

*General Conference*

# Report On Hope International

and Associates Groups

*An Honest Review*

by

Neil C. Livingston  
Author's Preface

This document was downloaded from the General Conference *Biblical Research* web page at:  
<http://biblicalresearch.gc.adventist.org/Independent%20Ministries/HopeInternationalRpt.htm>

Because this document is to be published in August, 2000, issues of the *Adventist Review* and *Ministry* magazines [see below], it is only fair that an honest review be written on this heretical document. In this document the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists takes an unbiblical, anti-Spirit of Prophecy, Romanistic stand on ecclesiastical authority. Curiously, names are called independent ministries that totally apply to the General Conference itself in regard to the foundation truths of the Seventh-day Adventist movement. (See, *The Greatest Conspiracy*, [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com)).

First and foremost the charge is made that independent ministries are "separationists," because they advocate that people should leave the denominational Church. This accusation, of course, is just not true! Indeed, the three independent ministries addressed in this General Conference Ad Hoc Committee *Letter* - Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries, for the past twenty years have been meeting with the leadership of the General Conference. At these meetings the three above mentioned independent ministries have assured the General Conference that they believe and

recognize that the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church (denomination) is God's true Remnant Church, and that they will never leave the official organized Church. In the past this position held by Hope International, Heartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries has deeply concerned other truly independent ministries. They pray that these three ministries will totally separate themselves from the apostate denomination.

In this General Conference Ad Hoc Committee *Report* the leadership many times employ two of their most preferred names for anyone working independent of the Church. Foremost is the word "offshoot." Any Seventh-day Adventist working independent of the ecclesiastical control of the Conference is labeled an "offshoot" ministry or organization. This false charge brings immediate reproach from Church members upon a faithful independent worker. They do not bother to check it out for themselves. "The Conference said it -- it must be true!"

Another General Conference charge, and often their most preferred, is that independent ministries are "dissidents." The General Conference would highly approve the thesaurus dictionary renderings of the word "dissident." These words that would also be applied to independent ministries are; "agitators," "dissenters," "rebels," "objectors," to, and "disagreeing," with, and "opposing," the ecclesiastical authority of the Church." Also the General Conference would vehemently approve the rendering that independent ministries are "nonconformists," and "nonconsenting" to the highly "Creedal" *27 Fundamental Statements of Belief* officially adapted by the world Church in 1980 and published in the official Seventh-day Adventist *Church Manual*." "Such individuals of 'dissident and offshoot' organizations are worthy of immediate excommunication!"

In this paper we wish to give an honest, non-biased review of this highly ecclesiastical, authoritarian, General Conference Ad Hoc Committee *Letter* addressed Hope International, Heartland Institute, Remnant Ministries, and to the world denominational Seventh-day Adventist Church. In this *Review Paper* we wish to present the true Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy position of God's last work "for the Church," which is the independent ministry and "home church" movement sweeping the world at this critical hour

Neil C. Livingston

July 2, 2000

## Introduction

[General Conference Ad Hoc Committee]

### *General Conference Introductory Statement*

As a result of concerns raised by then General Conference President, Robert S. Folkenberg and several world division presidents, the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM), in early 1998, established an ad hoc committee to interview the leadership of Hope International, publishers of "Our Firm Foundation," and two other

private groups, Hartland Institute, headquartered in the United States, and Remnant Ministries, based in Australia.

### Our Review of Statement

1. The leadership of Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries, should not be meeting with the apostate denomination. If these three independent (?) ministries believe that the denomination is not in apostasy, but only needs reform, then the General Conference is right! These three ministries should not work outside the denominational Church, but should work for reform from within. If it is impossible to work for reform from within the denominational Church, then the only solution is separation. The corporate Church and all independent ministries claim to fulfill the Elijah message. Then, as did Elijah, we plead with Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries; If the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church is not in apostasy, but merely has apostasy in it; and if the corporate SDA Church is the Lord's true Remnant Church, "follow them." But if you believe that the corporate SDA Church is in apostasy, and has become "a sister to Babylon" (Ms. Vol. 21, p. 380), then it is truly time to separate totally from the apostasy. "How long halt ye between two opinions?" (I Kings 18:21a). Hopefully it will not be said, "And the people answered him [Elijah] not a word." *ibid.*

2. Speaking of "then General Conference President, Robert S. Folkenberg," there is total silence on the part of the General Conference as to why Folkenberg left office in midterm. Some say that Folkenberg was involved in financial associations with the Mafia and other crime syndicates. What is the truth, brethren of the General Conference? Is there a coverup? If this is true, How can an ecclesiastical leader who is involved in such overt actions call other faithful brethren to come into line with an apostate organization? Would the General Conference agree to defend Robert Folkenberg with a truthful, accurate, detailed statement to the Church at large about his removal or resignation from the office of General Conference President in midterm?

### *General Conference Introductory Statement*

The committee, comprised of General Conference Biblical Research Institute scholars, General Conference administrators, and Andrews University Seminary instructors, developed a 20-question instrument that was the basis of their inquiry and appraisal. The leaders of Hope International and its associated groups accepted the committee's invitation to answer the questions. They met with the General Conference appointed group on two occasions for a total of three and one-half days. The following report constitutes the committee's assessment of their responses, both written and verbal, and its evaluation of results of research done by individuals contracted specifically to study the theology and methodology of Hope International and associates.

### Our Review of Statement

1. Statement disclosed that the committee was comprised of total leadership of the apostate corporate Church. Further stated that individuals were "contracted" specifically to study the theology and methodology of Hope International and associates." What was the monetary cost to the Church of those "contracted," and was tithe funds used for this purpose?

2. "The leaders of Hope International and its associated groups accepted the committee's invitation to answer the questions." Further, "They met with the General Conference appointed group on two occasions for a total of three and one-half days." We plead once again with Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries; If the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church is in apostasy, and has become "a sister to Babylon" (Ms. Vol. 21, p. 380), why meet with them any more than you would meet with the Evangelical Churches or the Papacy? "How long halt ye between two opinions?" (I Kings 18:21a).

### *General Conference Introductory Statement*

ADCOM received the ad hoc committee's conclusions on April 25, 2000 and, in light of the questions raised by church membership in general over the years, voted to share this information with the world Church.

### Our Review of Statement

1. The statement that these questions were "raised by church membership in general over the years," is just not true. The "church membership in general" do not know anything about Hope International and their associates! These questions about independent ministries are totally the concern of General Conference leadership. As will be clearly demonstrated below, the major concern, as it always has been, *is over leadership's ability to establish its ecclesiastical authority in the Church.*

2. The General Conference Ad Hoc Committee has "voted to share this information with the world Church." Therefore we reserve the right to share our response to the world Church.

## General Conference Ad Hoc Committee Report

### *General Conference Statement*

All of us would agree that Christ is the Head of the Church. As Ellen G White wrote, "Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care" (TM 42). But the Church is made up of mortals in constant need of His presence and guidance.

