a Full Gospel Businessmen’s meeting, brother, you soon know that everybody are kindred spirits, worshipping Jesus Christ of Nazareth — our common ‘meeting ground’ among all Christians!” Full Gospel Men’s Voice, September 1962

Amongst the invited guests who attended the convention and spoke to the assembly was Billy Graham (pictured left). His observation of this ecumenical gathering, attendant with manifestations of glossolalia and ecstatic utterances, was “something is happening!”

The same paper recorded the observation of one man who declared before the people gathered at this convention:

“The Holy Spirit is breaking down the denominational barriers. As Rev. Oral Roberts — who will speak to us — is used by God to bring healing to the nation, the FGBMFI is bringing the Holy Spirit to the nation. The Seventh-day Adventists are bringing us prophecy. Their attitudes? Does that shock you very much? I hope it does!”

“I think that a lot of our preachers are going to have to throw away a lot of old sermons. You and me — a lot of old sermons. I scrapped a lot of them already...We cannot go on preaching about these dear people like we did thirty, forty, fifty years ago.” The Present Truth, volume 3, 1968. Snohomish, Washington.

We have been given much counsel concerning the manner in which the truth should be presented to the people. Not only must our teachings be wholly sound, in complete harmony with God’s holy word, but the methods and means by which this truth is given should be free from all sensationalism and extravagance of style. Furthermore, we should never enter into ecumenical gatherings to have fellowship — thereby lessening our spiritual discernment to know the difference between truth and error. We have been given this definition from Inspiration as to what fellowship means:

“The word fellowship means participation, partnership.” Fundamentals on Christian Education, p. 476

We are further told that we are vulnerable to be influenced and deceived by the power of darkness when we attend gatherings where we are not authorized to go to.

“God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.” Early Writings, p. 125

In view of all this information, the apostle Paul’s admonition deserves prayerful contemplation:

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1. Corinthians 10: 12

Remnant Herald No. 140, Jan/Feb 2012
Report on Recent Trip to China — An Appeal for Help
By Colin D Standish

CHINA — A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WITNESSING

Last year, Jeff Wehr (assistant speaker for Keep the Faith Ministry) and I spent two weeks in China. This was my second time to visit this immense nation with the world’s largest population — 1.3 billion people. One person out of every six lives in China. Our Lord Jesus said:

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14.

“...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Notice that the gospel will reach every individual. Can you imagine the astronomical challenge this poses in a nation that for so many years has been closed to any form of religion? Today China is still a secular country. Though its stringent laws have not changed much since communism was adopted in October 1949, it became obvious to us that, in many parts of the country, there is a degree of leniency in the enforcement of these laws.

What is legal in China today? You can embrace a religion openly. With permission, you can build churches, hold worship services and other meetings, and print some written materials for the church members. But there are strict rules against proselytizing and handing out literature in public places. You cannot hold Christian meetings in your home or apartment. Foreigners are not allowed to speak during church services for more than 10 minutes. You can run a sanitarium, but religious services are forbidden to be conducted within its premises. You can open schools of various kinds, but the Bible is not allowed to be taught in them. How then do the Chinese Seventh-day Adventists attract new converts?

We saw how, notwithstanding these laws and the risk of going to jail or being levied very heavy fines (which could be as much as three years’ salary), today there are about 400,000 Seventh-day Adventist members in China. That may sound like a large number, but keep in mind that it is just a drop of water in the ocean of 1.3 billion inhabitants. However, Jeff and I were absolutely amazed and inspired by the courage and ingenuity with which God’s people are spreading the gospel in this vast land. We witnessed firsthand Chinese laws being carefully broken so that these precious Seventh-day Adventists can share the gospel in their nation. Almost all the things Jeff and I did would be considered illegal by the authorities. I will not mention any names or places, for we do not want to run the risk of anyone being tracked down by government agents.

