

**AN OPEN LETTER**

**TO**

**PASTOR STEVE DAILY,**

**CELEBRATION CHURCH MEMBERS,**

**AND ANY WHO WONDER WHY I CANNOT STAY AT  
CELEBRATION CENTER**

**8 June 2007**

Writing this letter has not been easy for me, but after much prayer and many tears, I have done it. It would be much easier to walk out the door and never show up again like others have done, but that would be cowardly. I need to give an answer to people who ask why I am choosing to leave Celebration Center after being a charter member for so many years. It feels like a divorce.

I will always love the many people who are such an integral part of my life, many parts of the praise and worship services, and the privilege of being an intercessor for those who come to unburden their hearts. The Spirit has helped me pray as I had never known how to before. Ivan and I pray earnestly for this church and its members every day and will continue to do so, but the time has come for us to leave.

I wanted to give you this letter at the beginning of the year, but I let it rest a while. After listening to the thoughts and belief systems here I felt the need of addition and subtraction. I don't want to write with a religious spirit. This is the farthest thing from my heart. I am speaking what the Spirit is speaking to me.

I was so glad you accepted the call to come here. I felt you understood the philosophy and goals of Celebration. When you wanted to lead our church to places we had never gone before, I wanted that experience along with everyone else. Whether you had your current direction in mind when you came and just appear to be changing is something only God can judge. But Christians are called to judge all things for themselves, according to the Word, and with the help of the Spirit. At first it looked like you were really getting your direction from the Holy Spirit, but as time has gone on and the fruits and meaning of things you have said have appeared, it seems that you are veering away from biblical concepts of truth. This is very serious because all that is necessary for Satan to achieve his goal of completely derailing any of us is to get us to veer off *just a little* from truth. In the end we will be far from a biblical position. We need to constantly check *everything* against the template of the Bible.

As I understand it, your goal is to have an interdenominational church, with no doctrines, just to love Jesus and be led by the Holy Spirit. The members will grow in the prophetic, speak in tongues, work miracles, raise the dead, and are to be intercessors.

Many of these are worthy goals if done strictly from a biblical viewpoint. You have told us to "come and see," to read books and go to classes to learn what these are about and how to relate to them. But a lot of this doesn't square up with biblical landmarks, particularly the emphasis on signs and miracles as "proof" of God's Spirit being present and God's will being done.

Particularly, I see a problem with the downplaying of doctrines, which are the principles and teachings God has given his people so they can understand his character and work in our lives. New and old believers who do not have a solid grounding in the gospel are not given that grounding here.

There is a frequent putdown of Adventism. You have stated that Seventh-day Adventists are stiff-necked, prideful and stubborn, and that you are almost embarrassed to call yourself an Adventist. You say you want to be a bridge to bring Adventism and all the area churches together, but already that has slipped into a "mush" of the charismatic away from Adventism. And yet you are paid as an Adventist minister, in an Adventist church! There is a something wrong here. What about the special responsibilities God has given to Adventism? To me these are not something to throw away lightly.

I will never judge your relationship with the Trinity, and although I question some of your theology, I can never fault your passion. Most of the things you say and do are so tremendously good, which makes it hard to say what is on my heart, but I can't leave it unsaid. I believe God calls *both* pastor *and* congregation to hold each other accountable, and all are to teach each other as God teaches them. A pastor who refuses to be corrected by laypersons God is using is just as

guilty as the layperson who refuses to be corrected by a pastor God is using. Our cunning enemy would obviously want to short-circuit this process.

Below is a chart listing the areas where I believe your teaching disagrees with the Bible. On the left side is a summary of your teachings as I understand them, and on the right a summary of the Bible's teachings as I understand them. May the Holy Spirit be our guide as we seek to understand God's word and will.