### Our Review of Statement

1. Although SDA leadership state that they agree that "Christ is the Head of the Church," their words in this Ad Hoc Committee *Report* affirms their belief in ecclesiastical authority of Church leadership.

2. The problem is that both the leadership of the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the leadership of Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries; fail to understand "who and what" constitutes the true "remnant" church in the closing work. (See manuscript, *Return to Ephesus*, [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com)).

### *General Conference Statement*

For these reasons there is great need for revival and reformation in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as it faces the final chapter in the great controversy. No one will question the importance for church administrators, pastors, teachers, and laypersons to be personally involved in the task of calling the whole Church back to the purity of faith and

Christian living as found in the Scriptures. Such revival is simply indispensable for the effective fulfillment of the mission of the Church. Our message and mission should be constantly reaffirmed through voice and action until the glory of the Lord is revealed throughout the world by a people who are totally committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

### Our Review of Statement

1. Leadership has had over 150 years to lead the Church into "revival and reformation." However, anyone who has only a minute knowledge of SDA history can clearly see that the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has led the people step by step, year by year into apostasy. (See, *The Greatest Conspiracy*, [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com); also, Jon Vannoy, *Under Which Banner*; M. L. Andreasen, *Letters to the Churches*, etc., etc., etc.).

2. "...calling the whole Church back to the purity of faith and Christian living as found in the Scriptures." Where or when has this "policy" ever been adapted or implemented by the leadership of the corporate Church? The opposite is true! Leadership has led the people into the "New Theology" of "free grace" as taught by the Churches of Babylon. They have led the SDA Church into "Celebration" Pentecostal style worship services, clasped hands with Evangelicals in the Ecumenical Movement and merged Seventh-day Adventist hospitals in Colorado and Hawaii with those of the Roman Catholic Church. Not only that, but in a recent news report the Seventh-day Adventist Church was one of two Protestant Churches mentioned that prayed with the Pope (the Anti-christ of Scripture) in St. Louis. Now leadership has the audacity to say in an official *Letter* that the leadership of the corporate SDA Church needs to lead the people into "revival and reformation" and call "the whole Church back to the purity of faith and Christian living as found in the Scriptures." Since 1844 leadership has had over one hundred and fifty six years to lead the Church in reformation and has failed to do so. Yet they spend time and funds to condemn those who are truly trying to lead in historic Adventist reform.

3. The statement "Our message and mission should be constantly reaffirmed through voice and action until the glory of the Lord is revealed throughout the world by a people who are totally committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord," demonstrates that the leadership of the contemporary Church do not have a clue as to what the "message and mission" of the Seventh-day Adventist movement is. According to Scripture (Rev 14:6-11) and the Spirit of Prophecy (see below) our message and mission is to take the "third angel's message" to all the world. But does the leadership understand the third angel's message? No! Today, whenever anyone stands and proclaims the third angel's message boldly, the General Conference will sue that person in a worldly court of law. Not only that, but SDA leadership will use a Roman Catholic as their head attorney in the process! (See, *General Conference Lawsuit*, "Against the Third Angel's Message," [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com)).

"The third angel's message is the Gospel message for these last days, and in no case is it to be overshadowed by other interests and made to appear as an unessential consideration," Ellen White stated. "When in our institutions [or Church] anything is placed above the third angel's message, the gospel is not there, the great leading power." (*The Kress Collection*, page 102, emphasis supplied).

### *General Conference Statement*

Therefore the emphasis on revival and reformation we found in the message of Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries (hereafter referred to as Hope International and associates) is welcomed. Further, we observed in conversations with Hope International and associates that they affirmed agreement on many of the major elements of the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

#### Our Review of Statement

This statement by leadership is commendable. However, if the General Conference leadership would adhere to their own statement, and to the following advice from Jesus Himself, the true Head of the Church, there would be no contention between the corporate Church and independent ministries.

"Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us," the apostle John said, "and we forbad him, because he followeth not us." (Mark 9:38, emphasis supplied).

"Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me," Jesus said. "For he that is not against us is on our part." (Mark 9:39, 40, emphasis supplied).

### *General Conference Statement*

However, the method they have used to express their concern has resulted in what is perceived by many to be a spirit of constant criticism directed against the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is the body of Christ, the Remnant Church. The effect of this methodology is the discouraging portrayal of the Church as steeped in a state of apostasy.

#### Our Review of Statement

1. "...a spirit of constant criticism directed against the Seventh-day Adventist Church." Criticism is directed against the apostasy in doctrinal changes from that taught by pioneer Adventists, not against the Church. Criticism is directed against apostate leadership that leads the people into Evangelical "free grace" and Pentecostal "Celebration" style worship services, etc., etc., etc.

2. "...the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is the body of Christ, the Remnant Church." Again, the problem is that both the leadership of the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the leadership of Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries, fail to understand "who and what" constitutes the true "remnant" church in the closing work. (See manuscript, *Return to Ephesus*, [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com)).

3. "The effect of this methodology is the discouraging portrayal of the Church as steeped in a state of apostasy." If contemporary SDA leadership were in power at the time of Martin Luther, they would have labeled his faithful witness against the corruption in the Roman Catholic Church as "discouraging" This is the only conclusion in light of leadership's overt efforts to excuse the current corruption in the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church.

4. The most snoring Laodicean Adventist can plainly see that "the Church as steeped in a state of apostasy." Why cannot leadership see this glaring apostasy?

"Can you not see how they [Church leadership] have pretentiously covered up their defilement and rottenness of character?" the angel said to Ellen White. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, page 250, emphasis supplied).

"Covered up their defilement and rottenness of character?" What happened to Robert Folkenberg? What happened to Robert Pierson before him? What really happened in the Davenport scandal? How did the leadership of the Church lose the Harris Pine Mills and furniture factories? What about the David Denis case and the resulting financial coverup? etc., etc. etc. . . . People will ask, "What is that all about/" It is about coverup!

"How is the faithful city [the Church] become an harlot!" the angel asked. (*ibid.*, 8T, p. 250, emphasis supplied).

"My Father's house [Church] is made a house of merchandise, a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed!" the angel concluded. "For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking." (*ibid.*, 8T, p. 250, emphasis supplied).

"What stronger delusion can beguile the mind than the pretense that you are building on the right foundation and that God accepts your works, when in reality you are working out many things according to worldly policy and are sinning against Jehovah?" The heavenly Teacher inquired. "Oh, it is a great deception, a fascinating delusion, that takes possession of minds when men who have once known the truth, mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof; when they suppose that they are rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, while in reality they are in need of everything." (*ibid.*, 8T, pp. 249, 250, emphasis supplied).

### *General Conference Statement*

After studying their materials and meeting with their leaders, we have some serious concerns with respect to the nature and purpose of Hope International and associates.

