

# FUTURE NEWS

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## LIGHT WILL BE WITHDRAWN

*The servants of the Lord should bear a plain testimony. They should cry aloud and spare not, and show the people their transgressions, and the house of Israel their sins. But there is a class who will not receive the message of reproof, and they raise their hands to shield those whom God would reprove and correct. They will ever be found sympathizing with those whom God would make to feel their true poverty.*

*The word of the Lord spoken through his servants, is received by many with questionings and fears. And many will defer their obedience to the warnings and reproofs given, waiting till every shadow of uncertainty is removed from their minds. The unbelief that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to the evidence God is pleased to give. God requires of his people faith that rests upon the weight of evidence, not perfect knowledge. The followers of Jesus Christ, those who accept of the light God sends them, must obey the voice of God speaking to them, when there are many other voices crying out against it. It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God.*

*Those who will not act when the Lord calls upon them, waiting for more certain evidence, and more favorable opportunities, will walk in darkness, for the light will be withdrawn. The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated.*

*Review and Herald, September 16, 1873.*

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**Future for America** seeks to supply meat in due season for God's flock. It is present truth that the flock needs now:

"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

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## Future News

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### Mission Statement

The ministry of **Future for America** is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future-for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, **Future for America** emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"-medical missionary work-must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. **Future for America** upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

**Future for America** intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

# PHILIPPINE 2001 UPDATE:

Previously we identified that we were setting before the Lord our intentions of holding another evangelistic campaign in the Philippines next year with a few modifications from the last three years. We intend to stay twice as long in order to have two crusades in two areas and in order to save half the travel expenses. We intend to go in January instead of April to avoid the heat. We also want to build a church in each place where we held the crusade.

The budget necessary to accomplish this plan would be greatly increased over the last three years, and the money would need to arrive sooner in order to prepare the building projects in advance. We set this burden before you all, in the May newsletter. We trusted the Lord would give direction through the financial response, (or lack there of), which followed the newsletter. Since the May newsletter, we have received over fifteen thousand dollars for the two series. We estimate the budget for the two series to be about twenty five thousand, so we are over half way. Though not enough to accomplish both series, it is enough to fully commit to the plan. We will be sending the money on to begin the building preparation and start the Bible workers in their work of gathering souls. Praise the Lord and thank you all for your support! Please continue to pray for this project. If we had the total budget in hand early we could also increase the number of Bible workers which are assigned to the two target areas, and if funds were there we could also increase the time they spend in each area. The Bible workers are the key to baptisms. The evangelistic series itself is simply the reaping process.

“In our large cities the message is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. God will raise up laborers for this work, and His angels will go before them. Let no one hinder these men of God’s appointment. Forbid them not. God has given them their work. Let the message be given with so much power that the hearers shall be convinced. . . .

“The Lord designs that His work shall be carried solidly. To enter a new field involves large expense. But the extra expense of a second man to help Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will be an investment that will bring returns. I feel to urge this matter because so much is at stake. I pray the Lord to impress your minds to carry out His will.” *Evangelism*, 70-71.

## NOVA SCOTIA CAMP MEETING

From July 25 through August 6, I will be speaking at a camp meeting in Nova Scotia and I solicit your prayers. After Canada we have been invited to Argentina, which is also a first time visit, and then to a camp meeting in Colombia. The dates for the South American meetings are being arranged currently.

## COLOMBIA: CHRISTIAN LEADERS TARGETED

Political violence has claimed the life of yet another evangelical minister. Jorge Aldana, 28, was shot to death in the early morning hours of the day after Easter, presumably at the hands of left-wing terrorists. Aldana leaves behind his wife and two young children. Jeannine Brabon, an American missionary who teaches theology in Medellin, said that humanitarian work in Colombia has become a life-threatening enterprise. “Many times individuals are kidnapped or assassinated just because they are helping resolve the social crisis of the people,” Brabon said. Aldana’s death brings the toll to 40 evangelical ministers murdered in Colombia since mid-1998. *Open Doors’ World Watch* newsletter, July 2000.

## CHINA PROJECT UPDATE: JULY 2000

We will be returning again to China this coming August to visit a few places to run some Bible and health training schools. We have made arrangements in several home churches in China. Pray that the Lord will send His Holy Spirit to go before us. In the last part of July we will spend two weeks in Korea camp meetings and do a week of medical missionary training school for about thirty Korean youths. My wife and I will be accompanied by, Rosebud Heun, a Dietitian graduated from Loma Linda with a background in Nutrition Public Health.