During the two weeks we were there, our focus was directed towards two megacities and the nearby villages. One of the cities has a population well in excess of Washington, D.C (over 600,000 people). Keep in mind that in China, because of its rigid laws, there are no local or union conferences. However, churches are allowed to have pastors and elders. Most of the churches are operated and led by lay elders. Only the larger churches have pastors because there are so few of them. In most cases, the pastors have not been trained in any college, university, or seminary operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But these are men who have studied earnestly the wonderful truths of the Bible.

The pastor who sponsored our meetings was a very distinguished man -- calm, resolute, and courageous. He opened up his large church and invited about sixty pastors and elders so that we might be able to teach them the gospel of salvation in its fullness. These pastors and elders, of course, could have been put in jail, and certainly this leading pastor, if anyone had discovered the meetings and reported them to the authorities, would have gone to jail as well. However, their desire to hear the everlasting gospel was amazing. Jeff and I were exhausted by the end of the meetings. We would commence about 6:30am and go through until about 9:00pm, with only two breaks -- the two meals that they ate each day. What a hunger for God’s precious end-time message! I wish you could have been there to hear the bombardment of questions that were asked of us, and observe their ear-
nestness as they inquired about different topics. They brought their stationery with them and took down copious notes over those six days. It was such a concentration of material, but somehow they seemed to be able to absorb it all. Their supreme desire was to take all this information to their own churches. Some had come from over 300 miles away to be at those meetings. On two occasions while we were there, strangers came and immediately Jeff and I were put out of sight, lest they be government agents.

In 2009, Don Ball and I travelled to an entirely different part of China, visiting a very large city, which is a famous tourist place. There we met three younger people -- two men and a woman -- who came from different parts of the country. One of the men was and still is the leader of a self-supporting ministry*. He reads and speaks English fluently. He organizes all the efforts of this ministry. The lady spoke excellent English, having been an English teacher at school before giving herself to self-supporting work. She does all the secretarial work and organizing. She is the number one proofreader of any material translated into or written in Chinese. The third man does not speak English, but he can read English. He is the IT specialist for the team. The two served Don and myself while we were there three years ago. They now put out a bi-monthly magazine, beautifully prepared, excellent in its quality. It is called The Angel Journal. They publish 50,000 copies of each issue, and scatter them to various parts of the country. What this little group has done is miraculous. The three have been inspired by two elderly men -- one, in his late eighties, spent 15 years in prison for his faith; the other man, now 92 years of age, was formerly a dermatologist. He had practiced his profession until the late eighties, spent 15 years in prison for his faith; the other man, now 92 years of age, was formerly a dermatologist. He had practiced his profession until the beginning of last year. He was the editor of the Dermatological Journal for all of China. He is a famous physician. Before Communism took control in 1949, he had been an ordained minister. These aged soldiers of Christ inspire the young people! They are special men. (* = see end of article)

We visited the sanitarium, which is operated in one of the regions where we were speaking. It was a large and substantial building, although the paint was chipping off the walls. Yet, when I spoke with the health guests (through an interpreter, of course), they told me what a wonderful blessing it had been to them. They spoke of the hydrotherapy and massage treatments, the health lectures, the exercise training, and the vegan meals they enjoyed eating. I believe they were doing as great a work as some of the very beautiful lifestyle centers we have in the United States. They have their own gardens for growing fresh fruits and vegetables. How inspired we were!

We visited a huge boarding academy, located in a city -- which is not the ideal location. It also had the same condition of paint peeling off the walls. But we were richly blessed as we spoke to those teenage boarding students. What attention they gave to us! I wish we could receive the same response from American and Australian teenagers. As I spoke to the principal and his five teachers, it seemed to me that all his teachers were under thirty years of age. What a great work they are doing. They are legal in the fact that they are certified to operate a trade school, and that is indeed what they are doing. I walked into one room and noticed 15 sewing machines -- yes, the old-fashioned sewing machines; they showed us the beautiful work being accomplished by those teenage young ladies. The young men were being trained in woodworking and carpentry, and made fine cabinets. However, the illegal part was when they joined together every morning and evening for worship and held a Bible class. This academy has been operating for over two years. By God’s grace, the authorities have not yet come to shut it down or demand that no religious services be held there. Students are also taken by bus to the closest Seventh-day Adventist Church in that region every Sabbath. These people are pushing the parameters of the law, knowing that at any time their work could be closed down. However it seems that God’s angels are protecting them and the Lord is honoring their courage and determination to carry His gospel to every part of this mighty nation.