#### Areas of Serious Concern

##### 1. Charge of Apostasy Against the Seventh-day Adventist Church

According to Hope International and associates, it is an understatement to say that there is apostasy in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Church itself is in apostasy! Therefore the condition of the Church is worse than that of any other Christian religious body that forms the end-time Babylon. They are not willing to refer openly to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Babylon because of the occasions in which Ellen G White opposed those who made such accusations. Yet they have found a way to bypass her counsel by accusing the Church of being in apostasy. We have not found a single case where Ellen G White or the book of Revelation accuses God's remnant people of being in apostasy. It is this charge of apostasy against the Church that keeps Hope International and associates alive.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "The Church itself is in apostasy! Therefore the condition of the Church is worse than that of any other Christian religious body that forms the end-time Babylon." This statement is true! The apostate Seventh-day Adventist Church is worse than modern Babylon, *because they know the pioneer Advent truth and reject it!*

2. "They are not willing to refer openly to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Babylon because of the occasions in which Ellen G White opposed those who made such accusations." Not one independent ministry calls the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church "Babylon." Actually, as stated above, the Church is worse than Babylon for the reasons stated above. In fact the contemporary SDA Church has joined hands with Babylon. (See, B. B. Beach and Lukas Vischer, *So Much In Common*, "Between the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the World Council of Churches," Geneva, Switzerland, 1973). As to the Ellen White statements on calling the Church Babylon; a man was calling the Church "Babylon" over one hundred years ago. Today Ellen White would call the corporate Church worse than "Babylon" herself. Indeed, at that time she stated that the Church was in danger of becoming "a sister to fallen Babylon." Note her exact words carefully:

We must as a people arouse and cleanse the camp of Israel. Licentiousness, unlawful intimacy, and unholy practices are coming in among us in a large degree; and ministers who are handling sacred things are guilty of sin in this respect. They are coveting their neighbors' wives, and the seventh commandment is broken. We are in danger of becoming a sister to fallen Babylon, of allowing our churches to become corrupted, and filled with every foul spirit, a cage for every unclean and hateful bird; and will we be clear unless we make decided movements to cure the existing evil?

Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases* Vol. 21 (page 380) (emphasis supplied) (See also, *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, (page 188).

"...will we be clear unless we make decided movements to cure the existing evil?" Notice that the evil existed over one hundred years ago. I ask you, dear reader, what would Ellen White's counsel be today?

3. "We have not found a single case where Ellen G White or the book of Revelation accuses God's remnant people of being in apostasy." Once again, the corporate SDA leadership actually believe that the apostate Church is the "remnant." For a Scriptural response to this Biblical ignorant statement we would refer the leadership of the General Conference to the book of Ezekiel, chapter nine. For a Spirit of Prophecy response to this statement we refer the brethren to Ellen White's comment on Ezekiel, chapter nine. (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, pages 266, 267; "The Seal of God," 5T., pp 207-215; "Shall We Be Found Wanting," 8T, .pp. 247-250).

### *General Conference Statement*

If the Church is in apostasy, it has no reason to exist and the Lord must raise up a new church as His instrument for these last days. Hope International and associates see themselves as spokespersons for those who perceive that the Church is in apostasy, and they believe that they have a divine mandate to catalogue and publicize this apostasy and to call the Church to repentance. Although we acknowledge that there is apostasy in the Church--Jesus Himself acknowledged the co-existence of wheat and tares in the Church--we reject the blatant and irresponsible accusation that God's Remnant Church is in apostasy. Their definition of apostasy as "any deviation from God's truth or mandated Christian practice" is not found in the Bible or in the writings of Ellen G White.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "If the Church is in apostasy, it has no reason to exist and the Lord must raise up a new church as His instrument for these last days." The Church is indeed in apostasy and "has no reason to exist." But the problem is that Hope International and associates do not believe that the Church is in apostasy any more than do the leading brethren. Both the leadership of the General Conference and Hope International and associates fail to

understand Bible and Spirit of Prophecy statements that the Lord in the "latter rain" remnant, as He did in the "early rain" apostolic Church, will have a "last solemn work" that will not involve "corporate" denominations. In the "last solemn work" the Lord does not need to "raise up a new Church as His instrument for these last days" -- He only needs to raise up men who will boldly speak the truth. He will call out thousands of independent voices, ministries, such as John the Baptist gave before the first advent of Christ. (See, *Return to Ephesus*, [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com)).

2. "Hope International and associates see themselves as spokespersons for those who perceive that the Church is in apostasy, and they believe that they have a divine mandate to catalogue and publicize this apostasy and to call the Church to repentance." This is true! Hope International and associates do consider themselves "spokespersons" for other independent ministries "who perceive that the Church is in apostasy." But like the General Conference itself, Hope International and associates believe that there is apostasy in the Church, but that the Church itself is not in apostasy. "Although we acknowledge that there is apostasy in the Church," so states this General Conference Ad Hoc *Paper* addressed to Hope International and associates.

3. "...we reject the blatant and irresponsible accusation that God's Remnant Church is in apostasy." This statement should forever settle the question for Hope International and associates. The General Conference will never admit apostasy in doctrine or in worldly policies.

"The Lord does not accept worldly policies for the carrying forward of His work," Ellen White counseled. "This spirit must not come into the management of our conferences." (*Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 2, page 308, emphasis supplied).

"The work given to the human agent is to copy the character of Jesus Christ," Ellen White continued. "Shall worldly policies be allowed to hide the principles of *men who claim to be doing the work of God?*" (*ibid.*, *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 2, page 308, emphasis supplied).

"I say, No; no," Ellen White replies to her own question. "*The agencies of God and Satanic agencies cannot combine.*" (*ibid.*, *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 2, page 308, emphasis supplied).

Has the General Conference employed "worldly policies" into the work?

"The angel of the Lord presented this matter to me in symbols," Ellen White replies to our question. "It seemed as if a thief were stealthily moving closer and still closer and gradually but surely stealing away the identity of God's work by leading our brethren to conform to worldly policies." (*The Publishing Ministry*, page 169, emphasis supplied).

4. "Their [independent ministries] definition of apostasy as 'any deviation from God's truth or mandated Christian practice' is not found in the Bible or in the writings of Ellen G White."

The truth is the truth, but men do not treat it as such in our office of publication. There will be in the office men who will lead into strange paths those whose minds are not firmly established in the principles of present truth. These unconsecrated men will set up false waymarks, and will walk in false paths, because they lack clear discernment. They

will manifest a burning desire to confederate; to form rings among themselves in order to sustain one another in the wrong principles they advocate. They will voice one another's words.

Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 19, page 260.

