

From the G.C. President

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O “IN ONE ACCORD:” Before His ascension Jesus sent His followers into all the world to make disciples. Now, at the end of time, He again entrusts His people with a judgment-hour message. The urgency of the message calls for every method and resource to be placed in service. Just as Pentecost resulted when His followers came together in one accord, even so today similar circumstances can and will occur.

I am happy to report that within the last few days two lay-operated, supportive media ministries agreed (entirely independent of each other) to build bridges of cooperation and mutual support with the General Conference in order to most effectively contribute to the task of gospel proclamation while recognizing the responsibilities of constituent bodies.

These ministries, along with the Adventist Global Communication Network (which will blanket the globe 24 hours per day in up to 40 languages), will provide multiple channels through which the Holy Spirit can touch the hearts of tens of millions of precious souls.

Now a comment regarding each ministry.

✓ **GC AND 3ABN APPROVE “JOINT DECLARATION:”** After lengthy discussions, the 3ABN Board of Directors and the GC Administrative Committee approved a "Joint Declaration of Commitment" describing a cooperative working relationship.

In the statement, both 3ABN and the General Conference affirmed each other and the vital importance of efficiency in the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages to the world. In addition to commitment and vision statements, the document also describes an issue resolution process by which representatives of 3ABN and members in the territories they serve, facilitated by the GC, can resolve any differences which may arise.

✓ **AMAZING FACTS** speaker/director, Doug Batchelor, concluded his **SateLIGHT Seminar** this past weekend, produced as a joint, live, evangelistic endeavor by Amazing Facts (a denominational organization) in cooperation with 3ABN (a supporting ministry) in which an estimated 1000 sites participated. This is an example of the cooperation this "Joint Declaration of Commitment" encourages. Results from this evangelistic effort are still to come.

✓ **“SAFE TELEVISION BROADCAST NETWORK” (KSBN) AND THE GC SIGN AN AGREEMENT:** KSBN, a full-power television station located in Northwestern Arkansas and operated by dedicated Adventists, went on the air in May, 1996. Its theme, “Safe TV for all ages,” means simply that anyone can safely watch the station without seeing violence, immorality, or profanity. While it is not a religious station, Safe TV's goal is to offer selected secular programs (news, weather, health and business reports, children and parenting programs, arts, nature, travel, etc.) with Seventh-day Adventist programming interspersed four hours per day as well as all day Sabbath.

Available on a small (digital) satellite dish, subscribers to KSBN's programming (at a monthly cost of \$29.95) will receive a variety of carefully selected channels, and have the option for high speed Internet data retrieval.

For additional information please call the following toll free number (at Andrews University) 1-888-SAFETV-1, or write to KSBN TV, 3556 Liberty Ave., Springdale AR, 72762

✓ **NOTE:** The GC-3ABN “Joint Declaration” as well as the GC-KSBN “Agreement” can both be seen on the Internet at: <http://www.adventist.org/GC/Presidential>

Off the Back Burner

Section #86: We have been reviewing how Ellen G. White unfolded the Great Controversy theme in her book, *Steps to Christ*. All aspects of the theme, in some way, tell us what kind of God is running the universe.

The place of “reason” in the God-man relationship has always been a philosophical/theological concern. Satan has said that God either manipulates or coerces the choices of both angels and men and that real freedom is not tolerated. In other words, one is to believe God regardless of whether or not it makes sense. If we don't believe, God destroys us.

But Ellen G. White said it clearly: “The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, and unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience” (SC:43). That statement is profound. It embraces far more than one sees at first glance.

Parents, pastors, and evangelists are here reminded that the end does not justify the means. Decisions for Christ should be won by presenting the gospel in a reasonable way that does not embarrass the God of Truth. Thus, sermons, for example, that move the emotions but are not calmly, logically presented misrepresent God. All who speak for God should welcome questions as indications of a seeking mind, not necessarily signs of a rebel. After all, the whole point of the Great Controversy has been to answer Satan's challenge to God's fairness. To answer the questions that Satan has raised in the minds of created beings. God doesn't want us to be either confused or to blindly follow Him. He knows “blind submission” is only a fool's paradise that precedes, sooner or later, the awful dilemma of disenchantment when a person discovers that he or she does not have “answers” that are good enough. “Blind submission” is Satan's door to disillusionment, and all too often to the door out of the church.