In the second city, we held meetings in various apartments. On a Friday night, we met with about 30 young people -- all of them either professionals or university students. There was a doctor, an aeronautical engineer, plus quite a few IT men and women who were teachers, and no doubt people of other professions. How eagerly they urged us to preach to them. We were there until after 11:00pm. They pled with me to go ahead with another morning for worship and held a Bible class. This evening for worship and held a Bible class. This
leading self-supporting workers did not know her, but she had been in contact with them and had read their materials. She is a university graduate who majored in mathematics, and is a new Adventist who had come in on her own last year. Her mother has already accepted the Adventist truth through her witnessing, and she is also striving to reach her father, who has not taken that stand. She told me that at least her father had memorized the Lord’s Prayer. This young lady did not dress the way God would have young Christians dress, but then she heard me preach on dress reform and God’s counsel that women should wear appropriate-length dresses. Without me saying anything to her personally, she went to a store that night and purchased a beautiful skirt, which she wore the next morning. How these people seek to follow all of God’s counsels when they hear them! They do not argue with the admonitions of the Lord. They accept anything that is a plain “thus saith the Lord” in the Bible or in the Spirit of Prophecy. If only that were true in the Western world!

These people are fully aware of the New Theology and the schisms in the Western world. Much material is now flooding into China from the West (mainly the United States) from people who are proponents of the New Theology. Many of the Chinese believers are alert to the situation, and they fully reject the New Theology. However I was told that in another part of the country, there were people who are imbibing New Theology concepts. Satan is unceasingly vigilant, determined to hinder God’s work in every conceivable way. One of Satan’s most dangerous strategies is finding a way to corrupt the books written by Sister White.

Wherever we journeyed, we received two pressing requests: that we would find believers in the Western world who could help sponsor at least 20 young people to be trained in the true Adventist message at Hartland College. They especially desire their youth to be trained as pastors, teachers, and experts in Christian media and the health message, so they can return to their homeland and train people all over China in these areas of the gospel. The other appeal was for us to raise enormous funds for them to vigorously translate literature, mainly the Spirit of Prophecy writings and other good books.

I met a man who is translating volume seven of Testimonies for the Church. The first six volumes have already been translated, leaving only volumes eight and nine to be completed. This middle-aged man was so earnest about the work he was doing. He is not the only one doing the translations, but what a blessing he is to the Lord’s work! We promised the people there that we would make their needs known to our brethren and sisters in the Western world. If you can, please send a contribution, small or great, to help these two projects. The gospel will not go around the planet without also going to everyone in China. Many of our Chinese brethren and sisters have the courage and the determination, but they need the resources.

Another great blessing we discovered in China was seeing no evidence of tension between self-supporting and denominational work. The pastors and elders listened eagerly to the messages of self-supporting workers. A number of people had their own ministries, but they were also incorporated into the local church, which is exactly how God wants it to be.

What these people have accomplished over three years is nothing short of a miracle. The time has come to not only to give generously but sacrificially for the accomplishment of God’s work, so that every human being on the face of this planet will hear the call of our Saviour and have the opportunity to make that decision to follow Him all the way into His eternal kingdom. May God richly bless each one of you.

* Remnant Ministries is sponsoring this young man for four years of study at Hartland. A second young man is currently being sponsored by our ministry for the same course — in pastoral evangelism.

