

The Emerging Church phenomenon

- * Presentation for Gospel study Group
- * Andrews University
- * October 8-10, 2010

- * Brian Schwartz
- * Rick Yeager

GC themes

- * Gods Word
- * vs
- * Mans word
 - * Culture
 - * Reason
 - * Tradition



Luther

Born 1483

After pilgrimage to Rome came out against Indulgences and excesses of the church. Founded the Reformation.

Principle of Sola Scriptura

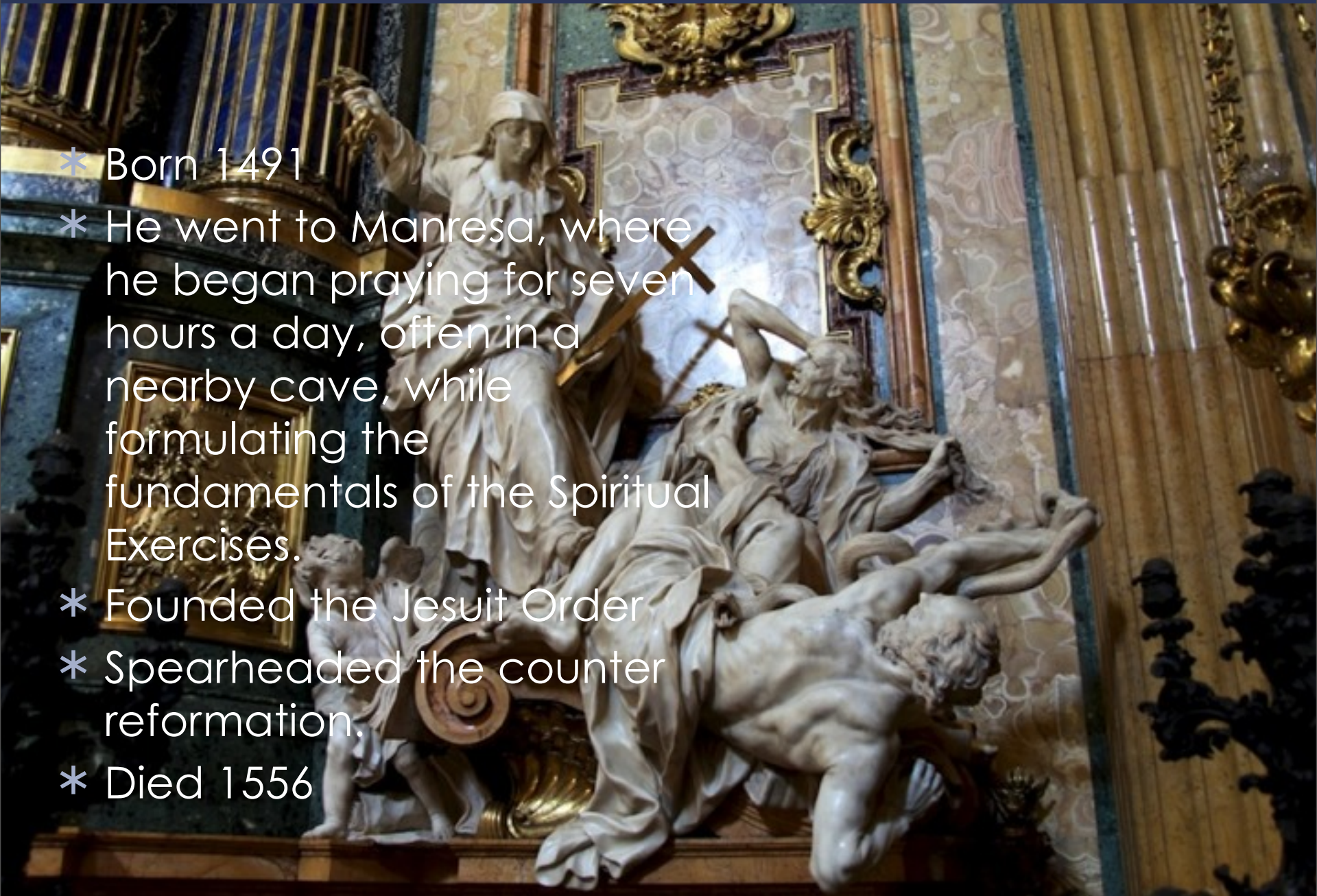
Died 1546





Loyola

- * Born 1491
- * He went to Manresa, where he began praying for seven hours a day, often in a nearby cave, while formulating the fundamentals of the Spiritual Exercises.
- * Founded the Jesuit Order
- * Spearheaded the counter reformation.
- * Died 1556



EVANGELICALS
&
CATHOLICS
TOWARD A
COMMON MISSION
TOGETHER
CHARLES COLSON
RICHARD JOHN NEUHAUS
EDITORS

Matthew 24:4

- * “...tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the signs of your coming, and of the end of the age?”
- * Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.”
- * Matt. 24:11, 24:24; 2 Tim. 4:1,3,4; 3:1-5

Adventist end-time landmarks

- * Mark of the Beast
- * “All the world wondered after the Beast”
- * Wall of separation between Church-State
- * Ecumenism
- * Spiritualism
- * Deception

Great Controversy p. 588-9

- * “Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome”.
- * Will either of these errors deceive

Great Controversy p. 552

- * “He has the power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of Heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear to ‘seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.’

