ENDTIME ISSUES NEWSLETTER No. 177 "Is the Catholic Church the Only True Church?" Samuele Bacchiocchi, Ph. D., Retired Professor of Theology and Church History, Andrews University

INDEX OF TOPICS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

- * How to Subscribe and Unsubscribe
- * Good News on My Liver Cancer Recovery * How to Contact the Center for Cancer Care
- * Is the Catholic Church the Only True Church?" (The Essay of this Newsletter)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERVICES & PRODUCTS

* First Time Special offer on the Package of 9 DVD/ CD albums, containing all the recordings of Prof. Jon Paulien, Prof, Graeme Bradford, and Prof. Bacchiocchi

* Introductory offer on Prof. Jon Paulien's DVD album on *Simply Revelation*

- * Special offer on the new edition of Prof. Bradford *More than a Prophet,* together with a free DVD album.
- * Upcoming seminars for July, August, and September
- * Incredible New Offers on Hitachi Projectors
- * The Smallest and most Powerful Remote Presenter
- * Does your church or School Need a Screen?
- * A New Townhome Community near the campus of Andrews University
- * Bed and Breakfast in London, England
- * TAGNET new Web-hosting offer

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE AND UNSUBSCRIBE

How to unsubscribe to this newsletter:

To automatically unsubscribe simply send an empty message to: <mailto: endtimeissues-unsubscribe@lists.biblicalperspectives.com> Be sure the message is from your subscribed email account or the system will not recognize you). If you have a problem or don't receive a prompt unsubscrilption confirmation, send us an email at <mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com> saying "unsubscribe me" and we will ask TAGNET to remove your address manually.

How to subscribe to this newsletter:

To subscribe simply click on this address and send it: mailto:endtimeissues-subscribe@lists.biblicalperspectives.com

No additional words or explanations are necessary. The TAGNET is set up to automatically add your address to the list. If you have a problem, send us an email at <mailto:sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives.com> saying "subscribe me," and we will ask TAGNET to enter your address manually.

GOOD NEWS ON MY LIVER CANCER RECOVERY

In previous newsletters I gave an extensive report of the providential recovery from my colon cancer surgery and liver cancer treatments. You may wish to see the image of the last PET/CAT scan taken on May 30, 2007, which shows that over 98% of the cancer cells have been shut down. To see the impressive color images of the three PET/CAT scans that I took, click on this link: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/colon/

Thank you for your prayers! Thank you God for healing my body and restoring my health! Truly I can say that I feel much stronger than before the cancer treatment. Now I want to dedicate the remaining years of my life fully to His service.

How to Contact the Center for Cancer Care in Goshen, Indiana

To express my gratitude to God for leading me to the unique Center for Cancer Care, in Goshen, Indiana that offers clinical trials on different forms of cancer, I decided to post the information on how you can contact the Center. Over 150 Adventists have already contacted the Center. The Assistant to the President is Vladimir Radivojevic, who is a gracious and caring Adventist Christian. Feel free to contact him at this address:

Vladimir Radivojevic MS, MBA Assistant Vice-President The Center for Cancer Care 200 High Park Ave. Goshen, IN 46526 Phone: 574.535.2970 Fax: 574.535.2535 Email: vradivoj@goshenhealth.com Websites: www.goshenhealth.com or www.cancermidwest.com

If you or someone you know has cancer, feel free to contact Vladimir. He will talk with you personally, gather your information, and place you in contact with an oncologist who can examine your situation and give you a second opinion. Vladimir told me yesterday that he wants to help Adventists unable to come to their Center for Cancer Care, by evaluating their medical records to see if their current treatments are adequate or should be improved.

SPECIAL FIRST TIME OFFER OF 9 DVD/CD ALBUMS FOR ONLY \$150.00, INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR PRICE OF \$850.00

For the first time I am offering together as a package all the DVD/CD recordings of Prof. Jon Paulien, Prof. Graeme Bradford, and Prof. Bacchiocchi. Until now I have offered all these recordings separately at a higher price. To make it possible for many to benefit from all these timely messages, I have decided to offer them together as a package for only \$150.00, instead of the regular price of \$150.00.

The package consists of 9 DVD/CD albums, containing a total of 20 live DVD lectures and 6 CD disks with publications and articles. For a detailed description and picture of each album click at this link: ______ Further information is also provided at the end in the Announcements of Products.

"Is the Catholic Church the Only True Church?" Samuele Bacchiocchi, Ph. D., Retired Professor of Theology and Church History, Andrews University

Warm greeting from sunny Jesolo (near Venice) where our family of 8 persons is enjoying a fantastic vacation. We are staying in a lovely but reasonable hotel, which offers us for only \$70.00 a day per person, a nice accommodation, two delicious meals a day, three swimming pools, large umbrella and easy chairs right on the beach at the edge of the Adriatic sea.

I am extremely happy especially for my wife, because as soon as we arrived a week ago, her constant migraine headache disappeared. She looks and feels like a new person. This is her birthplace. Apparently her native air, sunshine, and food, is the best medicine for her ailments.

During this past week I have been feasting on a variety of sweet Italian fruits and tomatoes. Truly, I was longing to come to Italy to enjoy some delicious fruits and vegetables. In America I feel cheated by the grapes, peaches, apricots, nectarines, apples, berries, tomatoes, which look nice but taste flat, without any natural sweetness. I feel that the delicious food, sunshine, and warm Adriatic sea water, is boosting my immune system, helping to eradicate any lingering cancer cells in my body.

We are thankful to God for his providential healing and to UNITED AIR-LINES for flying our family of 8 persons in business class. I have accumulated about two millions miles with UNITED which I use strictly for our annual family vacation.

For me this is a working-vacation for me, because I am scheduled to speak at two rallies. The first was last Sabbath, July 21, in Conegliano (my wife's birth place) and the second will be next Sabbath, July 28, in Florence at our new SDA church located on the campus of our Ministerial Training School (Villa Aurora), which I attended from 1952 to 1956, before going to Newbold College, in England. This will be for me an emotional homecoming experience, because I have not visited Villa Aurora for over 30 years and I have not seen the new church, which seats about 500 persons. We expect the church to be packed for this special occasion.

The Reasons for this Newsletter

In the last newsletter "Roles Within Marriage," I promised to post in this newsletter part II of our study entitled: "Practicing Headship and Submission." I worked on this essay during much of last week and I was almost ready to send it out, when several messages I received from different sources, caused me to change my mind.