RESPONSE FROM THE WHITE ESTATE ABOUT THE TAMPERING OF “THE GREAT CONTROVERSY” IN CHINA

The article in the last edition of The Remnant Herald about the tampering of The Great Controversy in China generated considerable interest from our readers. One pastor in Australia brought this matter to The White Estate for their consideration. The Deputy Director, Tim Poirier, replied with this statement:

“When this report was first brought to our attention, we contacted our Chinese leaders and while we cannot verify that Jesuits were involved (as some reported), it was confirmed to us that unauthorized editions were produced and about a year ago the culprits were caught. We are told that our Chinese members are well aware of these counterfeit versions and that it is no longer a problem there. As for copyright issues, because it is now 100 years old, The Great Controversy text is in public domain, so there is no legal protection against someone maliciously tampering with the book.”
GC President Wilson Declined to Commission Female Pastor
By Elvis Placer

General Conference President Ted Wilson visited Australia last November on a three week tour of the South Pacific Division. He spoke to thousands of Seventh-day Adventists in Sydney and Brisbane. However, it was his visit to Melbourne that has made news in the liberal Adventist press in the United States.

On Sabbath, November 12, 2011, over 2,500 people crowded into the Dallas Brooks Centre in the suburb of East Melbourne to hear Pastor Ted Wilson. The hall was inadequate to cater for the large number of people who came, with several hundred people sitting inside the basement of the building, listening to the message over loudspeakers. Around two hundred more had to return home as there was no more room to accommodate them. Some Adventists were uncomfortable with the venue, refusing to go, knowing that it was built and owned by the Freemasons, with masonic imagery to be seen inside and outside the building. The reverse side of the building on Albert Street, facing the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens, contains the lettering, “The Masonic Centre of Victoria.” Opened in 1969, the venue has long been used by the Victorian Conference for various church functions, such as the evangelistic campaigns conducted by John Carter (1979 - 1980), Peter Roennfeldt (1987), and Kenneth Cox (1992); and the visits of previous General Conference presidents: Neal C. Wilson (May 1985) and Jan Paulsen (November 2000).

November 12 was designated by the South Pacific Division as a special day of prayer for revival and reformation. Pastor Wilson’s message touched on this theme, stressing the need for the believers to gain an experience in righteousness by faith that will prepare them for the Lord’s soon coming.

The afternoon service was marked with a commissioning and ordination service: the ordination of two male pastors from the Victorian Conference and the commissioning of a female pastor, Danijela Trajkov, who is the Director of the Victorian Conference Women’s Ministry Department. The liberal American Adventist news service, Spectrum, in its blog for December 6, 2011, headlined the news about this occasion with this title: “Woman Pastor ‘Set Aside’ in Australia.” Describing the event, it said:

“Moments before the program began, Wilson, citing a desire not to be seen as making a statement on women ministers and stating his discomfort with Danijela receiving the [commission] charge or being included in the prayer of ordination, declined to participate in the commissioning.”

The report then proceeded to what happened after the end of the commissioning service, which was performed instead by the Secretary of the Victorian Conference, Darren Croft:

“After the prayer of commissioning, the plan was that Danijela and her husband would exit the platform and the two ordination candidates and their wives would enter the platform with Ted Wilson. However, a crowded stage made exiting impossible and the ordination candidates had already come onto the platform. So conference officials suggested that Danijela stay on stage as her male colleagues joined her.

Ted Wilson also came on to offer the prayer for them. Victorian Conference President G. Wayne Stanley read the charge to the two men, and then President Wilson noted that it was now time for the prayer of ordination and invited the two men to kneel. He neither looked at nor acknowledged Danijela, though she was standing right next to the ordinands. Then, in a turn simultaneously awkward and gracious, Danijela joined those laying hands on the two being ordained.”