### RED FLAGS

Pastor Steve's Views	My Views and What the Bible Says
<p><b>1. Benny Hinn Ministries</b></p> <p>Pastor Steve believes Benny is led by God and the Holy Spirit even though he does not keep the Sabbath and believes in the immortality of the soul. (Steve doesn't approve of Hinn's lifestyle, but does believe that he has the gift of true healing and glorifies God with his gift.) Steve also sings Kathryn Kulman's praises as a woman filled with great spiritual power.</p> <p>Here are some of Steve's statements on the soul and response to state of the dead studies: "I believe that there is significant biblical evidence...to support the view that the human spirit continues to exist apart from the body after death...either in a place of reward (paradise) or punishment (the lower realms of Sheol or Hades), and that this spirit realm does not interact with human life on earth.... The Bible gives us very little detail about this realm, so I think it is important not to be dogmatic about how it functions or intolerant of those who may hold to a different view....Adventism has tended to be too dogmatic in its assertions concerning the state of the dead and such dogmatism can generate a fear for the things of the Spirit, which leads to charisphobia.... I don't agree with the Adventist position on soul sleep.... I am sure Adventists have been wrong about many things, but I don't think they are wrong about everything.... I believe that the human spirit lives on after death until the second coming of Christ."</p>	<p><b>1. Benny Hinn Ministries</b></p> <p>If a man says he knows God but keeps <i>not</i> his commandments he is liar (1 Jn 2:4).</p> <p>To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word is it because there is no light in them (Isa 8:20).</p> <p>Those who obey God's law are declared righteous (Rom 2:13).</p> <p>The dead know not anything (Eccl 9:5, 6). Benny Hinn communicates with the dead at the graves of Kathryn Kulman and Amy McPherson. Benny stated that Kulman had taught him about the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>My ex-husband, who I put through the Seminary at Andrews, became hooked on Satanic witchcraft. Everywhere in society we see the influence of the supernatural on everyday society. I have studied a book on this subject by G. Edward Reid, <i>Battle of the Spirits</i>. This book has a section on Benny Hinn. Benny says that he now communicates with the dead and talks in person with Elijah and Jesus. Benny believes that Jesus has already appeared in Romania recently and has a video of this event. He believes that Jesus is going to appear in many churches to announce that he is about to come. As we watch various people and ministries and see their fruits play out over time, we have to disassociate with those who are into practices that are clearly not biblical, and strongly warned against.</p>
<p><b>2. The Law of God</b></p> <p>The Ten Commandments were done away</p>	<p><b>2. The Law of God</b></p> <p>God's law is eternal (Mt 5:17-19). Moses' law</p>

<p>with at the Cross (Col 2:14). Steve says the “handwriting of ordinances” are the same as the Ten Commandments – so therefore the seventh day Sabbath is not required. One can choose any day they want for their rest day.</p> <p>Steve teaches that God’s commandments for us today are outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, and that the Sabbath is not the seal of God’s authority.</p> <p>Isaiah 8:20 states that we are to judge according to the law and the testimony. The saints keep the commandments and have the faith of Jesus. Every time I bring this up Steve says that the commandments were fulfilled at the Cross and that the Sabbath is not that important. He believes that if we stick to the law and the testimony, we are setting ourselves up to be deceived.</p>	<p>was temporary (Heb 8:13; Col 2:14).</p> <p>God’s law is in stone, written with his own finger and put inside the ark (Ex 31:18; 32:16; 40:20). Moses’ law was put in a book, outside the ark (Dt 31:24, 26).</p> <p>Remember the 7<sup>th</sup> day (Ex 20:8-11), not just any day.</p> <p>To love God is to keep his commandments (Jn 14:15), all of them, including the ten moral commandments.</p> <p>The Sabbath is a seal of God’s authority, contained in the fourth commandment (Rev 9:4). Nowhere in his word does God tell us <i>not</i> to keep the commandments any more than he tells us to start communicating with the dead! Jesus emphasized that his law was for all time, and I fear greatly for any pastors who denigrate it, for these will be shown to be false teachers when Jesus comes.</p> <p>Jesus wouldn’t have come to do away with his own law! Matthew 5:18 says that not a jot or tittle will pass away from it, and Isaiah 66:23 says that we will worship together in heaven every Sabbath.</p> <p>The Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms were fulfilled by Jesus while still on earth (Lk 24:44), so Moses’ law, not God’s, was nailed to the cross. There are at least two families that have switched to Sunday churches because of this false teaching.</p>
<p><b>3. Raising the Dead</b></p> <p>Raising the dead is a very desirous gift. In Africa this seems to be a regular occurrence within the Pentecostal faith. There is much prayer here at Celebration Center about how to deal with this resurrection power.</p>	<p><b>3. Raising the Dead</b></p> <p>I feel that miracles are possible, but that those who look for them as a sign of divine intervention are in serious danger of deception. The counterfeit will appear genuine.</p>
<p><b>4. Miracles</b></p> <p>Celebration Center invited Eoin Giller and his friend Tom to come from Australia to do a seminar on healing. Eoin was an SDA minister but later attended Benny Hinn’s meetings and felt immersed in fire and received the gift of healing. He is now a “prophet” from the Vineyard and Toronto Holy Spirit outpouring.</p>	<p><b>4. Miracles</b></p> <p>When I heard Eoin was coming I was opposed, and voiced my opinion to the leaders with my reasons why. He was here years ago when Dan Simpson was here, and I was not in favor then.</p> <p>The gifts that God gives are not for everyone. They are not learned or taught, and surely the</p>