The messages came from several sources, including Mark Kellner, the News Editor of *Adventist Review*. Kellner and others specifically asked me to comment on the document released by the Vatican on July 10, 2007, entitled: "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church." For the sake of brevity we shall refer to this document as *Responses*. The document was written by William Cardinal Levada, head of the Roman Catholic's *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, at the request of Pope Benedic XVI himself, who fully endorsed it.

The Purpose and Structure of the "Responses"

Before leaving for his vacation in the Alps, Benedict XVI commissioned the *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, to prepare a document that would clarify for the bishops, faithful, and above all the theologians, some of the controversial points of the doctrine on the Church, which have been used promoted a more broader view of the church, inclusive of Orthodox and Protestant churches.

Responses is essentially a reiteration of the Declaration *Dominus Iesus*, issued in 2000 by Cardinal Ratzinger, while he was serving as Prefect of the *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*. Benedict XVI sensed the urgent need to restate and clarify what he had already declared in *Dominus Iesu*. In view of the close connection between the two documents, we will examine them together.

Responses is formulated in five questions and answers. The first three restate that the Catholic Church "governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him" is the only true church on earth instituted by Jesus Christ.

The fourth and fifth answers explain why the Eastern Orthodox and the Protestant churches are "ecclesial communities," rather than true churches. The reason is that they lack the apostolic succession, and therefore they "have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery."

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Before commenting on the significance of the two documents, it is important to note that *The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith* was born in 1542 with the name *Sacred Congregation of the Universal Inquisition*. For centuries this institution has operated as an extremely conservative force within the Roman Catholic Church, opposing innovation, suppressing dissents, and persecuting those who believed differently.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was directed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger for 25 years before he was elected as Pope Benedict XVI. During his tenure, he influenced John Paul II to press charges against such theologians as Edward Schillebeeckx of Holland, Jack Pohier of France, Bernard Hasler of Switzerland. Hans Kung was stripped of his post as teacher of Catholic theology at the University of Tubingen for questioning papal infallibility. Prof. Charles Curran was suspended from his teaching post at the Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C., for advocating that sterilization and contraception were not always wrong. Jesuit priest Terrance Sweeney was forced to resign from his order, because he refused to destroy the results of a survey of American Bishops about celibacy and the ordination of women. A quarter of those surveyed reportedly approved optional celibacy.

In light of the historical function of *The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, it hardly surprising to read its latest exclusivistic view of the church in the document *Responses*, released by the Vatican with the full blessings of Benedict XVI. It only shows that that the Benedict XVI is determined to play the role of the "Grand Inquisitor" of the Catholic Church.

Dominus Iesus: The Basis of the Responses

To understand the intransigent mind-set of Pope Benedict XVI, we need to consider his previous astounding declaration, known as *Dominus Iesus*. This document was composed, presented to the media, and defended by Cardinal Ratzinger while he was serving as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, under Pope John II. This document is important because it is the source of the *Responses*, and it sheds light into the goals that Benedict XVI has set for his pontificate.

I vividly recall the release of *Dominus Iesus* on Tuesday, September 5, 2000, because I happen to be in Rome on that day. On the evening news of the main Italian TV network, I saw Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger himself announcing the release of the Vatican Declaration *Dominus Iesus*, which means "Lord Jesus." He took time to explain the significance of this document for Catholics and non-Catholics. I was stunned when I heard him saying that according to *Dominus Iesus*, salvation is to be found only in and through the unique and universal Catholic Church.

The origin of this traditional Catholic view is traced back to Pope Boniface VIII. In his Bull, *Unam Sanctam* (A. D. 1302) Boniface declared: "There is one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and that outside this Church there is neither salvation nor remission of sins." This traditional Catholic view was substantially modified at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) which formulated the concept, especially in the *Constitution of the Church*, that salvation is found not only inside the Catholic Church but also outside its fold, by all who live according to their conscience.

The Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, par. 3, reads: The separated Churches and Communities as such, though we believe them to be deficient in some respects, have been by no means deprived of significance and importance in the mystery of salvation. For the Spirit of Christ has not refrained from using them as means of salvation which derive their efficacy from the very fullness of grace and truth entrusted to the Church."

This broader view of various avenues to salvation fostered a policy of benign tolerance toward non-Catholics. Protestants, for example, were rehabilitated from heretics, to "separate brethren," and to brothers and sisters in Christ. Similarly, members of world religions have been treated with more openness and respect.

In the thinking of Vatican conservatives like Benedict XI, the policy of benign tolerance toward non-Catholics inaugurated by Vatican II, may have gone too far. It may have weakened the alleged unicity and primacy of the Catholic Church. This concern is expressed in the new document *Responses* which affirms that "Christian denominations outside the Roman Catholic Church are not full churches of Jesus Christ," though they may have some elements of truth. The actual text posted on the official Vatican Web site in several languages, says that Protestant Churches are really "ecclesial communities" rather than Churches, because they lack apostolic succession, and therefore they "have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery."

Salvation Derives Only From the Catholic Church

In other words, for Benedict XVI it is a fundamental Roman Catholic belief that there is only one true church that possesses the means of salvation and such church is the Roman Catholic church. Any salvation obtainable through other churches, ultimately derives from "the fullness of grace and truth entrusted to the Catholic Church."

Benedict XVI is concerned about the rapid spread of the relativistic and pluralistic mentality among liberal Catholic theologians, who believe that "one religion is as good as another." He expressed his concern in his fiery speech to the cardinals before they withdrew to the Sistene Chapel to elect the new pope. He warned them that the Catholic Church must not become prey to a modern "dictatorship of relativism."

To remedy this problem, Benedict XVI reiterates that "there is only a single Church of Christ, which subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the Successor of Peter and by the Bishops in communion with him." Furthermore, the Catholic church is the only true church because it has "the sacramental priesthod and has preserved the integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery." These to claims will be examined shortly.

This reiteration of the traditional Catholic Church as the only venue of salvation, represents an insult to Protestants and Orthodox, and are an embarrassment to open-minded Catholic theologians who have long recognized that the Catholic Church does not have the monopoly of salvation.

Is Benedict XVI Really Interested in Ecumenism?

From an ecumenical standpoint, Benedict XVI's exclusivistic view of the Catholic Church is a non-starter. The pope is an intelligent and knowledgeable man who has written over 40 books. He knows that discussions with other Churches will make no progress on the basis of his exclusivistic claim of the Catholic Church. So the only conclusion that can be drawn is that he has no interest in pursuing ecumenism. The ongoing dialogue that he is promoting with all the major denominations, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is designed to persuade other Christians to become Roman Catholics, Evidently this is the pope's approach to other Churches, which is not ecumenism, but proselytism.