## A brief report of our last trip to Indonesia, Malaysia, and the island of Mauritius:

We trained 39 pastors in East Java Conference of Indonesia, while visiting several locations to do hands on medical missionary (natural remedies) work. Praise the Lord, for the medical missionary work opened the way to bring several Muslims into Bible studies and ultimately they were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

There are five different churches actively involved in the teaching and preaching of the health message, including home sanitarium work.

In Mauritius Island, there were fifty Adventists and non-Adventists attending our meetings. We presented the 8 laws of health. Many Bible questions were addressed and answered. We also trained a few local church members to do hands on natural remedies.

In Malaysia, my two sisters, their husbands, and a few church members attended the 5 days live-in detoxification and building program. We also taught the principals of medical missionary work from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

Sebastian & Cynthia Teh

CHINA PROJECT

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**[Editor's note:** China Project is operated by Sebastian and Cynthia Teh. Not only do they teach the health message, but they have been instrumental in introducing several speakers from the United States to many countries in Asia. It was their work that allowed the prophetic messages of *Future for America* to go into China two years ago. Please pray for their continued service, and, if the Lord impresses you—they solicit your financial support as well.]



Dear *Future for America*:

About a year and a half ago you sent me a series of tapes and newsletters. I suspect that this was because I have been supporting independent ministries, because of the condition of the main church.

I was born, raised, and baptized a Seventh-day Adventist, but for the wrong reasons. I knew I was not right with God. I dropped out of the church 35 years ago at age 15, and in subsequent years have been neither happy nor successful.

Recently there has been a series of events occur that have to be greater than coincidence. To spare the detail for now I have become involved with a home study ministry and have done something, I wanted to do, but never thought I could. **Turn my life and heart over to God!**

I had saved all the tapes and newsletters (not read), because I wasn't ready, and the other day I decided to listen to them because my eyes are giving me trouble. . . .

They are wonderful. They can save an enormous amount of time for someone such as me who has so much to learn so quickly. I am interested in obtaining any material you have on tape. I am also interested in obtaining any material that will help me become proficient as quickly as possible, because I wish to start doing my part spreading the three angels message. I feel so woefully unprepared.

Enclosed is some money to help support your ministry. Please accept my sincere apology for it being so belated. And thank you so much for the unbelievable generosity of sending me nine tapes and newsletters. The five part, *These Things Which Have Been, Will Be Repeated* series; and also the four part *The Crowning Act* series. These tapes can help tremendously in speeding my learning curve. Can I obtain the any other tapes that I have missed in the interim since you, with perfect reasonableness stopped sending me any more?

At any rate you will be very soon receiving an order for some of your study material. I also intend to help continue supporting your ministry. Please help me to increase my knowledge of God's final work on earth, with any information you have. I have a deep need to help spread this message and must quickly get ready. May God bless both your efforts for Him, and you also. He truly does work in mysterious ways. Sincerely, D.B., FL

**Quotation:** "There is a fact which is too much ignored by the American people. It is the fact, that the best and leading families of the South have received their education in great part, if not all, from the Jesuits and nuns—hence the degrading principles of slavery, pride, cruelty . . .

"This war would never have been possible without the sinister influence of the Jesuits. We owe it to Popery that we now see our land reddened with the blood of her noblest sons. . . . I pity the priests, the bishops, and the monks of Rome in the United States, when the people realize that they are, in great part, responsible for the tears and the blood shed in this war." President Abraham Lincoln.

"God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late

to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectingly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution." *The Great Controversy*, 581.

## RETURN TO ROME

✠ Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops concluded a week of prayer and dialogue May 19 by announcing plans for a joint commission to further explore the possibility of reunification. The closed-door meeting was chaired by Anglicanism's spiritual leader, Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, and Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical council for Promoting Christian Unity. *National Catholic Register*, May 28–June 3, 2000.

✠ A recent meeting of Pentecostal scholars turned out to be the site of impromptu confessions of sins and pleas for forgiveness regarding Catholic-Pentecostal relations. *National Catholic Register*, April 2–8, 2000.

"Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not

## Gun Ban—One Year Later

One year after gun owners in Australia were forced to turn in nearly 700,000 firearms, including .22 rifles and shotguns, costing the government \$500 million, the country has seen a marked increase in crime.

The following statistics showing the dramatic change over the past year have been compiled courtesy of the National Rifle Association.

- Homicides throughout Australia are up 3.2 percent;
- Assaults throughout Australia are up 8.6 percent;
- Armed robberies throughout Australia are up 44 percent; and,
- Gun-related homicides in the

state of Victoria are up 300 percent.

According to reports, prior to gun confiscation, armed robberies and assaults over the past 25 years had dropped significantly throughout the country. In the same time frame, the murder rate had remained surprisingly low despite highly-populated cities.