<p>Tom's prayers have been about 95% successful. Tom claims he is more accurate now that he can see an aura of white light glowing over the head and down over the shoulders. Both he and Eoin experience electrical energy, heat, and tingling in the extremities for healing. Pastor Steve wants us to be able to do the same, and go out into the marketplace to find the crippled, those on crutches and in wheelchairs, and bring healing to them.</p>	<p>gift of healing is in this category.</p> <p>This light, aura, and electrical energy is used by New Agers and Hindus. A Hindu explained this now that he is a Christian. He said this was truly Satanic energy. We were told this years ago. So again we must test the spirits to see if they are from God (1 Jn 4:1).</p> <p>Light glowing over people's heads and energy flowing through their bodies are used in the holistic health movement. When we lived in Hot Springs, Arkansas there was a holistic health food store that had this as a major emphasis. The name of the store was Health and Light, and their sign had a big rainbow across the top of it. We are to look at people's behavior overall as judged by the Scriptures to avoid being deceived by spiritualism. Since Satan will try to closely imitate God's methods, we must be careful to watch out for his lying wonders. Believing that the Sabbath is not important, and believing in the natural immortality of the soul will trip many up. I want to stay on the path the Lamb is leading us on. He never contradicts himself.</p> <p>Satan may try to use God's methods but God will never use Satan's.</p>
<p><b>5. Healthful Living</b></p> <p>Not a priority for the church body as a whole. It is not what goes into a person's body that matters but what comes out in the way a person acts by treating each other in love. Steve likes the coffee bar in the back of the church and says that those who criticize coffee and donuts being sold each Sabbath morning have a religious spirit.</p> <p>Steve believes that a coffee bar where sugary sweets and caffeine are provided for people to eat during the lesson study time is a good social thing to help people feel comfortable in coming together.</p>	<p><b>5. Healthful Living</b></p> <p>I'm sure most people are not aware of the harmful effects of caffeine and sugar in the body, but ignorance is not bliss. I'm sure they would truly desire to make their bodies a healthy living sacrifice if they knew how (Rom 12:1).</p> <p>How can we propose to be healers if we don't teach people to stop defiling their bodies with unhealthy substances?</p> <p>I am enclosing a copy of the book, <i>The Truth about Caffeine</i>, for those who are really interested in the facts. The book was published in 1984. The publisher no longer exists. The doctor was a graduate of the class of 1957 in the School of Public Health and died in 2000. I called to get information from the Loma Linda School of Public Health and the Del Webb Library. They said that according to copyright laws I have permission to copy the book. The information is very enlightening.</p>