Furthermore, the Vatican dialogue with various Protestant Churches is designed to soften their anti-Catholic teachings. This is particularly true of the Seventh-day Adventist Church which has long recognized the prophetic role of the Papacy in leading many Christians into apostasy. Our prophetic calling is to invite people in every nation to come out of the of the Babylonian false worship promoted especially by the papacy.

Reaction of Protestant Church Leaders

Various church bodies engaged in dialogue with the Catholic Church, are recognizing the deceptive strategy of the Vatican. For example, The World Alliance of Reformed Churches, a group representing 75 million Protestants in over 100 countries issued a press release suggesting that the new document, *Responses*, took ecumenical dialogue back to the time before Vatican II. The release states: "It makes us question whether we are indeed praying together for Christian unity. ... It makes us question the seriousness with which the Roman Catholic Church takes its dialogues with the reformed family and other families of the church.... For now, we are thankful that our calling to be part of the church of Jesus Christ is not dependent on the interpretation of the Vatican. It is a gift of God."

The same concern is express by Clifton Kirpatrick, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church, USA. In an open letter to the Vatican leaders, he wrote: "We join with other churches and ecumenical bodies in raising concern about the statement released July 10, 2007, [*Responses*] by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and ratified by Pope Benedict XVI, regarding certain aspects of the Doctrine of the Church. In seeking to clarify its understanding of the Christian faith, we are rightfully concerned that the Roman Catholic leadership has mischaracterized our own faith and re-opened questions of Christian unity for all church bodies. ..."

Times Online, a leading British news source, wrote: "Protestants at the extreme evangelical end of the Anglican spectrum accused Rome of a 'lust for power.' while welcoming the honesty of the document [*Response*]." Indeed, credit must be given to Benedict XVI for clearly stating in two major documents, *Dominus Iesus* and *Responses*. his exclusivistic view of the Catholic Church as the only true church that offers the means of salvation. Such preposterous claim is clearly negated by Scripture that teaches us that salvation is not a *dispensation* of the church, but a *disposition* of the believer.

The Rev David Phillips, General Secretary of the *Church Society* in Great Britain, offers this perceptive comments: "Nothing new is said [in *Responses*], but it does clarify the way in which the Vatican has torn apart Christianity because of its lust for power. They remind us that in their view to be a true church one has to accept the ludicrous idea that the Pope is in some special way the successor of the apostle Peter and the supreme earthly leader of the Church.

"These claims cannot be justified, biblically, or historically, yet they have been used not only to divide Christians but to persecute them and put them to death. We are grateful that the Vatican has once again been honest in declaring their view that the Church of England is not a proper Church. Too much dialogue proceeds without such honesty. Therefore, we would wish to be equally open; unity will only be possible when the papacy renounces its errors and pretensions."

This is the challenge that Protestants face today, namely, to stop being politically correct by trying to make the Catholic Church appear as a legitimate Christian Church, and to start exposing the unbiblical, heretical, and pagan origin of most Catholic beliefs and practices. This is a formidable challenge for many Protestant Churches that have stopped *protesting*, because they have become victim of religious relativism. Benedict XVI has been honest in stating his exclusivistic view of the Catholic church. This calls for an honest response, by telling the pope that he is the embodiment of arrogance and intolerance, lusting for power, rather than for an understanding of Bible truths.

EVALUATION OF DOMINUS IESUS AND THE RESPONSES

The absolutistic Vatican Declarations of *Dominus Iesus* and *Responses* that salvation for any persons is ultimately possible only through the channels of grace entrusted to the Catholic Church, stands in stark contrast with the interfaith dialogue fostered by Vatican II and the ceaseless efforts of Pope John Paul II to become the undisputed spiritual leader of mankind by reaching out to people of all faiths.

One wonders, What has caused this retrenchment in the mind of Benedict XVI? Apparently the reason is his conviction, mentioned earlier, that the policy of benign tolerance inaugurated by Vatican II, may have gone too far. It has fostered a "dictatorship of relativism" that fails to recognize the certainties contained in Catholic doctrines.

Benedict XVI is concerned about the moral relativism evident today in the secularism of Western countries which is causing the almost total collapse of the Christian faith. He believes that when the measure of truth is found in us, then there is no longer an ultimate truth and certainty. The "anything goes" approach to life, can only satisfy individual egos and desires, but it ultimately leaves people without the certainty offered by the Catholic Church.

Benedict XVI is rightly concerned about the spread of theological relativism and pluralism which is weakening the alleged unicity and primacy of the Catholic Church. To counteract this threat the two documents *Dominus Iesus* and *Responses*, reiterate in a succinct but compelling way the theological foundation of the Catholic claim to possess the sole means of salvation. These important documents help us to understand the ruthless mind-set of Benedict XVI—a man who sincerely believes to have been called by God to save the Catholic Church, especially in Western countries, from "the dictatorship of relativism"— the belief that there are no absolute moral truths and everyone is free to develop his/her own set of beliefs by which to live and seek salvation.

Benedict XVI is sounding a timely and legitimate warning against the danger of moral relativism that has become so pervasive in our Western society. This problem affects even our own Seventh-day Adventist church. An increasing number of our members are questioning the moral standards of our Adventist church, choosing instead to live by their own subjective values.

Benedict XVI is Blinded by Tradition

The pope is correct in exposing the danger of moral relativism of our society, but he is wrong in his proposed solution. He intends to resolve the problem of moral relativism by enforcing traditional Catholic teachings as if the were biblical truths. He makes no attempt to examine the biblical legitimacy of historical Catholic teachings, because for him the traditional interpretation supersedes any objective study of Scripture. Like the late John Paul II, he is a devout and sincere man who is blinded by tradition. Such a blindness causes him to accept and enforce Catholic heresies as if they were biblical truths.

Beneduct XVI's exclusivistic view of the Catholic Church, articulated in *Dominus Iesus* and *Responses*, highlights the Vatican's attempt to make salvation **a dispensation of the church**, rather than **a disposition of the believer**. By claiming to be the only church that has the apostolic succession and consequently the right to dispense salvation through the sacraments, the Catholic church is deceiving million of sincere people into believing that there is no salvation outside the Catholic Church (*no salus extra ecclesia*).

The fact that these documents go into great length to reiterate this traditional Catholic teaching, goes to show that after all Ellen White was right when she wrote: "Rome never changes. Her principles have not altered in the least. She has not lessened the breach between herself and Protestants; they have done all the advancing. But what does this argue for the Protestantism of this day? It is the rejection of Bible truth which makes men approach to infidelity. It is a backsliding church that lessens the distance between itself and the Papacy" (*Signs of the Times*, Feb. 19, 1894, par. 4). Benedict XVI is a living and compelling example of the truth that "Rome never changes."