When Australians questioned their government about safety they had been promised in return for their sacrifice, their leaders reportedly responded, "Wait longer."

How much longer?"



differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. they taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!" *The Great Controversy*, 563.

## MUSLIM PRESIDENT CITES VATICAN II

 Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid called for Christians and Muslims to recognize tolerate and respect the differences between Christianity and Islam at the 11th General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia on June 3.

The president cited the Second Vatican Council in urging all to practice inter-religious tolerance. The council "gave us ideas on how we should exercise in concrete ways mutual understanding and tolerance," he said.

"On one side the Catholic Church maintains that in the Catholic Church there is truth, but on the other side the Catholic Church also appreciates truth in other religions," explained the president, an Islamic scholar. *National Catholic Register*, June 18–24, 2000.

**[Editor's note:** This is an open endorsement of the Papacy by a Moslem national leader. The Moslem world will have no difficulty falling-in behind the Papacy to "give their power and strength unto the beast." Revelation 17:13.]

"And all the world wondered after the beast." Revelation 13:3.

## CATHOLIC UN VICTORY

 In his editorial column, the editor of the *National Catholic Register* exulted: **"The [pro-abortion forces'] campaign to have the Vatican removed as a player in the United Nations had gathered 498 signatures from groups in more than a year, but a counter-campaign to support the Vatican received 2,000 signatures from groups in just four months. This sent a strong signal to UN-related [pro-abortion] organizations that the Vatican remains a force in the world—one that will not go away.**

"Catholics have a tremendous advantage at international conferences like this, or at least we should. In merely human terms, the Church is an unequalled international force with 1 billion members and a strong organization. It possesses a wealth of scholarship that is head and shoulders above the intellectual resources of those who attack the family." *National Catholic Register*, June 18–24, 2000.

On Appendix pages A34 and A35 of the US Congressional Record dated Thursday, 10 January 1963, you will find listed 45 Current Goals in America. Goal number eleven reads as follows:

"Promote the United Nations as the only hope for mankind. If its charter is rewritten, demand that it be set up as a one-world government with its own independent armed forces."

In September 2000, the United Nations intends to convene a Special Millennium Assembly as a global summit on the future of the world. A Charter to achieve global governance has been developed for presentation then. It is called the Charter for Global Democracy, and has already been signed by many nations of the world. You can see the complete document at [www.vvm.com/~ctomlin/a87.htm](http://www.vvm.com/~ctomlin/a87.htm). There are twelve principles set forth in the document:

1. Consolidation of all international agencies under the UN.
2. UN regulation of all transnational corporations and financial institutions, under an "international code of conduct" concerning the environment and labor.
3. Establish independent source of revenue for UN, such as taxes of aircraft, fuel, licensing of global commons. Global commons are: outer space, the atmosphere, non-territorial seas, and the environment.
4. Eliminate veto power and permanent status on the UN Security Council.
5. Authorize a standing UN army.
6. UN registration of all arms; the reduction of national armies, as part of a multilateral security system under the authority of the UN.

7. Individual and national compliance with UN established human right treaties and declarations.
8. Activation of International Criminal Court, making it compulsory for all nations.
9. Creates a new institution to establish economic and environmental security by insuring sustainable development.
10. Establish an International Environmental Court.
11. Creates an Action Team to monitor and control carbon emission based on per-capita rights.
12. Cancellation of all debt to third world nations.

“As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord’s instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head—the papal power—the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses.

“What is it that gives its kingdom to this power? Protestantism, a power which, while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath.

“‘These have one mind.’ **There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces.** ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God’s people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.” *Maranatha*, 187.

## BUSH ON THE VATICAN

 Texas Governor George W. Bush endorsed continued permanent observer status for the Holy See at the United Nations.

## POPE’S BIRTHDAY

UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan joined in praising Pope John Paul’s 80th birthday by calling him “a champion of dignity” at a UN-sponsored birthday event.

On May 23rd, the US House of Representatives voted 416-1 to award the Pope the \$30,000 Congressional Gold Medal and said that he is recognized the world over as a “pre-eminent moral authority.” Representative John LaFalce, noted that **when the Pope speaks, people all over the world listen.** “The world listens because he is the most powerful moral force on our lifetime,” he said. **The single—typical—dissenting vote was cast by Representative Ron Paul.**

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. Earlier this year, Congress approved, and President Clinton signed into law, a bill granting the medal to New York Cardinal John O’Connor shortly before his death. The medal was also awarded to Mother Teresa in 1997. *National Catholic Register*, June 4–10, 2000.

“And they worshiped the dragon who gave power unto the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast: Who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:4.