### *General Conference Statement*

#### 2. Distorted View of the Nature of the Church

It is our clear impression that Hope International and associates believe that the Church is composed of both an organized system of administration and a parallel self-supporting ministry independent of the organized system. We understand their position to be that, as divinely-appointed self-supporting ministries, they are not ultimately bound by the decisions of the world Church. This model of church organization is used by them to justify their activities. Such understanding of the Church lacks any biblical support and is not found in the writings of Ellen G White. Although we acknowledge the need for supportive ministries within the Church, we perceive Hope International and associates as having parallel organizational structures separate to, and critical of, the official Church organization. Support for this perception is found in the following characteristics of their organizations:

#### Our Review of Statement

1. "It is our clear impression that Hope International and associates believe that the Church is composed of both an organized system of administration and a parallel self-supporting ministry independent of the organized system." It is impossible for Hope International and associates to believe in "both" the apostate Seventh-day Adventist "organization" and truly be an independent ministry at this critical hour. The General Conference cannot understand, and rightly so, Hope International and associates' double-minded position that, "as divinely-appointed self-supporting ministries, they are not ultimately bound by the decisions of the world Church."
2. "Such understanding of the Church lacks any biblical support and is not found in the writings of Ellen G White." This is true! Ellen White did not, during her lifetime, support any independent ministries completely separated from the Church and its mission of presenting the third angel's message. However, at that time there was not much of a "world Church." Since becoming a "world Church" the corporate SDA Church has abandoned the three angel's messages. The Church no longer teaches the historic Adventist truth on the first angel's message -- the "final atonement completed in the heavenly sanctuary." The SDA Church now teaches the false Evangelical doctrine that the atonement was completed at the cross. The SDA Church no longer teaches the second angel's message -- calling Christians out of the Sunday-keeping churches of Babylon. Indeed, the contemporary Church has joined hands with Babylon. (Again see, B. B. Beach, Lukas Vischer, *So Much In Common*, Geneva, Switzerland, 1973). Since becoming a "world Church" (ninety five years after the death of Ellen White) the "world Church" has watered-down, and in most cases, completely abandoned the third angel's message -- a message directed against the teachings of Romanism and the Roman Catholic Church. The historic Adventist bold preaching and teaching on the third angel's message is now sarcastically labeled as "beast bashing" by contemporary SDA Church leadership. For this reason the truly "divinely-appointed self-supporting" ministry movement has developed -- mostly since 1980 when the corporate SDA Church adapted the apostate 27 Statements of Belief. The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy do support God's "last solemn work" to be completed by a small remnant. (See above; also, *Return to Ephesus*, [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com))

3. "Although we acknowledge the need for supportive ministries within the Church, we perceive Hope International and associates as having parallel organizational structures separate to, and critical of, the official Church organization." This statement is also true! Hope International and associates have indeed established "parallel organizational structures." This question of "parallel organizational structures" should be closely examined and then abandoned by all truly "independent" ministries. In the "last solemn work" the Lord does not need "parallel organization structures."

### *General Conference Statement*

#### a. Diverse Understanding of Doctrinal Positions

Though strongly affirming their support for the Seventh-day Adventist Statement of Fundamental Beliefs, Hope International and associates seem to have some reservations with respect to several of them. One such reservation concerns "The Son" (#4). In this particular case they have taken a position different from that of the Church by making their particular understanding of the human nature of Christ part of the doctrine. On the topic of the Church (#11 and #13) their understanding of its nature and authority does not seem to reflect the doctrine of ecclesiology as held by the Church (see below). The same applies to the statement on "Stewardship" (#20).

### Our Review of Statement

1. "Though strongly affirming their support for the Seventh-day Adventist Statement of Fundamental Beliefs, Hope International and associates seem to have some reservations with respect to several of them." We ask, How can Hope International and associates "support" a heretical document like the 27 Statements of Belief. They admit that part of these Statements of Belief contain error! These 27 Statements of Belief do contain truth mixed with error -- the most dangerous and deceptive error known to man. It is high time that Hope International and associates pull their support completely from the apostate SDA Church and its erroneous 27 Statements of Belief.

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders," Jesus warned, "insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 24:24).

2. "One such reservation concerns 'The Son' (#4). In this particular case they have taken a position different from that of the Church by making their particular understanding of the human nature of Christ part of the doctrine." This is the most important part of the apostasy of the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church. All historic Adventist teaching on "the human nature of Christ" is indeed "a position different from that of the Church." This doctrinal change on the human nature of Christ first appeared in official denominational print in 1957 (*Questions on Doctrine*), many, many years after the death of all pioneer Seventh-day Adventists. Of the 11, 000, 000 plus members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church today, most are totally ignorant of SDA denominational history, and therefore do not know that two of the most important doctrines have been changed. 1. The Final Atonement, 2. The Human Nature of Christ. We suggest Adventists should read and study the following publications. (M. L. Andreasen, *Letters to the Churches*; Alonzo T. Jones, *The Consecrated Way to Christian Perfection*; Dr. Ralph Larson, *The Word Was Made Flesh*; J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*, Review and Herald

Publishing Association, 1999; Neil C. Livingston, *The Greatest Conspiracy*, www.adventist4truth.com).

#### Ellen White On Christ's Human Nature

"The example He [Christ] has left must be followed," Ellen White counseled. "*He took upon His sinless nature our sinful nature, that He might know how to succor those that are tempted.*" (*Medical Ministry*, page 181, emphasis supplied).

Think of Christ's humiliation. He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin. He took our sorrows, bearing our grief and shame. He endured all the temptations wherewith man is beset. He united humanity with divinity: a divine spirit dwelt in a temple of flesh. . . . "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," because by so doing He could associate with the sinful, sorrowing sons and daughters of Adam.

Ellen G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, December, 1900. (emphasis supplied).

"In Christ were united the divine and the human - the Creator and the creature," Ellen White wrote. "The nature of God, whose law had been transgressed, and the nature of Adam, the transgressor, meet in Jesus - the Son of God and the Son of man." (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, page 926, emphasis supplied).

Notice that in the second statement Ellen White says that Christ took upon Himself "fallen" human nature, and in the third statement Christ took upon Himself the nature of Adam, "the transgressor." Adam after he had fallen was the transgressor. Ellen White taught that Christ took the nature of Adam "after" the fall. Contemporary Adventist "new" theology teaches that Christ took the nature of Adam before the fall. Notice the following contemporary Adventist statements that agree totally with the Roman Catholic view on the nature that Christ took upon Himself while on earth.

#### So Much In Common Between SDA and Roman Catholic Church

Disbelief in the immaculate conception of the blessed virgin Mary would imply belief in the following revolting consequences; namely, that He who is holiness itself, and has an infinite horror of sin, took human nature from a corrupt human source.

*Catholic Belief*, page 217; Quoted in *Senior Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly*, May 17, 1913, page 26. (emphasis supplied).

"Jesus was not like you and me when He was here upon earth, for He was never a sinner," Don Reynolds wrote. "*He came to this earth as Adam before Adam fell.*" (Donald G. Reynolds, former President of Upper Columbia Conference, "Adam and Evil," *Review and Herald*, July 1, 1965, emphasis supplied).

"He [Christ] was like Adam before his fall," Leroy Edwin Froom wrote. (*Movement of Destiny*, page 428).