It is hard to believe that a brilliant man like Benedict XVI, could be so blinded by the traditional teachings of the Catholic, that causes him to fearlessly defend as truths what in reality are blatant errors, condemned by Scripture. The most outstanding examples are his beliefs in the *Primacy of the Papacy* based on the "Petrine Theory," and the *Apostolic Succession*. Both of these beliefs will be examined shortly.

The Belief in Papal Primacy

The belief in Papal Primacy was reaffirmed at Vatican II in the document known as *The Constitution of the Church*: "The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful" (*Lumens Gentium* 23).

Benedict XVI clearly reaffirms this belief in his document *Dominus Iesus:* "Just as there is one Christ, so there exists a single body of Christ, a single bride of Christ: a single Catholic and apostolic Church... There exists a single Church of Christ, which subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the Successor of Peter and by the Bishops in communion with him."

By linking the saving work of Christ with the Catholic Church, making the latter the sole channel for dispensing "Christ's salvific mystery," Benedict XVI makes salvation a monopoly of the Catholic church. This means that the Catholic Church herself is a "sacrament," that is, a channel of grace to the world. "The Church is a 'sacrament'... she is the sign and instrument of the kingdom."

Such a preposterous, presumptuous, and exclusivistic claim is based on the unfounded assumption that church in the New Testament is a visible, hierarchical organization, which was originally established by Christ Himself, when he made Peter the foundation rock of the Church (Matt 16:18). This is belief is based on the "Petrine Theory," according to which Christ entrusted to Peter the government of His church. As stated in the *Responses*, "This Church, constituted and organized in this world as a society, subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the successor of Peter and the Bishops in communion with him."

To buttress this theory, both *Dominus Iesus* and the *Responses*, repeatedly appeal to the "apostolic succession." Protestant churches fail to meet the Catholic criteria for being legitimate churches, because they cannot claim "Apostolic Succession." As stated in the *Responses*, "According to Catholic doctrine, these Communities [Protestant churches] do not enjoy apostolic succession in the sacrament of Orders, and are, therefore, deprived of a constitutive element of the Church."

By "Apostolic Succession" is meant the existence of an unbroken succession from Peter, the first Pope, to Benedict XVI, the last Pope. Catholics proudly point out that no other church can make this claim of unbroken succession.

The Petrine Theory

In view of the fundamental importance attached to the Petrine theory and the apostolic succession, frequently mentioned in *Dominus Iesus* and the *Responses* to defend the Primacy of the Pope, it is important to briefly comment on the pivotal text of Matthew 16:18 used to prove the so-called "Petrine Primacy." Christ told Peter: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the power of death shall not prevail against it."

The question is, Who is the "rock" upon which Christ built His church? Obviously for Catholics, the "rock" is Peter as the foundation stone upon which Christ built His church. They rightly point out that the play on words "You are *Petros* and on this *Petra*" shows that there is an unmistakable connection between the two. Thus, Peter is the *Petra* upon which Christ has built His Church.

Protestants obviously reject this Catholic interpretation, arguing instead that the "rock" is either Jesus Himself or Peter's confession of Christ. According to the former the text would read: "You are Peter and on myself as a rock I will build my church." According to the latter: "You are Peter and on the rock of Christ you have confessed, I will build my church."

Peter is the First Building Block

The problem with both of these popular Protestant interpretations, is that they do not do justice to the play on words. In the Greek there is an unmistakable connection between "*Petros*" and "*Petra*." The question is not whether "*Petra*— the rock" refers to Peter, but in what sense Peter is "*Petra*—the rock."

In my view Peter is "*Petra*—the rock," not in the Catholic sense of being the foundation stone upon which Christ built His church, but in the sense that Peter is the initial stone or building block of the church, which is built upon the foundation of the apostles, with Christ as the corner stone.

This interpretation rests on two major considerations. First, the New Testament pictures the church as a building, "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Eph 2:20; cf. 1 Pet 2:4-8; 1 Cor 3:11). The imagery of the church as a building suggests that the church

does not rest on the foundation rock of Peter, but that began with Peter as the first stone.

Peter is the first building block because he was the first person to confess and accept Jesus of Nazareth, as the Christ, that is, the Messiah, "the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:16). Being the first convert to publicly accept Christ, Peter became in a sense "the first charter member" of the new community of believers, or the first building block of the spiritual edifice which is the church.

The Church is an Invisible Community of Believers

A second important point, ignored by the Catholic Church, is that the New Testament views the church, not as a visible hierarchical organization run by the Pope with his bishops, but as an invisible community of believers who are united by the same faith in Christ. In the Bible "the church" is not a hierarchical structure, governed by one man, but the "people of God," united by the common bond of faith and love. Both the Hebrew *qahal* and the Greek *ekklesia*, translated "church," actually refer to the "congregation" of believers, who have been called out from the world (Deut 7:6; Hos 11:1; 1 Peter 2:9) in order to be a light in the world (Deut 28:10; 1 Pet 2:9).

This means that when Jesus spoke about building His church, He meant, not the establishment of a hierarchical religious organization, but the building up of a community of believers who by faith would accept Him and confess Him before the world. In this context, Peter, by being the first person to confess and accept Jesus as "Christ," which means "Messiah," became the first living stone of the spiritual edifice consisting of a community of believers. The idea of Peter being the foundation of the church as a hierarchical organization identified with the Catholic Church, is foreign to the text, to the teachings of the New Testament, and to the organization of the Apostolic Church.

The Claim of the Apostolic Succession

A fatal blow to the Catholic view of the "Petrine Primacy," is the lack of any New Testament support for the primacy of Peter in the Apostolic Church. If, according to the Catholic claim, Christ appointed Peter as His vicar to govern the church, then we would expect Peter to function as the leader of the Apostolic church. But this is hardly the case.

For example, there are no indications that Peter ever served as the presiding officer of the Jerusalem church. The organizational structure of the Jerusalem Church is characterized as collegiality with a presidency. But there are no indica-

tions that Peter ever served as the presiding officer of the church. At the Jerusalem Council, it was James, not Peter, who presided in the deliberations (Act 15:13).

Furthermore, the ultimate authority of the Jerusalem Church resided, not with Peter, but with the apostles, who were later replaced by "elders." For example, it was "the apostles" who sent Peter to Samaria (Acts 8:14) to check on the new Christian communities. Had Peter been the leader of the apostolic church, he would have counseled the apostles to send him to Samaria, rather than being told by the apostles to go there.