	<p>We are a living temple for God to dwell in and he has given us health instructions. Sugar and caffeine do not make the mind clear to interpret the things of God. It appears that spiritual healing and miracles are the main priority, and healthful living doesn't really count that much.</p> <p>Our bodies are to be a living sacrifice (Rom 2:1). Those who destroy the body temple of God, God will destroy (1 Cor 3:16-17).</p>
<p><b>6. Views of a Prophet</b></p> <p>Steve teaches that the role of a prophet was different in the Old Testament from New Testament times. Ellen White is being treated by the church as an Old Testament prophet. We need to listen to the new modern living prophets today like those on the Elijah list and those who are well known today. If we stick to the law and to the testimony we are setting ourselves up to be deceived.</p> <p>Ellen White is held in contempt. Steve said, "She is a liar and much of what she has written is pure garbage." Yet he asserts that God used her to raise up the SDA Church.</p>	<p><b>6. Views of a Prophet</b></p> <p>God has given a way to test for true and false prophets, so we won't be deceived.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To the law and to the testimony (Rev 14:12).</li> <li>2) By their fruits (Mt 7:20).</li> <li>3) Everything they speak for God will happen, not just some things (Jer 28:9).</li> <li>4) Proclaim Jesus the Messiah and come in the flesh (1 Jn 4:2).</li> <li>5) They will have correct theology. False prophets can transform themselves into apostles for Christ. Satan was an angel of light (2 Cor 11:13-14). They need to pass <i>all</i> the tests.</li> </ol> <p>Yet those who know the truth as it is in Jesus will not be deceived. Believe in his prophets and so shall ye prosper (2 Chr 20:20).</p> <p>This view of the prophet called to give guidance to the formation of the SDA Church puts God's church in a bad light. No church is perfect, but it is still the apple of God's eye and will go through to the Kingdom.</p>
<p><b>7. Antichrist and Daniel and Revelation</b></p> <p>"The antichrist does not necessarily have anything to do with worship, but if it should, in the end the Adventists can say "we told you so." Also the three angel's messages are not now being preached. According to Steve, "they will be preached after the Sunday laws are enacted."</p> <p>The 2300 days are put down. The only thing considered to be of value is Christ's</p>	<p><b>7. Antichrist and Daniel and Revelation</b></p> <p>The antichrist has already come, the disciples declared (1 Jn 2:18). Antichrist means "in place of Christ." In the last days' deception Satan will be the greatest antichrist of all.</p> <p>The whole story of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, from the war in heaven until Jesus comes, is all about worship. Everyone individually in each stage of history has and is being tested in their daily lives and</p>

<p>intercession for us today as we battle with evil in our lives.</p> <p>He states that we have our roots partly from the Azusa Street Pentecostal movement. Asked why we have never heard of this – he said because we live in an Adventist world and they will never tell you this.</p>	<p>character (minds and hearts) as to who they will worship.</p> <p>The 2300 Days: The Sabbath School Quarterly for July to September 2006 was titled <i>The Gospel, 1844 and Judgement</i>. The judgement without the gospel is like law without grace. It leads to fear, condemnation, and death. But with the gospel it is like law with grace and leads to faith, assurance, and hope. It brings out Christ's death with greater clarity and depth, especially as we wait for the Second Coming. It demonstrates God's character in the vindication of his goodness and justice despite the existence of evil. This is not just for humans but also for the onlooking universe. It helps us understand why God has a judgment before the Second Coming, as judgement prior to a sentence entails an investigation of some kind. The Judgment is not a time when God decides to accept or reject us, but when he finalizes our choices as to whether we have accepted or rejected him, a choice that has been manifested by our works. These are also coming under the scrutiny of the onlooking universe.</p> <p>The little horn's (symbol of evil) importance – first depicting military and political expansion, then activity directed heavenward in an attack on the "host of heaven," "Prince of the Host," and the Sanctuary itself in "the daily," is punished and condemned and the saints are vindicated. This is typical of the Hebrew concept of justice and judgement. This leads to God's eternal kingdom and is the silencing of Satan forever. Here is the evidence that God's judgment is right, and those on his side will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God (2 Thess 1:5, NIV).</p> <p>Our roots are in the Millerite movement which came from many denominations which were all looking forward to the Second Coming of Jesus.</p>
<p><b>8. The Prophetic</b></p> <p>New Testament prophetic speaking does not need Old Testament prophets since they are dead. Listen to the live New Testament era prophets. This is much more meaningful.</p> <p>Using words of encouragement means a word or phrase that that has meaning regarding your life direction or a problem you are facing. You</p>	<p><b>8. The Prophetic</b></p> <p>God's prophets gave instruction that was clear to understand and you didn't have to guess to get it right.</p> <p>These NT prophetic people do not keep all of God's commandments and their theology on immortality is false. Again, "to the law and the testimony."</p>