"When the incarnate God broke into human history and became one with the race," Roy Anderson wrote, "*it is our understanding that He possessed the sinlessness of the nature with which Adam was created in Eden.*" (Roy Allen Anderson, "God With Us," *Ministry*, April, 1957, page 34, emphasis supplied).

"Unlike the rest of the children of Adam, the soul of Mary was never subject to sin, even in the first moment of its infusion into the body," James Cardinal Gibbons wrote. "*She*

*alone was exempt from the original taint.*" (James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, 88th Edition, page 171, emphasis supplied).

"Although born in the flesh, He was nevertheless God," the Seventh-day Adventist Church officially states, "*and was exempt from the inherited passions and pollutions that corrupt the natural descendants of Adam.*" ("Seventh-day Adventists Answer" *Questions on Doctrine*, page 383, emphasis supplied).

Notice that in the two Roman Catholic statements both Mary and Jesus were "exempt" from what other human beings must pass through. Notice also the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist scholars and teachers agree with the statement from *Questions on Doctrine*!

3. "On the topic of the Church (#11 and #13) their understanding of its nature and authority does not seem to reflect the doctrine of ecclesiology as held by the Church. The same applies to the statement on "Stewardship" (#20)." This opinion by apostate SDA Church leadership is understandable. All independent ministries' understanding of who and what is the Church, "its nature and authority does not seem to reflect the doctrine of ecclesiology as held by the Church." Because independent ministries' view does not agree with that of the leadership of the Church does not matter, unless they should hold the view, as does Hope International and associates, that the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's true Church, and therefore is the Remnant Church! Hope International and associates should either return to the corporate Church and work for reform, as have others, i.e., Ty Gibson, Willard Santee and John Osborne (considered by this author to be traitors of truth), or separate from the apostate denomination and complete the "last solemn work" of the third angel's message.

### *General Conference Statement*

#### b. Reluctance to Accept the Authority of the Church

Although acknowledging that the Church has a God-given authority, Hope International and associates do not consider the authority of the Church to be final in the community of believers. It is the Seventh-day Adventist position that the Church was formed when a group of believers voluntarily, and under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, accepted a common gospel, a common lifestyle, and a common mission, understood to be based on the authority of the Scriptures. This community was vested with authority by Christ (Matt 18:15-18). Decisions made by the properly appointed representatives of the Church community are binding on all members who, in order to preserve the unity of the Church and to facilitate the fulfillment of its mission, are willing to set aside personal opinions and/or practices to follow the decisions of the body. But if elements of that community break the common bond that unites it, by developing a judgmental attitude against the authority of the community, the result is confusion and insubordination. Hope International and associates appear to have taken the position that their interpretation of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is the final arbiter over the Church, to determine whether its decisions are correct or not. If, in their judgment, a decision is not correct, they reject it and proceed to believe and act as they think best, while at the same time claiming to be loyal members of the Church. That attitude is consistent with the spirit of schism and, at the present time, contributes to undermining the authority of the Church.

### Our Review of Statement

1. Of course, this statement on the ecclesiastical authority of the Church is the longest statement in the official *Letter*! "Although acknowledging that the Church has a God-given authority, Hope International and associates do not consider the authority of the Church to be final in the community of believers." Once again we state, Hope

International and associates should not "acknowledge" the authority of the apostate SDA Church, or that the apostate Church's authority is "God-given." This is total confusion.

2. The pioneer Adventist Church did accept a "common gospel." The reason why there are so many independent ministries today, and growing daily, is because the "common gospel" taught by pioneer Adventists in the past is a far cry from what the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches today.

3. "This community was vested with authority by Christ (Matt 18:15-18). " This statement is true. However, the apostolic Church that was "vested with authority by Christ" later became the Roman Catholic Papacy, the great Anti-christ. Just because the Lord gives an organization authority, as He did Israel of old, does not mean that the organization will have power forever. That kind of thinking is Romanism at its very height of arrogance. That organization must remain loyal to the truth. The history recorded in Scripture and prophecy proves the folly of Israel and Rome on this very point.

4. "Decisions made by the properly appointed representatives of the Church community are binding on all members who, in order to preserve the unity of the Church and to facilitate the fulfillment of its mission, are willing to set aside personal opinions and/or practices to follow the decisions of the body." They really mean "leadership" rather than "body." Again, this kind of thinking is Romanism at its very height of arrogance.

5. "But if elements of that community break the common bond that unites it, by developing a judgmental attitude against the authority of the community, the result is confusion and insubordination." This kind of thinking overlooks the possibility of apostasy within the Church body. Like the Roman Catholic Church, Seventh-day Adventist leadership believe that it is impossible for the Church to fall or become apostate. "The Ship is going through!" leadership cries over and over again. But these cries to adhere to the ecclesiastical authority of the Church do not make the statement "the Ship is going through" any more the truth.

6. "Hope International and associates appear to have taken the position that their interpretation of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is the final arbiter over the Church, to determine whether its decisions are correct or not." Every Christian must read the Scriptures for himself and not let a Church organization interpret Scripture for him. However, if Hope International and associates adhere and recognize the corporate SDA Church as God's true Church they should follow that organization. "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal [Babylon], then follow him." (I Kings 18:21).

7. "If, in their judgment, a decision is not correct, they reject it and proceed to believe and act as they think best, while at the same time claiming to be loyal members of the Church." Again we ask, Why do Hope International and associates insist on remaining members of the apostate Church? If you remain members of the apostate Church how can you claim to be independent and adhere to "historic" Seventh-day Adventism? Unfortunately for Hope International and associates the corporate SDA denominational

Church will in twelve months take away your treasured membership in that Church. (See last paragraph of this official General Conference Ad Hoc Committee *Letter* below).

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate," saith the Lord, "and touch not the unclean thing [denomination]; and I will receive you." (2 Corinthians 6:17).

8. "That attitude is consistent with the spirit of schism and, at the present time, contributes to undermining the authority of the Church." The apostate leadership is only concerned with their ecclesiastical authority. Since the beginning of the dark ages this has been the major problem with all apostate organizations. That is why God is rejecting all man-made organizations in the "last solemn work."

*In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged.* They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. *But, it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed.* In the daytime we look toward heaven, but do not see stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.

Ellen G. White, *Christian Service*, page 49. (emphasis supplied).

### *General Conference Statement*

Self-supporting ministries are to work harmoniously with the Church. Paul, who is often referred to as a self-supporting worker was, after his conversion, brought by the Lord into a permanent connection with the Church. In that context we are told:

### Our Review of Statement

1. "Self-supporting ministries are to work harmoniously with the Church." This is a admirable principle. But the corporate Church will not let anyone work "harmoniously" with them. If anyone stands for historic Adventism they will be "disfellowshipped," excommunicated from the Church.