It was the "apostles" who sent Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 11:22). It was "the apostles and the elders" who sent Judas and Silas to Antioch (15:22-27). It was "James and the elders" who advised Paul to undergo a rite of purification at the Temple (Acts 21:18, 23-24). Had Peter been appointed by Christ to serve as the Head of the Church, he would have played a distinctive leadership role in the decisions mentioned above.

Paul Did not Acknowledge Peter as the Head of the Church

Moreover, there are no indications that Paul viewed Peter as the leader of the church. We are told that when Peter went to Antioch, Paul "opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned" (Gal 2:11). Paul's action hardly suggests that Peter was recognized and respected as the infallible head of the church.

Furthermore, Paul explicitly says that Peter was entrusted with preaching the Gospel to the Jews, while his mission was to preach to the Gentiles (Gal 2:7). This suggests that Peter's mission was predominantly to the Jews, and not over the whole church.

Paul refers to the "pillars" of the Apostolic Church as being "James, Cephas, and John" (Gal 2:9). The fact that "James," the Lord's brother, is mentioned before "Cephas," the Aramaic for of "Peter," indicates that James, rather than Peter, served as the leader of the church. Had the apostles understood that Christ had appointed Peter to serve as the Head of the church, they would have entrusted to him the leadership of the church. But the fact is that Peter is never seen in the NT as the sole or chief leader of the Apostolic Church.

Origin of the Apostolic Succession Theory

The notion that Christ invested Peter with the authority to govern the church and that such an authority has been transmitted in an unbroken succession to his successors, is a pure Catholic fabrication devoid of biblical and historical support. It first appears in the writing of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon (A. 175-195), who uses the argument of the apostolic succession to refute gnostic heretics. He argues that the gnostic teachings are heretical because they are rejected by those churches which can trace their apostolic pedigree (*Against the Heresies* book 3).

The argument of the apostolic succession served a useful purpose in the early church when the formation of the New Testament was still in a progress. Church leaders needed an objective authority to refute heretics, and they found it in churches like Antioch, Ephesus, and Alexandria, which could trace their origin to an Apostle. These churches could serve as the touchstone of orthodoxy. But to extend the concept of the apostolic succession to the whole course of Christian history is unwarranted, because of the interruption and apostasy that these churches have experienced. The Moslem invasion of the seventh and eight centuries wiped out completely most of the ancient Eastern churches.

Missing Links in the Papal Successions

The same hold true for the Bishop of Rome. Anyone familiar with the history of the papacy, knows how difficult it is even for the Catholic church to prove the unbroken succession from Peter to the present pope. There have been times when the papacy was in the hands of several corrupt Popes, who fought among themselves for the Papal throne. For example, in 1045 Pope Benedict IX was driven out of Rome by the people because of his unworthiness and Silvester II was placed on the Papal throne. Later Benedict IX returned and sold the Papal throne to a man who became Gregory VI.

During the course of events Benedict refused to lay down his papal claims, so that there now were three Popes claiming to be the rightful pope. To resolve the problem the German Emperor Henry II called a synod at Sutri in A. D. 1046, which deposed all the three popes and elected Clement II instead. One wonders, which of the three deposed popes fits into the apostolic succession? How can the Catholic Church still legitimately defend the notion of an unbroken succession from Peter to the present pope, when some of her popes were deposed for their corruption! It is evident that there are some broken links in the chain of the Apostolic succession.

It is unfortunate that a brilliant and sincere man like Benedict XVI, is so blinded by the traditional teachings of the church, that he is unable to look objectively at the teachings of the Bible and the testimony of history. Tradition colors the sight and conditions the thinking to the extend that error appears to them as truth.

The Importance of the Eucharist

The Catholic claim to possess the sole means of salvation rests not only on the alleged apostolic succession, but also on the Catholic view of the Eucharist as the reenactment of Christ's atoning sacrifice. In fact, "the apostolic succession and a valid Eucharist" are mentioned together several times in *Dominus Iesus* and *Responses*, because they are the two pillars of the Catholic claim to be the only true church which has the power to dispense salvation.

In its concluding statement, the *Responses* states: "According to Catholic doctrine, these Communities [Protestant Churches] do not enjoy apostolic succession in the sacrament of Orders, and are, therefore, deprived of a constitutive element of the Church. These ecclesial Communities which, specifically because of the absence of the sacramental priesthood, have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery cannot, according to Catholic doctrine, be called 'Churches' in the proper sense." Simply stated, in the Catholic view, Protestant churches are not true churches, especially because they have not "preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Sacrament substance of the Eucharistic Mystery."

This newsletter does not allow us to expose the fallacies of the Catholic view of the Lord's Supper, known as transubstantiation. The absurd claim that the priest has the power to transform the bread and wine into the physical and historical body of Jesus, and to offer it to the believers by means of a wafer, makes the Catholic Church a dispenser of salvation through her priesthood.

For the Catholic Church the benefits of Christ's atoning sacrifice are made available to the believer, not through the heavenly ministry of Jesus in the sanctuary as taught in Hebrews, but through the earthly ministry of the Catholic priests at the altar, as taught by tradition. The Christ that most Catholics know, is the Christ they swallow at the Mass. "Christ's salvific ministry" is available to them through the Eucharist.

The Catholic emphasis on worshipping what they can swallow at the Mass, what they can touch in the statues and images of Mary and the saints, and what they can seen in the pope who claims to be the Vicar of Christ, has fostered a pagan religion system where physical elements takes precedence over a spiritual relationship

Conclusion

The foregoing reflections on Benedict XVI declarations found in *Dominus Iesus* and *Responses*, have served to highlight the Catholic attempt to make salva-

tion a dispensation of the church, rather than a disposition of the believer. By claiming to be the only church that has the apostolic succession and consequently the right to dispense salvation, the Catholic church is deceiving million of sincere people into believing that there is no salvation outside the Catholic Church (*no salus extra ecclesia*). From a prophetic perspective, this deception represents the endtime efforts of the Dragon, Sea-beast, and Land-Beast to lead the whole world into the false worship of God.

Our only safeguard against deceptive teachings, is familiarity with the teachings of the Word of God. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that the church is not a hierarchical organization that has the right to dispense salvation, but a community of believers called to "declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you [us] out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet 1:9).