 “The pope is not just a religious pilgrim. He is one of the world’s great moral authorities, whose support or very presence (or even the brush of his lips on a proffered pot of soil as he visits a new land) can lend validity to states, policies and causes.” *Time* magazine April 3, 2000.

## STATES CONSIDER 10-COMMANDMENTS LEGISLATION

There is a nationwide effort to pass state laws to post a religious creed in public schools and buildings. Legislation to allow—or even to require—the posting of the Ten Commandments on public property was recently introduced in nearly a dozen states, including Indiana, South Dakota, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Oklahoma, and may be considered in Minnesota and North Carolina.

Many people do not realize that there are at least three versions of the Ten Commandments—the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish versions. To deal with this some states are adopting a “compromise” version, **which favors the Catholic version.**

These attempts at compromise inevitably lead to a misunderstanding of the spiritual nature of the Commandments. For the state to post its version of God’s commandments is to encourage people to follow the commandments, and is one step removed from forcing people to follow the state. *Freedom Alert*, Vol. 16, Issue 1.

## ONE WEEK—27,100 BAPTISMS LIMA, PERU

 In just one week, 27,100 new members joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Peru in what is believed to be the largest increase ever over such a time period.

The baptisms, held throughout the country, accompanied the “Impacto 2000” outreach program held at the San Marcos Stadium in Lima by evangelist Alejandro Bullon. The program was watched live on TV, cable and satellite broadcasts in Peru and in the Spanish-speaking areas of South and Inter-America.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the second-largest denomination in Peru with some 500,000 members. *Adventist News Network.*

 In a country in Southeast Asia, the good news via Adventist World Radio is “running like wildfire” through the towns and villages. Persecution often follows from the government, or other Christians but the believers hold firm. They come together to meet openly. Some with physical illnesses have been healed completely. A lay pastor was recently dispatched to this area at the request of the radio speaker. He reported that “things are very bad in the area. We need to pray for these people.” Pray that God will protect the joyous new believers in this difficult land.

AWR must often leave out information and changes names to protect producers and new believers in areas where persecution is prevalent. *Transmissions*, The Official Newsletter of Adventist World Radio, June 2000.

 3ABN is now on four satellites, enabling them to beam programming to the whole world. 3ABN’s, *Catch the Vision* newsletter, Summer 2000.

“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.

## FEDERALISM DOCTRINE GROWING

FBI forensics experts examined a draft of President Thomas Jefferson’s 1802 Letter to the Danbury Baptists, in which he famously referred to the “wall of separation” between Church and State. That single phrase has long provided the pretext for restricting all religious expression in schools and other public areas. But reading the heretofore scratched-out portions of the original text reinforced scholars’ belief that **Jefferson intended no such thing.**

Jefferson’s letter was in response to an appeal from Connecticut Baptists that he use federal authority to support dis-establishment of the (Connecticut) state church—congregationalism. Although Jefferson favored the Baptists’ position, he refused, explaining that **the Constitution forbade the federal government from intruding in state matters.**

The founders clearly intended to prohibit establishment of a national church (like the Church of England), but just as clearly they believed the states should regulate religious matters in their own jurisdictions (\*\*\*)That was the “wall of separation” Jefferson referred to). This view of limited federal authority is known as federalism, that is, authority not specifically given to the US government is vested in the sovereign states.

[Editor’s note: \*\*\*Was it? Whether Federal or State authority is exercised to enforce or sustain religious decrees or institutions, the outcome is the same.]

But today the wall of separation phrase has been used not only to keep the federal government out of the states’ business, but also to remove ANY religious influence from public life. In a crucial 1947 decision, (Everson versus Board of Education), the Supreme Court ruled that **ANY governmental encouragement of religion is unconstitutional.**

With help from the FBI’s discoveries however, scholars are breathing new life into the doctrine of federalism. There are even signs of an emerging federalist majority on the Supreme Court, which has in a handful of rulings rebuffed the federal government’s efforts to take over authority, such as the general police powers reserved to the states.

**Lately, across the country, citizens are fighting back in the states against the steady encroachment on public religious expression. In Kentucky, for example, where 20 years ago the Supreme Court ordered the Ten Commandments taken off classroom walls, the legislature has defied the courts and recently passed new legislation to put the Commandments back up.**

**Others are following suit. Measures have been introduced in 11 states to post the Ten Commandments in public places. In Indiana and South Dakota, such measures have become law. In other states, bills have passed setting aside time for student-led prayer.**

It is important to note that this is not just a campaign by religious conservatives. **Public opinion polls** show overwhelming general support: 86 percent in Kentucky, 74 percent across the nation.

