

Drama and the SDA Church:

Appendix 31 - E — Author's Letter To Elder Patzer

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Elder Jere Patzer
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Dear Elder Patzer,

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter written to Ed Schwisow concerning his article in the September 2000 Gleaner, as well as his answer to a letter in "To the Editor" in the October 2000 Gleaner. Also enclosed is a paper I have written entitled "Drama and the Seventh-day Adventist Church".

For many years the Gleaner has displayed articles depicting churches using drama to "bundle the Gospel." Then recently, the church I attend decided to establish a drama group with the intent to produce and enact dramas. This decision stimulated me to begin a study from the counsel of Ellen White and leaders (up to the forties) of the Seventh-day Adventist church on their attitude and counsel concerning drama. It soon became apparent that the churches present day "love affair" with drama is not in harmony with that counsel.

To ensure that my approach was balanced in the development of this paper, I shared it with your father some months ago. He said he thought it should be required reading for every youth pastor. He is deeply concerned about the proliferation of drama in Adventist churches and institutions.

Your stand on the inroads of higher critical teaching in the Walla Walla College Theology Department was deeply appreciated by those of us who helplessly watched as student after student left the college with their Adventist foundation eroded or sometimes destroyed. This has not been a popular stand for you to take, but progress is being made, and we are thankful for new conservative Theologians joining the Theology Department staff.

The stand this paper on drama takes is not popular, for drama has become an accepted method of "bundling the Gospel" in many Adventist churches and educational institutions. This planet and its inhabitants appear to be very close to the Masters return. Unfortunately, Satan and his host have infiltrated the Remnant Church through drama. It is my hope and prayer that this paper will help warn the saints about his cunningly devised plans.

I have taken the liberty to share a copy of your letter, Edwin Schwisow's letter, and copy
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of my paper with my church pastoral staff.

Yours in Christ,
Lawrence R. Hawkins
Enclosures