Spectrum claimed that this incident revealed that “gender disparity [had] reached a low point in Adventism.” It further stated:

“It became obvious to many in the audience that although Wilson intended to avoid making a statement on women ministers, he inadvertently made a strong statement by ignoring the woman and by directing his prayer only to the men.”

It doesn’t appear to be coincidental that the Record (the official church magazine for the South Pacific Division), in its blog for November 14, 2011, with a picture of all the participants in the aforesaid commissioning and ordination service, headlined the news item with these words, “Timetable to Review Theology of Ordination.” The report stated that a plan had been devised at the latest Annual Council for each division to review the whole matter of ministerial ordination and consider its implications for church practices in their respective regions. This analysis is directed primarily towards women’s ordination, which has been agitated by the liberals in the Seventh-day Adventist Church since the matter was first put on the agenda at the Annual Council in October 1973. The reader is encouraged to read Pastor Colin Standish’s articles on this subject in (article continues on p. 2248)
A DRAMATIC APPEAL FROM THE VATICAN AMIDST EUROPE'S SOVEREIGN DEBT CRISIS

Last October, as Greece's troubled economy spiralled perilously close towards total bankruptcy — its addiction to easy credit crippling its ability to pay even the interest on the massive loans it has taken in recent years — the Vatican called for the establishment of a "central world bank" that would govern more effectively the economic decisions and policies of nations. Through its Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Holy See stated that the International Monetary Fund was no longer capable of stabilizing the world's financial system with its current regulatory powers. The papacy contended that a new "supranational authority" with "universal jurisdiction" was needed to distribute the flow of credit more equitably throughout the global financial network.

These calls are embodied within eighteen pages of a highly significant document released on October 24, 2011, entitled, Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of a Global Financial Authority. The paper acknowledged that the transformation of the present international economic order can be accomplished only by the gradual transference of sovereignty from every nation to this new catholic (universal) institution. Interestingly, such a concept had been raised years ago in financial circles. The following example is given by the Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) Bank in its monthly news summary for October 1986. Entitled, The World's Economy -- The Search for Mechanisms of Transitions, the report carried the following sentence:

"The development of the new global economy demands a fundamental realignment of policy-making power, away from national government to some as yet undefined institutional order where the traditional nation-state plays a more subordinate role." (Statement read before a public gathering in Toowoomba, Queensland, by Jeremy Lee, on December 5, 1986: Tape recording, Wake Up, Australia!)

To gain a perspective on the power this proposed "global public authority" is envisioned to exercise when it is functional, one only has to observe the manner in which the European Union is presently cajoling Greece to accept the terms of agreement to stabilize its economy. Greece has been threatened with expulsion from the eurozone if it refuses to adopt more severe austerity measures, vigorously endorsed by Germany and France, to improve its economic standing. The Greek people feel that they are losing control of their national destiny, being held subservient to demands that are imposed upon them by the forces of globalization. The Prime Minister of Greece, George Papandreou, admitted as much last June when he said:

"...today protesters in Greece and the world are demonstrating against matters of national governance which are more weak than they used to be and, despite their inner weaknesses, are trapped by the global powers and the changes of a global system." www.skai.gr: Sky News (Greece), June 1, 2011

Last September, in a speech delivered to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, the current President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barasso, declared that the present economic crisis in Europe was a powerful motivating reason to pursue deeper financial integration and political federation across Europe. President Barasso exclaimed:

"What we need now is a new, unifying impulse, a new federalist moment -- let's not be afraid to use the word....This is a fight for the economic and political future of Europe. This is a fight for what Europe represents in the world. This is a fight for European integration itself." Website of the European Union: The President of the European Commission -- European Parliament Debate on the Economic Crisis and the Euro, September 14, 2011

A British member of the European Parliament, Nigel Farage (who is the leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party), responded to President Barasso's speech that same day with this scathing observation:

"Now you've got European economic governance and
what is it? A troika of officials from the [European] Commission, the European Central Bank and the appalling International Monetary Fund step off a plane and they go in and meet the Greek government [and tell them] what they may or may not do. You have killed democracy in Greece. You have three part-time overseas dictators now [telling] the Greek people what they can and cannot do. It is totally unacceptable. Is it any wonder the Greek people are now burning European Union flags and drawing swastikas across them?" Video clip from YouTube: Nigel Farage: Greece Under Commission-ECB-IMF Dictatorship -- speech given in the plenary session of the European Parliament, September 14, 2011

The chief political correspondent of a prominent British newspaper made the following observations about the consequences of imposing such measures to save the currency of the European Union and, in turn, preserve the dream of a unified Europe:

"European politicians have developed [a] superstitious attachment to the single currency. They are determined to persist with it, no matter what suffering it causes, or however brutal its economic and social consequences. There is only one way of sustaining this policy, as the International Monetary Fund argued ahead of yesterday's summit in Brussels....the only conceivable salvation for the eurozone is to impose greater fiscal integration among member states.

"Europe will cease to be....a collection of nation states. It will have one economic government, one currency, one foreign policy....This is the final realization of the dream that animated the founders of the Common Market [forerunner of the European Union] more than half a century ago – which is one reason why so many prominent Europeans have privately welcomed the eurozone catastrophe, labelling it a ‘beneficial crisis.’" The Telegraph, July 21, 2011. Comment by Peter Osborne. London, England.

Once ridiculed by segments of the British establishment and the European political system, Margaret Thatcher's warnings about the repercussions of a federated Europe do not seem far-fetched in light of recent events transpiring in that ancient continent. During her time as Prime Minister of Great Britain (May 1979 - November 1990), Mrs Thatcher publicly expressed her deep concerns about England's loss of sovereignty if it integrated itself more fully into the European Union. In a much-publicized speech which would define her thereafter as a "Euro sceptic", she stated:

"We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them reimposed at a European level, with a European superstate exercising a dominance from Brussels [headquarters of the European Union]." Website: Margaret Thatcher Foundation: Speech to the College of Europe ("The Bruges Speech"), September 28, 1988

On October 30, 1990, addressing the House of Commons in the British Parliament, Mrs Thatcher uttered these famous lines, expressive of her unshakeable convictions on this issue:

"[Answering to interjections from members of the Opposition] Perhaps the Labour Party would give all those things up easily. Perhaps it would agree to a single currency and abolition of the pound sterling. Perhaps, being totally incompetent in monetary matters, it would be only too delighted to hand over full responsibility to a central bank, as it did to the International Monetary Fund [in the 1970's]....What is the point of trying to get elected to Parliament only to hand over sterling and the powers of this House to Europe?"

"In Mr Delores' proposal for economic and monetary union, [it was recognized that] it was a backdoor to a federal Europe, taking many democratic powers away from democratically-elected bodies to non-elected ones...which is why I will have nothing to do with their definition of economic and monetary union." Video clip from YouTube: No! No! No! — footage of excerpts from parliamentary session in the House of Commons, October 30, 1990

Margaret Thatcher's declaration of defiance in the House of Commons reverberated extensively throughout the British political spectrum. A Cabinet minister resigned from her government in protest against her perceived inflexibility on this question. That, in turn, prompted many government ministers to challenge Mrs Thatcher's leadership of the Conservative Party, which she had led since February 1975. Sensing that she had lost support of the greater majority of her colleagues, she relinquished her leadership of the Conservative Party and the Prime Ministership of Great Britain on November 22, 1990.