[“Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; end even in free America, rulers and legislators, **in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand** for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected.” *The Great Controversy*, 592.]

Will the Supreme Court strike down these laws just as they have done for the last 30 years? That may depend on whether the recent trend toward federalism continues and makes its way into the lower courts, and **whether the justices read Jefferson’s letter the way scholars now show he meant it.**

**Christians have a double stake in this issue. Obviously how the Court handles these cases profoundly affects the cause of religious liberty. But, as well, a renewed commitment to federalism is consistent with Christian doctrine. The idea of a limited central government, after all, arose from doctrines Catholics called “subsidiarity”, and the Reformers called “sphere sovereignty”. Both protect the roles of family, churches, and private associations in society and assert that governance is to be managed closest to the people. That is specifically why John Calvin favored a republican form of government.**

Christians need to understand these issues and listen carefully to what presidential candidates say about their standards for judicial appointments; for the next president will likely appoint three new justices, who will either strengthen or reverse the move toward federalism. *Chuck Colson’s Jubilee Extra* newsletter, June 2000.

[Editor’s note: There is a growing trend in this country for “citizens” to be willing to push the government to get what they want. Also note that the newsletter quoted does not understand religious liberty, as does Adventism.]

“The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard **against the employment of secular power on the part of the church**, with its inevitable result—intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ and that ‘no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.’ Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation’s liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.

**Quotation:** “To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical.” Thomas Jefferson, *Virginia Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom*, 1786.

## COURT UPHOLDS PUBLIC AID TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

🕒 NEW YORK (US Newswire) The American Jewish Committee today expressed deep disappointment over the Supreme Court decision **supporting public funding of computers and other equipment for religious schools.**

🕒 WASHINGTON (BP) Reactions to the US Supreme Court’s ruling in a church-state case on the final day of its term varied from describing it as “a momentous day in the history of education in America” to calling it “**a sledgehammer to the wall of separation.**”

🕒 The Supreme Court has issued its decision in *Mitchell versus Helms*, a case in which Adventist attorney Lee Boothby represented individuals challenging a Federal aid program providing computers and other equipment to religious schools in a Louisiana parish.

The Court approved the aid program, but there was no majority opinion, only a 4-2-3 vote. While the decision has no authority as legal precedent, the opinions do point out where we are likely to go.

In a decision written by Clarence Thomas, four justices, including Rehnquist, Scalia, and Kennedy, agreed that “government aid to religious schools does not have the effect of advancing religion so long as the aid is offered on a neutral basis and the aid is secular in content.” (quoting O’Connor, who wrote a concurring opinion). This principle is best understood by example: the state could fully fund the construction of a religious school if it did so as part of a “neutral” program of school construction, including both public and private schools. The state could also provide full tuition directly to religious schools, so long as it was part of a “neutral” program that funded tuition for students at schools generally. This “neutrality” theory is quite similar to the one that destroyed the Free Exercise Clause in the 1990 *Smith* decision.

**The only restriction on aid to religion, according to Thomas, is that the aid not be in the form of something religious.** This means that while the state can give computers to religious schools, it cannot give religious software or Bibles.

Justice O’Connor, writing a separate opinion in which Justice Breyer concurred, strongly disagreed with the Thomas decision in many respects, but did approve the aid program at issue in the case. She would examine any aid program according to three criteria: 1) whether the aid results in governmental indoctrination; 2) whether the aid program defines its recipients by reference to religion; and 3) whether the aid creates an excessive entanglement between church and state.

Under this test, O’Connor explains, certain types of direct aid to religious schools would involve the government in such schools’ proselytizing efforts, while indirect aid to students and parents would not. In other words, O’Connor signalled as clearly as she could **her support for vouchers.** Thus, it looks like **there are now six (6) votes on the Court in support of vouchers.**

Justice Souter wrote a strong dissent, reminding both the Court, and those who care to read, why we have no aid principles in the Constitution in the first place.

For now, suffice it to say that **we are on the verge of crossing a major constitutional divide.** The Thomas decision **repudiates** [“our country shall **repudiate** every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.] an historic Protestant principle this nation was founded on—that of separating church and state, and not providing state aid to the religious enterprise. When and if “neutrality” takes hold, as it did in the law governing free exercise of religion, the next step would be to approve aid that is not “neutral” but directly intended to benefit the church. This may prove to be a quick and easy step to take, since so-called “neutral” aid really is intended to benefit the church in the first place.

Your editor filed a friend of the court brief opposing the government aid program, and specifically opposing the “neutrality” theory adopted by Justice Thomas, arguing that such aid would be destructive both of religion, and religious liberty. The brief is not in “legalese” and is suitable for reading by the general audience, and is available upon request. I would also recommend reading the Souter dissent, which is on our web site with the rest of the decision, [www.churchstate.org](http://www.churchstate.org).