<p>may need to ponder or guess what it means. We were invited to go to an evangelistic (Pentecostal) workshop to teach us to be prophetic. One of these workshops uses language similar to New Age terminology and dream interpretation to capture people's interest.</p> <p>These are the same methods New Agers use, just different language. We are to be taught to go out into the marketplace with this kind of prophetic evangelism. Some who are claiming to be prophetic have said, "Be patient with us while we are still learning as we don't always get it right." Example: Some of the prophetic evangelism on the street would use the initials of family members, or a word or word picture would come to the "prophet's" mind. "Does that have meaning?" they would ask, and the person would respond, "that was a nickname my grandmother used to call me," etc.</p>	<p><i>Webster's Dictionary:</i> Prophecy = preach, to proclaim or share God's message of the gospel.</p> <p>Some of the seers (prophets who saw into the future) used symbols and language that need further study.</p> <p>A prophetic gift is not learned, caught, or taught. A gift is given.</p> <p>Satan knows the past really well and can implant past facts into people's minds, but he has a hard time with future events. These impressions were all from past or existing events.</p>
<p><b>9. Levitation As a Sign From God!?</b></p> <p>A leader of a certain denomination had a group of people pray that God would guide them in the decision of whether there should be any more denominations, and after prayer and fasting they all decided "no." Pastor Steve said he agreed with him. When asked "How do you know?" his comment was that the leader's chair started to rise up in the air, stayed there for a number of minutes, and then came back down. This was a sign that God was in agreement with their decision.</p> <p>He called this levitation a fruit of the people's prayer and fasting and attitude of unity.</p>	<p><b>9. Levitation As a Sign From God!?</b></p> <p>Satan may try to use God's methods but God will <i>never</i> use Satan's methods.</p> <p>Even Doug Addison, the person conducting the prophetic street evangelism class, said regarding levitation, "of course we all know levitation is of the Devil."</p> <p>Again—to the law and the testimony, and faulty theology.</p>

<p><b>10. The Holy Spirit and Visual Manifestations</b></p> <p>On the big screen we were shown pictures of a large tent meeting. You could see fluffy stars almost like snowflakes floating around in the top of the tent and people looking up with joy, amazement, and praise.</p> <p>There was another picture of a fire engulfing a congregation but not consuming them.</p>	<p><b>10. Visual and Physical Manifestations in the Bible</b></p> <p>The people that shout Ho! Ho! Ho! say they can't control this, but God doesn't take away our power of choice and self-control. Some visiting "prophetic" people have asked them to leave and said that this was Satanic.</p> <p>Steve said he prayed about it but the only answer he got is that it is a test. How do you know it isn't Satan causing confusion? Acts</p>
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<p>There are also some people in our congregations calling out "Ho! Ho! Ho!" People are very concerned and also confused as to why they are not stopped from disturbing the services, as this distracts from the message presented.</p>	<p>5:32 says the Holy Spirit is given to those who obey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The voice of God accompanied the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism (Jn 1:32-33; Lk 3:22; Mk 1:10; Mt 3:16).</li> <li>2) Cloven tongues of fire on those in the upper room at Pentecost (Ac 2:3).</li> <li>3) Still small voice (1 Ki 19:12). Satan can cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men (Rev 13: 13-14).</li> <li>4) God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor 14:33). David wrote in Psalm 71:1, "let me never be put to confusion."</li> <li>5) The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to himself but always points to Jesus and does only what Jesus commands.</li> </ol>
<p><b>11. Slain in the Spirit</b></p> <p>This is very close to <i>visual</i> and <i>physical</i> manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Those who have these experiences say they have an ecstatic feeling.</p> <p>This is common at Celebration, usually on Friday nights. People fall backwards and some are trained to catch those who fall. The person who falls often drifts off to sleep for a short time. When they wake up they do not tell of any great vision or message from the Lord. When awake they usually exclaim what a wonderful feeling and experience they have had.</p>	<p><b>11. Slain in the Spirit</b></p> <p>Prophets of old when slain were face down, not on their backs, in fear and anguish before the Lord (Dan 8:17-18). Daniel was in a deep sleep on his face.</p>
<p><b>12. Speaking in Tongues of Angelic Languages</b></p> <p>These are sounds or syllables no one can interpret. This gift of the spirit has been encouraged for two to three years at Celebration. When used in prayer, this kind of tongues is to bring clarity to the situation and a possible solution to the one speaking in tongues. In the prayer team manual team members are encouraged to pray in tongues. If team members haven't ever done this they are encouraged to pray for the gift.</p>	<p><b>12. Speaking in Tongues of Angelic Languages</b></p> <p>There is no record of angels having a language of their own. The gift of tongues in the book of Acts was for the purpose of spreading the Gospel, with the disciples speaking in languages they formerly did not know.</p> <p>Everyone was able to hear them in their own language.</p> <p>There is no Scriptural basis for anyone to believe he can speak in a language (tongue) unknown to anyone. The King James</p>