2. "Paul, who is often referred to as a self-supporting worker was, after his conversion, brought by the Lord into a permanent connection with the Church." This is true! And Paul's relationship with the Church cost him his life because he obeyed their wrong advice that he perform a ceremonial ritual in the temple. (See, Acts 21:18-36). Then when he was arrested and put in prison not one of the Church leaders visited him. Paul was taken to Rome and at his death he stated: "Only Luke is with me. . . ." (2 Timothy 4:11). How sad! So much for Church leadership and their so-called love for independent self-supporting workers.

3. The following Ellen White statements quoted by the official SDA Ad Hoc *Paper* condemning Hope International and associates were written one hundred years ago when the Church was not in apostasy. However, Ellen White warned time and again that if the Church did not stay faithful to the truth, after he would be pronounced the sentence; "found wanting."

In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ,

at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, *if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: "Found wanting."* By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged.

Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, page 247. (emphasis supplied).

Who can truthfully say: "Our gold is tried in the fire; our garments are unspotted by the world"? I saw our Instructor pointing to the garments of so-called righteousness. Stripping them off, He laid bare the defilement beneath. Then He said to me: "Can you not see how they have pretentiously covered up their defilement and rottenness of character? *`How is the faithful city [Church] become an harlot!* My Father's house [Church] is made a house of merchandise, a place whence the divine presence and glory have departed! For this cause there is weakness, and strength is lacking." p. 250.

*ibid.*, Ellen G. White, "Shall We Be Found Wanting?" *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, pages 247-250. (St. Helena, California, April 21, 1903).

### *General Conference Statement*

#### c. Rewriting of the Baptismal Vow

A Baptismal Vow was put together by Colin Standish using the 1932 Church Manual and other sources. An examination of this baptismal vow reveals that it is significantly different from what is found in the current Church Manual as approved by the world Church. Among the differences are the following:

#### Our Review of Statement

1. "A Baptismal Vow was put together by Colin Standish using the 1932 Church Manual and other sources." This act on the part of Hartland Institute is just as much in error as the apostate Seventh-day Adventist denomination which adapted the original heretical *Church Manual* (Creed) in 1932. Prior to this date Adventists had always voted not to have a *Church Manual* filled with man-made policies.
2. "An examination of this baptismal vow reveals that it is significantly different from what is found in the current Church Manual as approved by the world Church." Alas! Official Church leadership finally admits that their 27 Statements of Belief are "significantly different" from those of "historic" Adventists.

### *General Conference Statement*

1) A new fundamental belief added as a requirement for joining the Church: that "Jesus took upon Himself our fallen nature." Such statement has never been part of the Seventh-day Adventist Baptismal Vow or of official statements of fundamental beliefs. Such change illustrates an independence from the Church in doctrinal matters as they constitute their own particular views into tests of faith, independent from the remainder of the Church.

#### Our Review of Statement

1. "A new fundamental belief added as a requirement for joining the Church: that `Jesus took upon Himself our fallen nature.'" While it is wrong for Hartland Institute to write their own Creedal "Baptismal Vow or of official statements of fundamental beliefs," the fact is the statement that, "Jesus took upon Himself our fallen nature," is not "a new fundamental belief." It has always been taught by pioneer Seventh-day Adventists. (See, M. L. Andreasen, *Letters to the Churches*; Alonzo T. Jones, *The Consecrated Way to Christian Perfection*; Dr. Ralph Larson, *The Word Was Made Flesh*; J. R. Zurcher, *Touched With Our Feelings*, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1999).

2. "Such statement has never been part of the Seventh-day Adventist Baptismal Vow or of official statements of fundamental beliefs." This is true! It has never been a part of "official" statements of fundamental beliefs. However, it has indeed been a part of the Fundamental Principles written by James White in the *Signs of the Times*. Note carefully the statement by James White:

James White Statement #2. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal Father, the one by whom he created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men, full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in heaven, where through the merits of his shed blood, he secures the pardon and forgiveness of the sins of all those who persistently come to him; and as the closing portion of work as priest, before he takes his throne as king, he will make the great atonement for the sins of all such, and their sins will then be blotted out (Acts 3:19) and born away from the sanctuary, as shown in the service of the Levitical priesthood, which foreshadowed and prefigured the ministry of our Lord in heaven. See Lev. 16; Heb. 8:4, 5; 9:6, 7.

James White, Editorial, *Signs of the Times*, June 4, 1874, Vol. 1, Num. 1; *The Living Witness*, "Significant Articles From the *Signs of the Times*," Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1959, pages 1, 2.

3. "Such change illustrates an independence from the Church in doctrinal matters as they constitute their own particular views into tests of faith, independent from the remainder of the Church." It is right for Hope International and associates to hold "independence from the Church in doctrinal matters" when the Church has officially adapted false doctrine and made it a test of faith. It is wrong for Hope International and associates, or any other organization, to make a Statement of Beliefs or Creed, even if that statement is true, and make that statement a test of faith. Historically, there was no Official Statement of Beliefs or Baptismal Vow until 1932. Pioneer Adventists always rejected the idea of a *Church Manual*. (See, Chapter 7, "A Creed and a Church Manual," *The Greatest Conspiracy*; [www.adventist4truth.com](http://www.adventist4truth.com)).

#### *General Conference Statement*

2) The vow dealing with tithing does not identify the Church as the repository of tithe, as does the official Baptismal Vow.

#### Our Review of Statement

The acceptance of tithe funds on the part of independent ministries really disturbs the leading brethren of the Conference. In their opinion, too much money is going to independent ministries that should be in the coffers of the General Conference -- so that they can invest the funds in the Stock Market! If Hope International and associates were truly "independent" they would not have to be concerned what is stated in the "official" *Church Manual*.

#### *General Conference Statement*

3) In the rewritten Baptismal Vow, the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not receive a mention. The Remnant Church is mentioned, but it is never identified with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The fundamental question here is one of the nature and authority of the Church and where that authority resides. Those who promote the use of this reworded Baptismal Vow demonstrate that they do not recognize the authority of the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church.

#### Our Review of Statement

1. "In the rewritten Baptismal Vow, the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not receive a mention." The leading brethren are confused because in private meetings Hope International and associates have admitted that they recognize the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church as God's true Remnant Church. "The Remnant Church is mentioned, but it is never identified with the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

2. "The fundamental question here is one of the nature and authority of the Church and where that authority resides." Leadership cannot understand why Hope International and associates admit that they recognize the Church, but will not recognize the authority of the Church. Do not feel bad, brethren of the General Conference, I also fail to understand this fence-straddling position on the part of Hope International and associates. "Those who promote the use of this reworded Baptismal Vow demonstrate that they do not recognize the authority of the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church."

### *General Conference Statement*

#### 2. Redefinition of the Tithe "Storehouse"

The financial support of their organizations comes, not only from their own earnings, nor only from the offerings of church members, but also from tithes. Some of their publications redefine the "storehouse" to be any instrument of God that is proclaiming "unadulterated present truth." Whether intended or not, the influence of such literature is to encourage members to redirect their tithe away from the Church "storehouse," and to invest it instead with these independent ministries.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "The financial support of their organizations comes, not only from their own earnings, nor only from the offerings of church members, but also from tithes." Again, this is a major contention with the leading brethren of the General Conference. They believe that anyone who recognize the Church should turn over all tithe funds to the Church coffers.

