

A letter by a Seminarian to the Dean of the Andrews Univ. Seminary about the invitation of two Jesuit priests to speak at the Seminary.

Subject: regarding Jesuits at the seminary last week (April 14, 2008)

Dear Dr. Fortin:

ORIGINAL NO CORRECTIONS

I am writing this letter to you to express my deep concern for the state of affairs in our seminary. A week ago this our Seminary opened the chapel for two Jesuit trained priests to “pound the virtue of Catholic missions in the S. American and Asia. For about 8 hours they shared with seminary students and faculty their perspective of missions and even hinted at our involvement with their mission to win the world under non-descript Christianity.

While attending there I was absolutely astounded how many obsequiously smiled and amended for these two gentlemen as they smoothed over the rather gruesome and skullduggerous practices of their Church to subjugate the New World and Asia. I even attempted ask a question about the glaring inconsistency of they were telling us—about the Church’s kind human treatment of the Asians-and the practice of the Jesuits to kill off the indigenous Christians of the Malabar Coast in Goa, India. But my question was shot down. Maybe I should have known better, SDA’s are not allowed to ask tough questions of a system that has dethroned monarchs, burned millions of believers, wiped out entire races of people, created futurism and preterism, and now stands poised to unite the world under an ecumenical banner, which will mean the end of religious freedom. Maybe I am extreme: I believe what I read in the Great Controversy. Perhaps this interpretation of last-day events is obsolete; please inform me if I am wrong.

However, what got to me even more was the fact that our SDA church, is one of the few churches if not the only, at least when I was baptized in it, that believed that the church of Rome was the Antichrist of scripture. This was a tenet of our faith. Yet after having these two men speak, I doubt that anyone in the Sem. actually believes that, for if they did why in the world would we require seminary students to drink from the cup of Babylon to learn about missions. I left the Roman Catholic Church because I genuinely believed what the Bible said. I adopted the prophetic truths of scripture, disseminated by our church not because I wanted to live in veggie meat eating, Sabbath napping culture, but because I wanted to be with Jesus when he returns. But to see these men invited in our institution—and perhaps given reenumeration for the trip-as if they are first rate guest shocks me. Even Dr. Bevans remarked that being at our Seminary could not have happened 10-20 years ago. Should we take that as a complement that we are nonjudgmental, multicultural, theology contextualizing, social work imbibing, 21st century first rate institution or an institution that has forgotten its first love?

I know for sure those that sacrificed and died to build the SDA Sem. would role in their grave if they knew this. I could imagine the J.N. Andrews would rent his garments if the the school which bears his namesake invited two Jesuit trained priest to talk about missions. I know that Andrews himself did not take pointers from Jesuits when he went to Europe to witness for Christ.

Do we not have any confidence in the God we serve that he will teach us? Do we not believe the

Ellen White was prophet and received instruction from God on these very issues? Why is it if we have been given present truth and extraordinary light for the times we are living in that we need to seek the counsel from any one at all? Why aren't we the leaders of missions instead of the followers? Is it because we lack Jesuit training?

As the Dean of the Sem. I hope you have some answers to my concerns. Perhaps I am not schooled in the subtleties of 21st century and I need to leave the antiquated ideas of the reformation behind and catch up to the world and the Seminary which is wondering after the beast. I hope and pray that either I am wrong-or that you will lead an effort to reform this Seminary. The time for half measures is past. Benedict XVI is literally being worship by the millions. U.S. officials are groveling at his feet. The UN even considers him the 'Spiritual Shepherd' of their 'eklesia.' And what are we doing, one of the last churches that believe(d) that the Church of Rome is (was) the predicted Antichrist of scripture?

Maybe God has put you at the helm of the Seminary for such a time as this. I exhort you as one who believes in the book of Revelation and Great Controversy to do all in your power to reform the Seminary.

If you disagree with me and find what is going on as a normal part of the Seminary Curriculum, then please meet with me and share with me where I am wrong.

Earnestly contending for the faith, Tim Perenich

P.S. I sent this letter as an open letter. I have forward this message to my fellow seminarians who were concerned about this issue, but did not have the time nor wanted to exposed to retaliation.

Hello Dr. Fortin:

As your friend and colleague in ministry I am writing to express my deep concern regarding your Catholic guest lecturers this past week. (See attached).

Several pastors and laymen have contacted me also expressing their concern over this day-long instruction from Catholic leaders. I am sure there must be an explanation from your perspective. Would you kindly let me know what was intended by this meeting and what the students were supposed to learn from it? In our current politically correct world it is easy to forget our distinctiveness as Adventists in our prophetic understanding of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13.

I recently re-read the book The Great Controversy by Ellen White out loud with my wife. We noted the following statements:

"If we desire to understand the determined cruelty of Satan, manifested for hundreds of years, not among those who never heard of God, but in the very heart and throughout the extent of Christendom, we have only to look at the history of Romanism. Through this mammoth system of deception the prince of evil achieves his purpose of bringing dishonor to God and wretchedness to man. And as we see how he succeeds in disguising himself and accomplishing his work through the leaders of the church, we may better understand why he has so great antipathy to the Bible." (p 570)

"It is true that there are real Christians in the Roman Catholic communion. Thousands in that

church are serving God according to the best light they have... But Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history. The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side. See the increasing number of her churches and chapels in Protestant countries. Look at the popularity of her colleges and seminaries in America, so widely patronized by Protestants. Look at the growth of ritualism in England and the frequent defections to the ranks of the Catholics. [Scott Hahn, Richard John Neuhaus, U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, Tony Blair, Jeb Bush, and recently former SDA Pastor, David Pendleton) These things should awaken the anxiety of all who prize the pure principles of the gospel.

"Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty" (Ibid, pp. 565, 566).

I feel quite uncomfortable writing to you about this subject - kind of like telling Tiger Woods how to play golf you should already know the above from your own research. But the deed has been done. Perhaps it would be wise to require a chapel at the Seminary where someone reads out loud chapter 35 of the Great Controversy -Liberty of Conscience Threatened

With the Pope's visit to the U.S. to great enthusiasm including a birthday party at the White House and personal greetings at Andrews Air Force Base by the Bush family, I see tremendous prophetic significance in current events.

I hope this never happened at the Seminary. If it did, would you kindly give me and your other colleagues an explanation. May God grant you His wisdom and blessing in your life and ministry.

SINCERELY
Ed Reid

April 24, 2008 Dear Dr. Fortin,

I am writing this letter in amazement and with an open mind that you can explain to me why two Catholic priests were invited to our seminary to talk to us about missions. What can we expect to learn from a system so steeped in error and tradition?

The Bible says that two cannot walk together except they be agreed (Amos 3:3). How then can we, as God's Remnant Church who are commissioned by God to call people out of the Roman system of error and darkness (Revelation 14:8; Revelation 18:2), even think about a subject like: "Jesus As Universal Savior. Catholics and Seventh-day Adventists in Mission." Clearly, the Jesus they worship, and the Jesus we worship are two different Saviors. I can go directly to mine through the merits of His blood. It's not the case with their Savior. What mission do we as Protestants share with the organization we are supposedly protesting against? How can we profess to agree with the organization God says holds the wine cup filled with error that is intoxicating the whole world?

Not the mission I want my church involved in, that's for sure!

I'm sure that you know the statements by Ellen White about the Roman church, so refrain from quoting them here. But what astounded me is that Ellen White is quoted on the same sheet that announces-unashamedly announces-our invitation to the very organization that she confirmed, through God's Holy Spirit, that we are to be calling people out of! I find that simply amazing. I believe the Bible would call it mixing truth with error, putting no difference between the sacred and the profane.

Dr. Fortin, I know that you can explain this unfortunate meeting. Believe me, the credibility of the seminary in many God-fearing Adventists' eyes has been seriously compromised and rightfully so! As the dean of the seminary, I believe that you need to make haste to explain to the seminarians, to your colleagues in the ministry, and to those whose faithful tithes and offerings keep the seminary in operation and your staff on payroll, why we paid homage to the Beast by inviting these priests to be lecturers. Inviting them to listen about missiology, and inviting them to teach us about missiology are two very different things. Please, Dr. Fortin, for the sake of the seminary and for the cause of the Remnant church, make a public declaration about what happened. We deserve to know. As the Dean of the seminary, we need to hear from you. May God help you to do the right thing.

Sincerely yours in Jesus,

Dane J. Griffin
Michigan Conference of SDA

God told Israel many years ago, "*learn not the way of the heathen. The New Testament tells us the following:*

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2Cor 6:14-18 KJV

SPURGEON ON SEPARATION—"Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it. It is our solemn conviction that where there can be no real spiritual communion there should be no pretense of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participating in sin. As soon as I saw, or thought I saw, that error had become firmly established, I did not deliberate, but quitted the body at once. Since then my counsel has been 'Come out from among them.' I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of distinct separation from known evil. That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them." (Charles Spurgeon)

SPURGEON ON DEFENDING TRUTH — "We admire a man who was firm in the faith, say 400 years ago ... but such a man today is a nuisance, and must be put down. Call him a narrow-minded bigot (or a worse name) ... Yet imagine that in those ages past, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and their compeers had said, "the world is out of order; but if we try to set it right we shall only make a

great row, and get ourselves into disgrace. Let us go to our chambers, put on our night caps, and sleep over the bad times, and perhaps when we wake up things will have grown better.” (Charles Spurgeon)

“One thing is clear to us, we cannot be expected to meet in any union which comprehends those whose teachings on fundamental points is exactly the reverse of that which we hold dear. Cost what it may to separate ourselves from those who separate themselves from the truth of God is not alone our liberty but our duty.” (Charles Spurgeon)

“Men will employ every means to make less prominent the difference between Seventh day Adventists and observers of the first day of the week. A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner, or sign, which makes us a distinct people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed that this was not the best policy in order to secure success to our institutions. But this is not a time to haul down our colors, to be ashamed of our faith. This distinctive banner described in the words, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus,” is to be borne through the world to the close of probation. While efforts should be increased to advance in different localities, there must be no cloaking of our faith to secure patronage. Truth must come to souls ready to perish; and if it is in any way hidden, God is dishonored, and the blood of souls will be upon our garments” Ellen White 6T 144.1