During the summer of 2006 Steve announced that he now has been given this gift and when he got it he didn't know what to do with these unknown syllables as he didn't understand any of it, but still it brought a great blessing to him.

There are many people who speak in tongues now and this is a real source of joy to the pastor.

translators, to emphasize the fact that the disciples did not previously know the languages they were speaking, added the word "unknown" to the tongues spoken at Pentecost. Those tongues were unknown (they had never spoken the language before) only to the disciples speaking, not to the people hearing them because it was their native tongue.

Inside the cover of my KJV Bible is a description of special features: "The KJV translated from the Textus Receptus in 1611. One characteristic of this version is its use of italics to indicate words supplied by the translator." The "unknown" tongues mentioned are *all* in italics.

I am enclosing a small booklet, *The Gift of Tongues from Heaven's Point of View*, written by Hal Steenson. He was a Pentecostal pastor of a large charismatic church for over twenty years. He shares insights from his personal experience of the spiritual gift of tongues. He also addresses Pentecostal views such as angelic language, etc. He can explain and answer questions I hadn't even thought of, so as you read this book, pray that your thoughts will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

According to Steenson, the explanation of 1 Corinthians 14:18 (Paul saying he thanks God that he speaks in more tongues than others), is the following: "Take note that 'unknown' was not added to this verse because it was obvious to the KJV translators that Paul was referring to known languages. Paul was not saying he spoke in the 'gift' of tongues more than anyone else did – he was saying he spoke in more languages than anyone else in the church" (p 24).

I do not feel comfortable or safe in the environment now at Celebration. Steve once stated that to be in touch with reality was not best for our health, but we should be a people of hope, yet critical thinkers. I don't see how one can think critically and not be in touch with reality.

I will continue to pray for you and all the people in this church. My position will never diminish the love I have for you all.

This does not come from the heart of a religious spirit, but instead from a heart that can't follow the leadership of this church any more. There are so many things at Celebration that are good and have been a blessing to me. But as Amos 3:3 asks, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" No, not as one in heart and soul.

I will be asking for a transfer of membership. In some things I am still under advisement, but we all should study and grow as the Lord leads us in our personal relationship with Him. We will never know it all, but we do have enough information for our salvation. I do know that before I see the Great Redeemer I will encounter the great deceiver. May we daily receive from the Lord the experiences that will prepare us to meet together in heaven and live as a spiritual family there.

Lovingly and with prayers,  
MS

### **More Food for Thought**

“Contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 24).

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God through the Holy Spirit, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, and for correction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16). This is for all of us, not just our pastors.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8, particularly noting verse 3: “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear” (NIV). May we not be in this company, but allow the Holy Spirit to teach us God’s truth.