2. "Some of their publications redefine the 'storehouse' to be any instrument of God that is proclaiming 'unadulterated present truth.'" This statement is true of truly independent ministries. Whether or not Hope International and associates can be included as truly independent remains to be seen.

3. "Whether intended or not, the influence of such literature is to encourage members to redirect their tithe away from the Church 'storehouse,' and to invest it instead with these independent ministries." Rightly so -- if the ministry is truly independent. However, if Hope International and associates continue to recognize the denomination as God's true Remnant Church, they should honestly return the tithe funds to that organization. We pray that Hope International and associates will see the folly of their position and separate fully from the apostate denomination.

### *General Conference Statement*

#### e. Conducting Their Own Camp Meetings.

Every year they conduct their own camp meetings, usually without the concurrence of the conference administration. They express that the need for such camp meetings arises from their perception that the Seventh-day Adventist Church

is in apostasy, and is therefore incapable of meeting the spiritual needs of its members through the regular conference camp meetings.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "Every year they conduct their own camp meetings, usually without the concurrence of the conference administration." Leadership see their own ecclesiastical authority so great that no one should hold a public meeting without the endorsement of the Conference.
2. "They express that the need for such camp meetings arises from their perception that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in apostasy, and is therefore incapable of meeting the spiritual needs of its members through the regular conference camp meetings." So very true! Unless one wishes to submit themselves to "Celebration" Rock music, drama, not to mention the watered-down Evangelical sermons of "peace and love," at a time when the members of the Church are crying out for the straight testimony.

### *General Conference Statement*

#### f. Operating Their Own Publishing Enterprises

Hope International and associates have their own publishing program for the production of materials promoting their views on different doctrines and lifestyle issues. While much of this material is Adventist in character, there are numerous examples of a judgmental attitude against the organized Church and its leaders and, from time to time, assertions that the Church is in apostasy. Whatever truths these periodicals contain are more than discounted by a recurring critical refrain.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "Hope International and associates have their own publishing program for the production of materials promoting their views on different doctrines and lifestyle issues." Perfectly within their rights. Does the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church still believe in religious liberty?
2. "While much of this material is Adventist in character, there are numerous examples of a judgmental attitude against the organized Church and its leaders and, from time to time, assertions that the Church is in apostasy." The Seventh-day Adventist Church is in apostasy. This is the truth for this hour in history. The Church was led into apostasy by leadership, and leadership sustains the apostasy by a forever denial of wrong policies, and a forever denial of the change of the truth once delivered to the saints..
3. "Whatever truths these periodicals contain are more than discounted by a recurring critical refrain." Leadership never could tolerate critical counsel from the Spirit of Prophecy, why should they now tolerate it from any other source? A "critical refrain" in the publications of independent ministries is because the publications of the denomination are a maze of deception -- truth mixed with error.

### *General Conference Statement*

#### 3. Supporting Dissident Movements

Hope International and associates have supported, and continue to support, dissident movements who turn against the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its organization. They have been supporting Norberto Restrepo in Columbia and Venezuela, a former Seventh-day Adventist minister who is no longer an Adventist, and is rather one of the most

severe enemies of the Church in the Inter-American Division. In 1997 they supported a group of church elders in Guatemala who rebelled against the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they sent one of their representatives to Guatemala to support them. Recently they supported, in a court of law, a non-Adventist who was attempting to use the name of the Church for his own organization. Their encouragement of breakaway activities in the following countries, and others besides, is well documented: Australia, Bolivia, England, Fiji, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, New Zealand, Macedonia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sweden, United States of America, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe. These associations do nothing to build confidence in the professed loyalty of Hope International and associates to the Church. Rather, it is a powerful evidence of their disregard for the carefully considered decisions of the Church, and it amounts to disloyalty to the Church itself. Their misdirected support interferes with the regular organization's attempts to deal with, and hopefully redeem, such dissident individuals, and makes the task of the Church more difficult.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "Hope International and associates have supported, and continue to support, dissident movements who turn against the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its organization." This is true! How can Hope International and associates support so-called "dissident movements" and still support the apostate SDA denomination?

2. "They have been supporting Norberto Restrepo in Columbia and Venezuela, a former Seventh-day Adventist minister who is no longer an Adventist, and is rather one of the most severe enemies of the Church in the Inter-American Division." This author knows nothing about these so-called "most severe enemies of the Church." However, the underhanded policy used in the lawsuit against the following case is well understood. These men listed are no doubt upholding historic Advent truth, which is in total opposition to the apostate doctrines of the SDA Church. Leadership will never understand that pure truth and the contemporary SDA Church are opposed. Like the Roman Catholic Church they believe that it is impossible for the Church to ever become apostate.

3. "In 1997 they supported a group of church elders in Guatemala who rebelled against the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they sent one of their representatives to Guatemala to support them." These faithful rebelled against the "apostasy" in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. By so doing they were disfellowshipped (excommunicated) from the Church. Then the Church says they are "separationists" while it was the Church that separated them. It is because the SDA Church has separated itself from the truth that has caused the great independent movement of the past twenty years.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans," Ellen White stated. "This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. . ." (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 181, (1857), emphasis supplied).

Here we see that the "straight testimony," the "counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans" (corporate SDA Church), is "the standard" and the "straight truth." This will not be a watered-down message but the straight truth! Exalting the standard of historic Adventism, thus pouring forth the straight truth "will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver." Then what will the honest "receiver" do with this straight truth? The straight truth will lead this individual "to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth" himself, and thus the Lord will finish the work.

4. "Recently they supported, in a court of law, a non-Adventist who was attempting to use the name of the Church for his own organization." Here the General Conference Ad Hoc *Paper* is referring to Raphael Perez who was defending himself against the corporate Church on a religious liberty issue. The General Conference was on the wrong side of religious liberty in this case, and spent five million dollars and employed a Roman Catholic attorney to sue brother Perez. At the time of this court trial Perez was not a member of the Church because he was excommunicated for preaching so strongly the third angel's message.

5. "These associations do nothing to build confidence in the professed loyalty of Hope International and associates to the Church. Rather, it is a powerful evidence of their disregard for the carefully considered decisions of the Church, and it amounts to disloyalty to the Church itself." Once again we come around to "the professed loyalty of Hope International and associates to the Church." This is total confusion. Hope International and associates must step out and be counted along with the other faithful independent ministries.