Since Mrs Thatcher's withdrawal from British politics, both political parties, when in government, have strengthened England's integration with the European Union, notwithstanding the rising clamour of calls from the British public for a referendum to pull the United Kingdom out of the Union. Both parties fear the financial consequences of such a decli-
should we forget the certainty of the interpretation given to Nebuchadnezzar's dream regarding the feet and the toes of the great image -- "the kingdom shall be divided", "the kingdom shall be strong and partly broken", "they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay" (Daniel 2: 41 - 43). Ellen White wrote in 1863:

"Earthly powers are shaken. We need not, and cannot expect union among the nations of the earth [including Europe]. Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, in a divided state, and of crumbling material, that will not hold together. Prophecy shows us that the great day of God is right upon us. It hasteth greatly." Testimonies for the Church, volume 1, p. 361

Lastly, we should not forget that the Vatican's call for a new global financial authority to implement a new international economic order is reflective of its penchant for consolidation of power and centralization of authority, as seen in its hierarchical structure. Dissenting views, differing opinions, and divergent policies will not be tolerated by this proposed supranational market regulator, but will be met with the full force of its controlling authority and plenipotentiary (absolute) power, as Greece is experiencing in its dealings with the European Union. As a professor of education from the United States wrote in 1934:


Ellen White emphatically declared:

"Rome is far reaching in her plans and modes of operation...she is silently growing into power...she is stealthily and unsuspectedly strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike."

What is her purpose and aim?

"She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done" The Great Controversy, pp. 565, 566, 581. 1911 edition

The following statement reveals the determination of the Vatican in its quest to reconquer the whole of Europe through its intricate network of agencies:

"Today an apostate England, the 'Mary's Dowry' freed from the Vatican in the sixteenth century, is being reclaimed by a resurgent Church of Rome with a new face but unchanged dogmas. She lurks behind the so-called ecumenical movement which is inextricably linked with the present attempt to set up a United

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States of Europe. Developments in Europe were not planned to end with merely economic and political union. Their ultimate goal was revealed in the papal encyclicals of Pius XII and John XXIII: Europe would become ‘the greatest Catholic superstate the world has ever known,’ ‘the greatest single human force ever seen by man,’ united within the ancient boundaries of the Holy Roman Empire by the common spiritual bond.” The European Union — The Vatican Influence, p. 1. Professor Arthur Noble. Dorchester Publications, Rickmansworth Herts, England. 2002. (Quoted in The European Union, the North American Union, the Papacy, and Globalism, pp. 37, 38. Colin and Russell Standish. Hartland Publications. 2007)

Through the nations of the world, through the international institutions that have been established to promote the new world order, through the time-serving concessions of apostate Protestantism, through the agencies that are at her disposal to carry out her will (such as the Jesuits, Opus Dei, Catholic Action America, and many kindred societies), the Vatican is fulfilling its long-held objectives in global affairs. Of all people in the world, Seventh-day Adventists are to be most perceptive in recognizing the importance of these events and loudly proclaim their significance in the light of Bible prophecy. Foremost amongst all religious persuasions, Seventh-day Adventists are to uplift Jesus as the One who has unveiled what is to come on this earth before He returns again to redeem His saints. Ascendant above all earthly considerations, Seventh-day Adventists are to have an experience with Christ our Righteousness that shall enable them to go through the challenges of the last days.

“God has a people upon the earth who in faith and holy hope are tracing down the roll of fast-fulfilling prophecy and are seeking to purify their souls by obeying the truth, that they may not be found without the wedding garment when Christ shall appear.” Testimonies for the Church, volume. 4, p. 307

Let us watch the events unfolding in Europe with keen discernment, recognizing that “Romanism in the Old World” is fast regaining its lost ascendancy. Close attention should be given to Germany, which is working closely with the German pope to fulfill the Vatican’s vision for Europe. Rome never sleeps!

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**BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the dramatic events transpiring in Europe today, our readers are highly encouraged to obtain a copy of this excellent book from Remnant Ministries. Written by Colin and Russell Standish, containing only 170 pages, the book explores the roots of the European Union, its development and expansion over the years, the role of the Papacy in providing political and philosophical support for the European Union and globalism, the involvement of the United States with the creation of NAFTA, and how Bible prophecy is being fulfilled in our day. The cost of the book is $A15 + postage. Please contact Remnant Ministries by using the details on our masthead.