**[Editor’s note:** Years ago the Vatican identified three areas which it believed it could use to attack and overturn the Constitution: Abortion, Parochial school funding, and prayer in school.]

“A well-known writer speaks thus of the attitude of the papal hierarchy as regards freedom of conscience, and of the perils which especially threaten the United States from the success of her policy:

“There are many who are disposed to attribute any fear of Roman Catholicism in the United States to bigotry or childishness. Such see nothing in the character and attitude of Romanism that is hostile to our free institutions, or find nothing portentous in its growth. Let us, then, first compare some of the fundamental principles of our government with those of the Catholic Church.

“The Constitution of the United States guarantees liberty of conscience. Nothing is dearer or more fundamental. Pope Pius IX, in his Encyclical Letter of August 15, 1854, said: “The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience are a most pestilential error—a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a state.” The same pope, in his Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864, anathematized “those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,” also “all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.”

“The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O’Connor: “Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.” . . . The archbishop of St. Louis once said: “Heresy and unbelief are crimes; and in Christian countries, as in Italy and Spain, for instance, where all the people are Catholics, and where the Catholic religion is an essential part of the law of the land, they are punished as other crimes.”

“Every cardinal, archbishop, and bishop in the Catholic Church takes an oath of allegiance to the pope, in which occur the following words: ‘Heretics, schismatics, and rebels to our said lord (the pope), or his aforesaid successors, I will to my utmost persecute and oppose.’” *The Great Controversy*, 564–565.

## THE PRESIDENT? THE SUPREME COURT? CONGRESS? THE STATES?

In 1787 the Constitutional Convention gave Congress the power to regulate interstate commerce.

In 1937 the Supreme Court said it would allow congressional claims that almost any activity can substantially affect interstate commerce, and therefore Congress can regulate almost anything.

In 1994 Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act, giving women the right to sue attackers in federal courts. **[Editor’s note:** Congress claimed that violence against women had some effect on interstate commerce.]

In 1995 the Supreme Court struck down a law as congressional overreaching with the Commerce Clause, having to do with carrying a gun near a school.

On about May 20, 2000 the Supreme Court struck down the federal appeal clause in the VAWA because, according to the Court, violence against women has nothing to do with interstate commerce.

This is good for religious liberty in light of Congress’ recent attempt to draft legislation—a national “hate crime” law—against Bob Jones University because BJU spoke unkindly about Catholicism. The Court says those kinds of

laws are the responsibility of the States. Well and good. We have a little less to fear from Congress for the time being.

The High Court's recent ruling underscores a potentially huge stake in this presidential election. The next president might nominate at least three Supreme Court justices. Any president who serves two terms could appoint approximately half of the federal judiciary. *Newsweek*, May 29, 2000

**[Editor's note:** The balance of powers in the federal government could change radically within the next few years.]

**Quotation:** "I would look for justices of the Supreme Court who understand that our Constitution is a living breathing document, that it was intended by our Founders to be interpreted in the light of the constantly evolving experience of the American people." Vice President Al Gore.

 SAN FRANCISCO (CWNews.com) A federal judge ruled earlier this month that San Francisco's Board of Supervisors had a "duty" to urge local television stations not to run ads by Christian groups proclaiming that homosexuals can change.

## GOVERNMENT AND MAJORITY RULE

George Washington admonished that "Government is not reason; it is not eloquence. It is power. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearsome master."

Thomas Jefferson said that, "the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and for government to gain ground."

President Clinton has called for almost complete federalization of the schools, requiring "every school district receiving federal help"—and that's all of them—to submit to detailed federal controls. **[Editor's note:** Even parochial schools that receive federal funds?]

During America's first 150 years the Constitution was pretty much interpreted in the manner the Framers intended. As a result, government was constrained, despite its natural tendency to grow. All that ended with the New Deal and FDR's threat to pack the Supreme Court. From that point onward, the federal courts became active participants in the growth of government.

In fact, the liberal judicial activists [liberal Supreme Court justices] did so much damage with their philosophy of a "Living Constitution" [very freely interpreting its meaning] that many conservative scholars [and conservative congressmen] adopted a philosophy of "judicial restraint," [by passing laws in Congress] which attempted to eviscerate the power of the federal courts. But in its own way this deference to Congress on the part of conservatives was as harmful as the activism of the [Supreme Court] liberals.

[The Supreme Court's] Deferring to the decisions of [congressional] politicians was hardly what Madison had in mind when he called the Supreme Court the "bulwark of our liberties" against the majoritarian impulses of the legislative and the executive branches.