6. "Their misdirected support interferes with the regular organization's attempts to deal with, and hopefully redeem, such dissident individuals, and makes the task of the Church more difficult." Finally, the corporate SDA Church will deal with Hope International and associates as they have other independent ministries. (See last paragraph below). How will Hope International and associates view the corporate Church after they are excommunicated as were many of the independent ministries they now support? One Independent minister after being disfellowshipped from the corporate Church rejoined another local SDA church. The local Conference found out where he was attending and, after putting pressure on the local church board, our brother was re-disfellowshipped! He now heads a successful independent ministry.

### *General Conference Statement*

#### 4. Selectively Using Ellen G White Writings

Hope International and associates pride themselves in their profuse use of the writings of Ellen G White to support their teachings. But they select statements that seem to support themselves, while disregarding other statements in which activities such as theirs are clearly condemned by Ellen G White. Her overriding support of the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church is intentionally minimized or ignored by Hope International and associates, or explained away as irrelevant for us today.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "Hope International and associates pride themselves in their profuse use of the writings of Ellen G White to support their teachings. But they select statements that seem to support themselves, while disregarding other statements in which activities such as theirs are clearly condemned by Ellen G White." Here apostate leadership accuses independent ministries of what they themselves are guilty.

2. "Her overriding support of the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church is intentionally minimized or ignored by Hope International and associates, or explained

away as irrelevant for us today." Not true! Independent ministries recognize that Ellen White supported the organized Church. But it is true that the Church she supported was not then in apostasy. Any Adventist today can clearly see a wide difference between the SDA Church of one hundred years ago and the contemporary SDA Church today. Even blind leadership should be able to see the contrast between contemporary and historic Adventism.

### *General Conference Statement*

Conclusion [of General Conference Ad Hoc Committee]

The accumulative effect of the above information results in the perception of many Church members that Hope International and associates are offshoot organizations. They have not taken the decisive step of officially separating themselves from the Seventh-day Adventist organization, and they claim that they never will. However, by rejecting the authority of the world Church in session when their interpretation of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy differs from that of the Church, they have set their authority above that of the world Church and operate in a manner that is consistent with offshoot movements.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "The accumulative effect of the above information results in the perception of many Church members that Hope International and associates are offshoot organizations." There is that nasty word again, "offshoot!" The truth is that most of the 11,000,000 Adventists today have never heard of Hope International and associates. Shall we take a poll? Would the leading brethren reveal that information to the Church at large, or would they also coverup the results of the poll?
2. "They have not taken the decisive step of officially separating themselves from the Seventh-day Adventist organization, and they claim that they never will." "And they never will?" This statement is totally astounding to this writer! The leadership of the Church are confused by the double-minded statements of Hope International and associates. We quote the apostle James, the president of the first General Conference: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:8).
3. "However, by rejecting the authority of the world Church in session when their interpretation of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy differs from that of the Church, they have set their authority above that of the world Church and operate in a manner that is consistent with offshoot movements." There's that word again! "Offshoot." Seriously, the time is now for Hope International and associates to separate from the apostate denomination.

### *General Conference Statement*

An Appeal [and a Threat]

We appeal, in all sincerity and Christian love, to Hope International and associates to hear the counsel of the Church they claim to love. It is time for the spirit of condemnation and rebellion to be set aside, allowing the reconciling blood of Christ to bring unity among His people.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "We appeal, in all sincerity and Christian love, to Hope International and associates to hear the counsel of the Church they claim to love." True Christian love is never expressed with a threat as stated in the last paragraph of this General Conference Ad Hoc *Paper*.

"...the Church they claim to love." Hope International and associates need to express their love for historic Adventist truth, and forget their love for an apostate man-made organization.

2. "It is time for the spirit of condemnation and rebellion to be set aside, allowing the reconciling blood of Christ to bring unity among His people." To the General Conference "unity" can only be achieved by leadership establishing their ecclesiastical authority in the community of believers. This position by the leadership of the General Conference is Romanism, an image of the Papacy.

### *General Conference Statement*

All agree that there is serious need for revival and reformation in God's Remnant Church, but the methods used by Hope International and associates have produced dissonance instead of reform. When assessed by their fruits, it is seen that the movement of reform promoted by Hope International and associates has failed to bring about either reformation or increased unity. The Church is not perfect, but there is wisdom in listening to its advice. We appeal, in Christian love, for a turn of heart and purpose that will bring Hope International and associates into full unity with the body of Christ, the Remnant Church.

### Our Review of Statement

1. "All agree that there is serious need for revival and reformation in God's Remnant Church, but the methods used by Hope International and associates have produced dissonance instead of reform." Again, leadership sees themselves as "God's Remnant Church." The reason there is "dissonance instead of reform." in the Church is because leadership has led the membership into apostasy. This, of course, they will forever protest with fervent denial.

2. "When assessed by their fruits, it is seen that the movement of reform promoted by Hope International and associates has failed to bring about either reformation or increased unity." Unity in what? the Church? or unity in the truth? The General Conference should be the last entity in the world to raise the question of being "assessed by their fruits?" The leading brethren are kind of dense, so we here again quote the powerful Spirit of Prophecy statement on the Church being judged by her own "fruits":

In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: "Found wanting." By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged.

Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, page 247. (emphasis supplied).

3. "The Church is not perfect, but there is wisdom in listening to its advice." These very same words and reasoning are expressed about the Church in any Roman Catholic catechism!

4. "We appeal, in Christian love, for a turn of heart and purpose that will bring Hope International and associates into full unity with the body of Christ, the Remnant Church." In full unity with the Church. No mention is made of the truth! They should say, "We appeal, in Christian love, for a turn of heart and purpose that will bring Hope International and associates into full unity with the truth." But once again, leadership

states their view that the corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church is the "body of Christ," and that it is, "the Remnant Church" and therefore the official Church and the truth are one and the same.

### *General Conference Final Statement and Ultimatum*

If Hope International and associates cannot bring themselves into harmony with the body of the world Church, clearly evidenced within twelve months, the Seventh-day Adventist Church may need to consider whether there exists a "persistent refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority or to submit to the order and discipline of the church" (Church Manual p 169).

### Our Review of Statement

Hope International and associates have "twelve months" to come into line, or else. Come into line with what? What does the General Conference want from independent ministries? They want independent ministries to stop their "persistent refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority or to submit to the order and discipline of the church" (Church Manual p 169)." Does Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries believe in the "properly constituted church authority?" Do these three so-called independent ministries actually believe in the apostate *Church Manual*? We hope and pray not!

Our Appeal to Hope International, Hartland Institute, and Remnant Ministries

Dear brethren, it is high time to leave the ship. The ship is sinking. If you do not jump ship now, you will be cast overboard in twelve short months! That is what the last paragraph in this official General Conference Ad Hoc *Paper* states. "The Ship is God's true Remnant Ship. Come into line or be cast overboard. Come into line, or in twelve months be excommunicated!" (Oh, excuse me, the new phrase, because it is more loving, just voted at the 2000 General Conference in Toronto is "removed from membership").

### *General Conference Ad Hoc Committee Statement*

"to be printed in *Adventist Review and Ministry*, August, 2000."