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**GC President Wilson…. Continued from page 2244**


The Record outlined further steps in the development of this study over the next three years which, if approved, will be placed on the agenda for debate at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. (For more information, click on: http://record.net.au/items/timetable-to-review-theology-of-ordination).

Pastor Ted Wilson needs our prayers. The pressure on him to yield his principles must be immense. God’s people need to take a firm stand for the right on this issue, yet without belligerence.

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**Gay Marriage in Australia By Elvis Placer**

The Australian Labor Party, at its national conference held in Sydney last December, voted to amend the party platform to redefine marriage to include gay and lesbian unions. In early 2012, a federal Labor politician will introduce a private member’s bill into the national parliament to alter the Marriage Act 1961 to make marriages between homosexuals legal. Though it will be left to each federal Labor parliamentarian to vote according to his/her conscience (as endorsed at the national conference, albeit by a small majority), pressure will be exerted by the party administration to maximize support to pass the bill. The Liberal-National Coalition parties plan to vote against the bill. More will be written about this defining moment in Australian history in the next edition of The Remnant Herald.
In early November, we received a plea from Kenya for Bibles in Ekegusii, the local language of the area. Of course, we don't have these Bibles in stock, but we made enquiries and were able to deal with a local translation business in Kenya who could supply the Bibles (at a price roughly equal to what it would cost us for bulk King James Bibles in Australia). In so doing, we saved money on postage, which often doubles the cost of any books we send overseas. So Johnson, our contact person, was able to pick up the 40 Bibles as requested from the translators, and they were happily received by the members of his group.

Johnson conducts Sabbath worships under a large tree for a group of 45 people. Poverty and hunger are very prevalent in the region, and the worshippers have little in the way of possessions. Most have come out of the Mormon faith, as did Johnson himself, but now faithfully keep the seventh-day Sabbath. Families are often large, and when one or both parents die – HIV/AIDS is rampant – a grandmother is often left with the daunting task of raising the little ones.

Three years ago, Johnson had attended the funeral of one such grandmother, and he saw that the two young children who had been in her care were destitute. They had no-one; they had nothing. He took them in, and that was the start of the orphanage. More children were brought to him in time, and he now cares for 20 children. In most cases, their parents have died of HIV/AIDS. Several of the children are themselves HIV positive. He simply cannot take more children, as he is often asked to do.

Our ministry is committed to helping these orphans. We have seen the recent excesses of the holiday season in our country, when children who seemingly had everything they could want, received yet more gifts. Stomachs have been over-filled with rich food and good things. We ask you to help with these little ones of Keroka Township who have nothing, often not even basic food. They need clean water, clothes and bedding. The building where the children live is very sub-standard; it is filled beyond capacity and needs to be extended. They often go to bed at night hungry, as there just isn't any food. They have suffered emotionally, watching their parents die a lingering death; now some of them face the same awful fate.

We show you just six of the twenty children, though we have dossiers on all the others in our office. From left: Sidney is nine years old, but his face looks like that someone much older. He is HIV positive. Sharon, aged 10, is the youngest of nine children; her widowed mother, a peasant farmer, could not feed her. Caleb, 11, was brought to the home by his grandmother. His father, a policeman, died of AIDS, as did his wife. David, 6, is HIV positive and the youngest in a family of six children. After his father's death, poverty prevented his mother from keeping him. Douglas, aged 7, lost his father to pneumonia. His mother has no source of income, so couldn't keep him and his five brothers and sisters. Amos is six. His father was violently killed by robbers and his mother is unable to keep him.

Comparatively, we are rich and increased with goods. Can we do nothing, while these children, so dear to our Saviour's heart, suffer miserably? Jesus loved the little children. In His love, we earnestly ask that you will answer His call to help the needy. We would like to send funds on a regular basis, as the needs are ongoing.

"Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me." Matthew 25:40.

Donations may be sent to our office.