Each branch of government has constitutional responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the judicial branch [the Supreme Court] include holding the other branches to their constitutional limits by striking down assertion of power [laws passed by Congress], takings of property, denials of civil liberties, and other acts not authorized by the Constitution. Adapted from a *Cato Institute* advertisement letter.

**Quotation:** "I would look for justices of the Supreme Court who understand that our Constitution is a living breathing document, that it was intended by our Founders to be interpreted in the light of the constantly evolving experience of the American people." Vice President Al Gore.

**[Editor's note:** A Democracy is "majority rule" by the power of the popular vote. A Republic is "rule by law" regardless of the opinion of the majority, which protects the rights of the minority. In America, the majority of the 535 popularly elected members of Congress, and the House of Representatives, jointly pass bills which the President either vetos or signs into law.

If a law that is contested in a lower, State Supreme Court, is appealed to the US Supreme Court, the US Supreme Court justices make the final decision as to whether or not the contested law is in harmony with the guidelines presented in the Constitution, and may strike down the law as "bad law".

Therefore, according to their changeable interpretations of the Constitution (whether liberal or conservative), the Supreme Court may uphold a law as “good law” one year, then strike it down as “bad law” the next.

All this is designed to keep the majority from overruling the rights of minorities. However, all branches of the US Government will become “majoritarian” when “temporal prosperity” is destroyed.]

“It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, **preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.**”  
*The Great Controversy*, 590.

“National apostasy will end in national ruin.” *Evangelism*, 235.

## NO ADVENTIST WILL EVER BE “DISFELLOWSHIPED” AGAIN

In business session, delegates to the 57th General Conference Session:

Voted to change the term “disfellowshipped” to “removed from membership.” The Church Manual committee intended to make the term “less loaded with negative implications,” said Lowell Cooper, General Conference vice president. The subheading was changed from “Queries Concerning Receiving and Dropping Members” to “Queries Concerning Receiving and Removing Members.” Pacific Union Conference Department of Public Affairs & Religious Liberty.

 Please send me the tapes and notes on *The Things Which Have Been Will Be Repeated*. Also would like for you to read the *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 199. The last part and the next page send a note along on what you think about it. I really enjoy the tapes. Thank you. P.J. MO

 Hello Jeff and Kathy! I am just about finished with listening to the videotapes on the *Rise and Fall of the King of the North* series and have learned so much more from them.

Having been raised a Catholic, I can really understand how these things have come to pan and are happening with so much more intensity now. I must say, however, we were not taught the real background of the papacy when I grew up, we did as we were told always with threats of what would happen if we did not obey.

The enclosed clipping came out of our local newspaper for today. Thought you might be interested in it.

Things are transpiring so swiftly and so many of God’s professed people are in a deep sleep stupor, but I do and say everything the Lord gives to me whether in Sabbath school, church, or in a group and I pray!

I am sorry that I have no donation to send now and I believe I owe for either one or two books. As soon as possible I will send something.

May God bless all your efforts as you present solid truth in these tumultuous last days and give you courage moment by moment? “Come quickly, Lord Jesus.” In Him, M.M.

 Dear Jeff Pippenger, Thank you for your tapes and newsletter which have been very timely. It makes one aware of the times we are living in.

I need to ask a favor in light of the above. I need prayer for a sale of a house. We know that prayer changes things. Someone could come to us and have an offer within a month is could be sold.

Ellen White counsels us on debt through the *Spirit of Prophecy*. I would appreciate your help in this matter. Thank you. Yours Truly, E.M.

 Dear Brother and Sister Pippenger, Thank you for the time and effort and prayer and study you put into the service you are doing for our Savior. My family is richly blessed by your work. Please use this offering as the Lord leads you to. God bless and lead you in all you do. Please retain us on your mailing list. We look forward to each new tape and newsletter. Your family in Christ, C.M. MO



Dear Brother Jeff, Thank you for the present truth in your tape ministry. We are grateful for all your work you put into these messages. We are encouraged that there are still some who have not bowed their knees to Baal. God bless you and you wife as you continue to serve Him. Sincerely, L.F. TN



Dear Elder Pippenger, I really treasure your tapes. I listen to them several times and let others listen. Then I mail them to a family in TN. I wish I had many dollars to send. I have a very special request. I had not heard from my first husband's brother for years until last week. He is a retired Adventist minister who thinks that the Seventh-day Adventist church is Babylon. He loves the Lord and is sincere, but is off the track. He said he knew of no Adventist minister putting forth truth and warning the people. I assured him there was and I get monthly tapes that prove it. I said I sure wish he could be on their mailing list, and I told him I would make the request. I would like for him to have the first five tapes.