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

SPECIAL FIRST TIME OFFER OF 9 DVD/CD ALBUMS FOR ONLY \$150.00, INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR PRICE OF \$850.00

This offer may sound too good to be true. For the first time I am offering together as a package all the 9 DVD/CD albums, containing the recordings of Prof. Jon Paulien, Prof. Graeme Bradford, and Prof. Bacchiocchi. Until now I have offered all these recordings separately, costing considerably more. To make it possible for many to benefit from all these timely messages, I have decided to offer them together as a package for only \$150.00, instead of the regular price of \$850.00.

THE PACKAGE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING 9 ALBUMS:

1) **Prof. Jon Paulien's newly released DVD ALBUM video seminar on** *Simply Revelation.*

2) Prof. Jon Paulien's CD ALBUM with a dozen of his books, and all his articles.

3) **Prof.** Graeme Bradford's DVD ALBUM with a two hours video lecture on Ellen White. He shares the highlights of his book *More than a Prophet.* The album contains also Prof. Bradford's the publications and articles.

4) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM containing 10 video powerpoint lectures on the Sabbath and Second Advent. Some of the lectures show the documents Prof. Bacchiocchi found in Vatican libraries on the role of the papacy in changing the Sabbath to Sunday. This album contains the popular powerpoint SABBATH/ADVENT seminars Prof. Bacchiocchi presents in many countries.

5) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM on *Cracking the Da Vinci Code*. The album contains a two hours video lecture, professionally taped with a vitual studio as a background. A separate file with 200 powerpoint slides is included.

6) **Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM on** *The Mark and the Number of the Beast.* The album contains the two hours video lecture and a separate powerpoint file with the 200 slides used for the lecture.

7) Prof. Bacchiocchi's CD ALBUM with all his books and powerpoint lectures. The album consists of two disks. The first disk has all his 18 books and over 200 articles. The second disk has the slides and script of 25 of Prof. Bacchiocci's popular PowerPoint presentations.

8) Prof. Bacchiocchi's DVD ALBUM on *The Passion of Christ.* The album contains the 2 hours live interview conducted by 3ABN on Prof. Bacchiocchi's book *The Passion of Christ in Scripture and History.*

9) Prof. Bacchiocchi's MP3 AUDIO ALBUM which contains 2 disks with 22 AUDIO lectures on vital biblical beliefs and practices. Ideal for listening in your car while driving.

HOW TO ORDER THE PACKAGE OF THE 9 ALBUMS

You can see the picture of all the **9 ALBUMS** and read a detailed description of them, just by clicking at this URL address: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/albumoffer.htm

You can order the complete package of 9 DVD/CD Albums for only \$150.00, instead of the regular price of \$850.00, in four different ways:

(1) Online: By clicking here: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/albumof-fer.htm

(2) Phone: By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

(3) Email: By emailing your order to <sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives. com>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date.

(4) **Regular Mail:** By mailing a check for \$150.00 to BIBLICAL PERSPEC-TIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103, USA. We guarantee to process your order immediately.

NEWLY RELEASED DVD OF PROF. JON PAULIEN'S LIVE SEMINAR ON SIMPLY REVELATION

Prof. Jon Paulien's DVD album on *SIMPLY REVELATION* was released at the end of May. We have been **airmailing** the DVD album to church leaders, pastors, and lay Adventists in different part of the world. Several pastors have already shown the lectures to their congregations. They wrote to me saying that viewing the lectures was an enlightening experience for their members.

My wife and I viewed *Simply Revelation* on our TV on a Sabbath afternoon. Though I had already heard Prof. Paulien's lectures during the taping session, I was spellbound to hear him again offering so many refreshing insights into the most difficult book of the Bible. For me it is a thrilling experience listening to a scholar like Prof. Paulien, who knows what he is talking about.

Prof. Paulien is one of the most respected Adventist scholars. Besides serving as the chairman of the New Testament at Andrews University Theological Seminary, he writes and lectures extensively in many parts of the world. He is rightly regarded as a leading Adventist authority on the book of Revelation which he has taught at the Seminary for the past 20 years. His doctoral dissertation as well as several of his books deal specifically with the Book of Revelation.

The constant demand for Prof. Paulien's CD album with his publications and articles, led me to discuss with him the possibility of producing a live video recording of a mini Revelation Seminar, which he chose to call *Simply Revelation*. As suggested by its title, *Simply Revelation* aims to *simply* present the message of Revelation—not to read into Revelation sensational, but senseless views.

The preparation of this video recording took several months. The *Simply Revelation* seminar consists of **four one-hour live video lectures**, which have just been recorded in the studio of Andrews University. An impressive virtual studio provides the background of the lectures. Each lecture is delivered with about 50 powerpoint slides. I have spent long hours looking for suitable pictures to illustrate the text of each slide in order to enhance the visual effect of each lecture. This mini Revelation seminar will offer you and your congregation fresh insights into the Book of Revelation. Be sure to inform your pastor about the newly released *Simply Revelation*, if he is not aware of it.

You will be pleased to know that we have placed on a separate file all the powerpoint slides and text used for the live video presentations. Each slide has the script of the live lecture. This means that if you are a pastor or a lay member who want to use Prof. Paulien's *Simply Revelation Seminar*, you can pick and choose the powerpoint slides that you like.

The file with the powerpoint slides is placed on Prof. Paulien's CD album containing all his publications and articles. The reason is that there was no memory left on the DVD disks. In spite of my pleas, Prof. Paulien was so full of the subject that he used the full 60 minutes of his four lecture, leaving no space for the slides' file.

This has been a very expensive project, both in time and money. The regular price of the DVD album is \$100.00, but you can order it now until July 30, at **the introductory price of only \$50.00.** The price includes the airmailing expenses to any overseas destination.

If you have not ordered before the **CD Album with Prof. Paulien's publications,** we will be glad to add it to your DVD order for only \$20.00, instead of the regular price of \$60.00. This means that you can order **both the DVD album with Prof. Paulien's four live video lectures on Revelation and his CD album with all his publications** and powerpoint slides of *Simply Revelation,* for **only \$70.00**, instead of the regular price of \$160.00.

As an additional incentive, I am offering you together with Prof. Paulien's DVD/CD albums, also my own popular DVD album on **The Mark and Number of the Beast, for an additional \$10.00**, **instead of the regular price of \$100.00**. This means that you can order the **DVD and CD albums by Prof, Paulien, to-gether with my DVD album on The Mark and Number of the Beast, for only \$80.00**, **instead of the regular price of \$260.00**.