*The Overflowing Scourge* I hate to part with myself. I have already listened to them several times and I want to keep them to learn. I have told the family in TN to order their own. God bless you and yours. Please overlook the scribbling, I cannot see as I write. Sincerely, D.D.CA



Kathy, Thank you for sending the Bible. One down five to go. I plan on giving one to each of my three sons, my foster-son, my granddaughter, and my daughter-in-law. I will buy them as I save for them. All I can do is pray for my children to give their lives to the Lord. Maybe with this Bible in their hands they just might open it. Earlier you sent me a tape and a newsletter. I would like to give you a donation for it. Enclose you will find a check. Thank you again God will watch over you and God will bless you and Jeff for the work you are doing for Him. Your sister in Christ, S.N.



Dear Brother in the Lord, With thanksgiving and praise be to our kind and merciful heavenly Father for all of His many, many blessings, truly your ministry is one among the blessing to both myself and wife. I really appreciate the tapes, all of them, especially in these last and evil days, when it seems as though the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have been totally cast aside by most of our Seventh-day Adventist brethren.

May God bless you and all of your co-workers in the Lord's message to souls that are perishing every day with out the knowledge of this truth, which is in Jesus? In closing a little gift to help spread the good news of the soon coming Savior. Loving Yours in Christ, E.P. SC



Hi Jeff, I am a new listener to your tapes. I receive a real blessing. I was at the Riverside Church in February and received a real blessing too. I love our advent message and I love Jesus who spoke in these last days through Ellen White. I will pray for you. Your Friend, B.H., CA



Dear Brother Jeff, Thank you for continuing to send me your tapes. I am an elderly woman in a rest home too blind to read your letters or anything else, but your tapes have been a real blessing. I play them over and over. God bless your work for Him. Sincerely, C.M., KY



Dear Jeff and Kathy, Thank you, thank you, and thank you! The videotapes are wonderful. I am learning more than ever before. Do you have any really clear teaching or information on the investigative judgment? If so, please forward it to me. After last Sabbath school I realized I am not as knowledgeable about that that as I thought. I have the book *The Great Controversy*, plus many more. The Lord has been so kind as to enable me to purchase these wonderful writings since I have had the blessing to become an Adventist.

**Have you had plenty of rain? We are still bone dry here, just a few showers and one good rain in almost two years. The signs of the times are all around so many people and us (including Seventh-day Adventists) don't realize what is happening in the world. We are surely living Matthew 24. May the dear Lord continue to bless and guide you in His work. In His Love, M.M.**

# Audio Tapes

			PRICE	QTY	AMOUNT
<b>Jeff Pippenger</b>	Those Things Which Have Been Will be Repeated	5 tapes, plus notes	\$18.00		
		Without notes	14.50		
	The Prophetic Pattern	8 tapes, plus notes	25.50		
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	Revelation 16	6 tapes, plus notes	18.50		
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	The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North	10 tapes, plus notes	32.50		
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	The Purification of God's Church	9 tapes, plus notes	31.50		
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<b>Mary Ann McNeilus</b>	God's Healing Way	4 hours	20.00		
<b>Jeff Pippenger</b>	The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North	10 hours	50.00		
	The Prophetic Pattern	8 hours	40.00		

Video Tapes Cont'			PRICE	QTY	AMOUNT
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	The Daily	4 hours	25.00		
	Columbian Video		10.00		
Carl Bernstien and Larry King		1 hour	10.00		

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Thomas Davis	Conscience—Your Inner Voice		3.50		
	The Coming of the Latter Rain		10.95		
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Charles Fitch	Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You		4.00		
Erwin R. Gane	You Ask, God Answers		12.95		
Dr. Virgil Hulse	Mad Cows and Milk Gate		12.00		
Pastor David Kang	Behold the Lamb		6.00		
Dr. Mary Ann McNielus	God's Healing Way		10.00		
J. H. Meier	What Catholics & Protestants Should Know		10.50		
Jeff Pippenger	The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North		7.95		
	Adventism's New View		5.00		
	The Time of the End magazine		3.50		
	The Prophetic Pattern magazine		3.50		
Dennis Priebe	What is a SDA? & How inspired was Ellen White?		5.00		
	Conspiracy for Global Control magazine		2.50		
	The Illustrated Guide to Bible Prophecy		5.50		
	Original Study Bible with EGW comments (Large Black only)		50.00		
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	Spirit of Prophecy 3 volume Library set (49 books)		120.00		
	EGW comments on Daniel & Revelation (2 volumes)		50.00		
Ellen G. White	Early Writings (paper back)		6.00		
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