This research on The Mark and Number of the Beast, was commissioned by Prof. Paulien himself. He asked me to trace historically the origin and use of the Pope's title *Vicarius Filii Dei* and of the number 666. I spent six months conducting this investigation which was professionally taped at the Andrews University Towers Auditorium. I use 200 powerpoint slides to deliver this informative two hours lecture which is warmly received by Adventist church leaders and pastors in many parts of the world. For a detailed description of this DVD album click: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/Beast/BeastPromo

SPECIAL OFFER ON PAULIEN/BACCHIOCCHI'S ALBUMS

* **ONE DVD Album of Prof. Paulien's four video lectures on** *Simply Revelation* at the introductory price of \$50.00, instead of \$100.00. The price includes the **airmailing** expenses to any overseas destination.

* ONE DVD Album of *Simply Revelation* and ONE CD Album with Prof. Paulien's publications for only \$70.00, instead of the regular price of \$160.00. The price includes the **airmailing** expenses to any overseas destination.

* ONE DVD Album of Simply Revelation, ONE CD Album with Prof. Paulien's publications, and ONE DVD Album with Bacchiocchi's two hours video lecture on The Mark and Number of the Beast for only \$80.00, instead of the regular price of \$260.00. The price includes the **airmailing** expenses to any overseas destination.

FOUR WAYS TO ORDER

(1) **Online:** By clicking here: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/revelation/

(2) **Phone:** By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

(3) Email: By emailing your order to <sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives. com>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date.

(4) **Regular Mail:** By mailing a check to BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103, USA. We guarantee to process your order immediately.

NEW EDITION OF BRADFORD'S MORE THAN A PROPHET

The popular newsletter no. 172 on "Ellen White and the Future of the Adventist Church," was distilled from Prof. Graeme Bradford's book *More than a Prophet.* The new edition with an additional 20 pages was released few weeks ago and many churches have ordered the book by the case of 30 copies for only \$150.00, that is, \$5.00 per copy, instead of the regular price of \$25.00. This book is urgently needed to restore confidence in the prophetic ministry of Ellen White by telling the truth about her divine revelations and her human limitations.

The most gratifying responses have come from former Adventist. One lady wrote: "After reading More than a Prophet, I am seriously reconsidering returning to the Adventist church." It is unfortunate that many Adventists have left the church, because they felt that they had been deceived about Ellen White. They could not reconcile in their mind that prophets do make mistakes. But Prof. Bradford compellingly shows that the mistakes found in the Bible or in the writings of Ellen White, do not negate the divine inspiration of their messages.

For a detailed description of *More than a Prophet,* together with the reviews and a picture of the book, click at this link: http://www.biblicalperspectives. com/BradfordOffer/offer.htm

To facilitate the distribution of this timely book among your church members, we are offering you two things:

1) Special discount on quantity orders of the book. Only \$5.00 per copy, instead of \$25.00 for a case of 30 copies.

2) A FREE ALBUM of Prof. Bradford's DVD with a live two hours lecture on Ellen White. The DVD contains also a PDF file with all of Prof. Bardford's books and articles. The regular price of the DVD album is \$100.00, but you will receive it FREE with an order of 2 or more copies of More than a Prophet.

The reason for offering a Free Album of Prof. Bradford's DVD live lecture on Ellen White, is to give your members the opportunity to enjoy the highlights of the *More than a Prophet.* After viewing the DVD, most members are eager to order the book.

SPECIAL OFFER ON MORE THAN A PROPHET

ONE COPY of *More than a Prophet* for **\$20.00** (instead of \$25.00), plus \$5.00 for mailing in the USA, or \$10.00 for airmailing overseas.

TWO COPIES of *More than a Prophet* **plus the DVD album with Prof. Bradford's live two hours lecture on Ellen White, for \$50.00** (instead of the regular price of \$150.00). Add \$10.00 for airmailing overseas.

THIRTY COPIES of *More than a Prophet* plus the DVD album with Prof. Bradford's live two hours lecture on Ellen White, for only \$150.00, instead of the regular price of \$850.00. The price includes the mailing in the USA. Unfortunately as of May 14, 2007, the USA Post office no longer offers surface mail service for overseas. Everything must be sent **AIRMAIL**. The cost for airmailing a case of 30 books, is \$95.00. Thus, the total cost for a case of 30 copies AIRMAILED overseas is \$245.00. The advantage is that you will receive the case within a week.

FOUR WAYS TO ORDER!

(1) **Online:** By clicking here: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/Bradfor-dOffer/offer.htm

(2) Phone: By calling us at (269) 471-2915 to give us your credit card number and postal address.

(3) Email: By emailing your order to <sbacchiocchi@biblicalperspectives. com>. Be sure to provide your postal address, credit card number, and expiration date.

(4) **Regular Mail:** By mailing a check to BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES, 4990 Appian Way, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103, USA. We guarantee to process your order immediately.

UPCOMING SEMINARS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER

Gradually I am rescheduling some of the invitations I had to cancel because of the colon cancer surgery and liver treatments. Here is a list of the upcoming

weekend seminars for the months of July, August, and September.

JUNE 29-30: ENGLAND - CHELMSFORD SDA CHURCH

Location: 43 Roman Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 OHA. For directions and information call Elder Cliff Hilton at 01376 334 848

JULY 6-7:ENGLAND - TOTTENHAM WEST GREEN SDA CHURCH

Location: 253-255 West Green Road, Tottenham, London N15 SED For directions and information call Elder Orville Baxter at 01992 621 599

JULY 21: ITALY: CONEGLIANO SDA CHURCH

Location: Via Vittorio Veneto 24, Conegliano. 30 miles from Venice. This is my wife's home church where I have preached on numerous occasions. The sanctuary accommodates about 100 persons and it is always packed. For directions and information call Pastor Gianfranco Irrera at 0422 460660 or 338 2676792

JULY 28: ITALY: FLORENCE SDA CHURCH

Location: Via Del Pergolino 12, Florence, Italy. The church is located on the campus of our Italian Adventist Academy that I attended from 1952 to 1956. It will be for me an emotional homecoming to my alma mater which I have not seen for over 30 years. The church where I will preach on Saturday June 28, was built recently and has an attendance of 400 to 500 members. I look forward to a blessed experience of worship and fellowship. For directions and information, call Pastor Davide Mozzato at 055 4378544

AUGUST 17-18: WHITE MEMORIAL SDA CHURCH

Location: 401 North State Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033. This is one of the most beautiful Adventist churches that was ever built. It can seat over 2000 people. When in 1962 Loma Linda University decided to relocate its students and faculty to a consolidated campus in Loma Linda, the membership gradually declined from over 2000 to the current 350.

I have reasons to believe that the new senior Pastor Benjamin Del Pozo, D. Min., will build up the attendance. He is a creative thinker and a good communicator. He speaks with his hands like an Italian. (Please laugh!) He invited me twice at the Temple City SDA Church where he has served for several years, doubling the attendance. For directions amd information call Pastor Benjamin Del Pozo at (626) 292-1305 or 323-440-1200.

AUGUST 31 - SEPT. 1: DAYTONA BEACH SDA CHURCH

Location: 401 North Williamson Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. For directions and information call Pastor William Barrett at (386) 258-1073.

SEPTEMBER 7-8:FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH CONFERENCE

Location: The Lecture Hall, Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37920. This Sabbath Conference is organized by English Prof. Bruce Horne, Ph. D., a leader of the Seventh-day Christian Assembly in Knoxville with about 120 members. Several non-SDA sabbatarian churches and groups from neighboring states are participating at this Sabbath Conference.

Adventists living in the Knoxville area are encouraged to attend this Sabbath Conference. I will be the keynote speaker on Friday evening and Saturday. We are planning also for a panel discussion conducted by church leaders of various sabbatarian churches. This will be a unique opportunity to become acquainted with other sabbatarians. For directions and information call Prof. Bruce Horne at (865) 671-4342 or (423) 914-5475.

SEPTEMBER 15: WORLD'S WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION CONFERENCE

Location: Adam's Mark Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241. The hotel phone number is: (317) 248-2481. This is the international World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union that brings together WWCTU delegates of different denominations from all over the world.

Ellen White was very active in this organization and was often featured as the keynote speaker. Our Adventist church had an active Temperance program in the past. Today we hear little from our pulpit about Temperance, partly because alcohol and drugs are seen more as a medical than a moral issue.

I have been invited to deliver the keynote address on Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 10: 30 a. m. Prior to my lecture, there will be a church service from 9:00 to 10:00 a. m. My powerpoint lecture is entitled "The Christian and Alcoholic Beverages." I will be sharing the highlights of my book Wine in the Bible, dealing with the biblical imperative of total abstinence. If you live in the Indianapolis area, I would urge you to attend the meetings, especially on Saturday. For directions and more detail information, contact Sarah R. Ward, WWCTU President, at (765) 345-2306

SEPTEMBER 21-22: HAWAII SAMOA-TOKELAU CHURCH

Location: 1128 Banyan Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. For directions and information call Pastor Michael Asuega at (808) 261-7321 or (808) 206 5892

SEPTEMBER 28-29: HONOLULU CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

Location: 2313 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. This will be the Hawaii Conference Convocation for all the churches in Oahu. For directions and information, call the Hawaii Conference Office at (808) 595-7591.

ANEW TOWNHOME COMMUNITY NEAR THE CAMPUS OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

If you are planning to move to Andrews University, you will be pleased to learn about a new Townhome Community being developed less than a mile away from the campus of Andrews University, by our son, Danny Bacchiocchi. He is a gifted architect who has build prestigious homes on the shores of Lake Michigan and close to Andrews University.

This is a Townhome community designed around the needs of empty nesters, retirees or young professional families, who have no time to mow the lawn or shovel the snow. These services are provided to the community. You will like the open living area and the large windows. It is nestled in a peaceful setting, with easy access to downtown Berrien Springs and the campus of Andrews University. Feel free to come and visit the model home, while others are being build.

For a description and a picture of the Townhome Units, click at this link: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/danny

INCREDIBLE NEW OFFERS ON HITACHI PROJECTORS

HITACHI has given us an additional discount on some of their projectors to help especially our churches and schools in developing countries. This is the special offer on the following three models:

CP-X260 HIGH RESOLUTION 2500 LUMENS - Only \$1095.00 Previous SDA price for the 2500 lumens was \$2395.00.

CP-X444 HIGH RESOLUTION 3200 LUMENS - Only \$1695.00 Previous SDA price for the 3200 lumens was \$3295.00.

CP-X1250 HIGH RESOLUTION 4500 LUMENS Only \$3795.00

Previous SDA price for the 4500 lumens was \$4900.00.

WARRANTY: The above prices include a 3 years 24/7 replacement warranty worth about \$285.00.

You can order the HITACHI projectors online by clicking at this link: http://www. biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/index.php?cPath=24

If you have a problem ordering online, call us at (269) 471-2915. We will take your order by phone. Your order will be processed immediately.

THE SMALLEST, MOST POWERFUL REMOTE PRESENTER

If you are looking for an outstanding REMOTE for your PowerPoint presentations, you will be pleased to know HONEYWELL has just come out with the smallest and most powerful remote in the market.

The size of the transmitter is smaller than a credit card. You can stick it inside the palm of your hand and nobody can see it. I tested the remote in an open environment, and the radio signal can go up to 400 feet of distance. IT IS INCREDIBLE! The transmitter has three button: forward, backward, and laser.

You can order online the new POWERPOINT PRESENTER simply by clicking here: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/cart/catalog/product_info. php?cPath=27&products_id=67

If you have a problem ordering online, simply call us at (269) 471-2915. We will take your order by phone. You can also email us your order at <sbacch iocchi@biblicalperspectives.com>, giving us your address, credit card number, and expiration date.

DOES YOUR CHURCH OR SCHOOL NEED A SCREEN?

If your church/school is looking for a screen, the DA-LITE SCREEN COM-PANY, the largest manufacture of screens in the world, has agreed to offer their line of screens to our Adventist churches and schools at about 30% discount.

The procedure is very simple. Visit the DA-LITE SCREEN COMPANY website at http://www.da-lite.com. You will see hundreds of models of screens with their respective prices. Once you find the screen that you need, give us the model number by phone (269) 471-2915 or email your request <sbacchiocchi@ biblicalperspectives.com> We will forward your order immediately to DA-LITE

that will ship the screen directly to your address. You will receive the screen at about 30% discount.

BED & BREAKFAST FACILITIES IN LONDON, ENGLAND

If your travel plans call for a stop in London, you will be pleased to learn about a most gracious Adventist couple that offer the best accommodation and breakfast I have ever enjoyed. It has become my home away from home when in London. See details at: http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/Promotions/ BED&BREAKFAST.htm

TAGNET SPECIAL NEW WEB HOSTING OFFER FOR ADVENTIST CHURCHES AND MEMBERS

TAGnet provides an incredible number of webhosting services to our churches and members. This newsletter comes to you through their gracious and efficient service. For detail information, visit their website at http://www.netadventist.org or http://home.tagnet.org/ You may also call their office 800 - 9TAGNET. They are ready and eager to help you.