Great Controversy p.604

- * “A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches.”

Keep the issue of “spiritual manifestations” in mind.

Emerging Church Outline

* Emerging Church

1. History and formation
2. Postmodern mindset
3. Theology
4. Eschatology
5. New spirituality / mysticism

Intersection with Adventism

1. Past history
2. Modern confrontation of NS with Adventism

History and formation

- * In the mid-1990's a group called Leadership Network organized a team of young pastors/thinkers to begin a conversation about how to reach the post-modern culture.
- * Doug Pagitt
- * Brian McLaren
- * Dan Kimball
- * Tony Jones and others

Modernity

- * Modernity arose out of the Renaissance, the enlightenment, rationalism
- * Followed the lead of science which increasingly was able to explain how the world worked.
- * Absolute/propositional truth
- * Meta-narrative/universal vision of reality
- * Rational thinking based on observation

Transition to Postmodernism

Science, once the source of “absolute” truth now discovered some “flexibility” to truth

- Darwin-microevolution
- Einstein-relativity/time
- Heisenberg-principle of uncertainty

Truth now seen to be a “moveable” target

The Postmodern Mindset

Emphasis on:

moving beyond the factual/
rational to experiential/mystical

no absolutes

no meta-narratives

truth is in the mind of the beholder

Impact on Christianity:

Truth is not absolute but rather fluid and progressive and is a function of each person's perspective, every person has a say in what is valid truth. Therefore "truth" can be found from many sources. These sources can be from other Christian traditions or non-Christian traditions-such as Eastern religions.

The modern pursuit of truth is seen by the postmodern as a sterile, clinical examination of facts. The postmodern longs for a deeper richer experience... to know God, not just know about God.

* Feelings, not propositional truth, becomes the final arbiter of belief/faith.

Interview with Barack Obama

- * “I’m a big believer in tolerance. I think that religion at its best comes with a big dose of doubt. I’m suspicious of too much certainty in the pursuit of understanding.”

- * Chicago Sun-Times, 2004

Brian McLaren

- * “Why I am a missional evangelical, post/protestant, liberal/conservative, mystical/poetic, biblical, charismatic/contemplative, fundamentalist/Calvinist, Anabaptist/Anglican, Methodist, catholic, green, incarnational, depressed-yet hopeful, emergent, unfinished Christian.”
- * “A Generous Orthodoxy”

Brian McLaren

- * “I meet people along the way that model for me what a new kind of Christian might look like. They differ in many ways, but they generally agree that the old show is over, the modern gig is up, and its time for something radically new.”
- * “...if we have a new world we will need a new church. We won't need a new religion, per se, but a new framework for our theology...”

Brian McLaren

- * “Not a new Spirit, but a new spirituality. Not a new Christ, but a new Christian.”

Leith Anderson

- * “The old paradigm taught that if you had the right teaching, you will experience God. The new paradigm says that if you experience God, you will have the right teaching.”
- * “A Church for the 21st Century” p. 21

Leonard Sweet

- * “A spiritual Tsunami has hit postmodern culture. This wave will build without breaking for decades to come. The wave is this: People want to know God. They want less to know about God or know about religion. Post-moderns want a God they can feel, taste, touch, hear, and smell—a full sensory immersion in the divine.”
- * “Soul Tsunami”

Emerging Theology



Donald Miller

- * “For me, the beginning of sharing my faith with people began by throwing out Christianity and embracing Christian spirituality, a non-political mysterious system that can be experienced but not explained.”
- * “You cannot be a Christian without being a mystic.”
- * “Blue Like Jazz” p. 115, 202

Alan Jones

- * “The Church’s fixation on the death of Jesus as the universal saving act must end, and the place of the cross must be re-imagined in Christian faith. Why? Because of the cult of suffering and the vindictive God behind it”.
- * “Reimagining Christianity” p. 132

Alan Jones

- * “The other thread of just criticism addresses the suggestion implicit in the cross that Jesus’ sacrifice was to appease an angry god. Penal substitution was the name of this vile doctrine.”
- * “Reimagining Christianity, pp. 132,168,16.

Emerging Eschatology



Brian McLaren



Brian McLaren

- * I didn't start with any interest in rethinking eschatology...I think many of us are starting from the beginning part of rethinking, the relation of faith and science in relation to evolution and young earth creationism...and some starting from the end, re-examining eschatology.
- * Interview with Planetpreterist.com

Dominionism definition:

- * Dominionism or Kingdom Now Theology
- * Teaches that the Kingdom of God will be set up on earth before Jesus returns
- * Many variations, post-millennialist, pre-millennialist, amillennialist.

Brian McLaren

- * “Christians...in the 1800s...saw nothing but spiritual decline and global destruction. Their only hope? A skyhook Second Coming, wrapping up the whole of creation like an empty candy wrapper and throwing it in the cosmic dumpster so that God can finally bring our souls to Heaven.”
- * “A Generous Orthodoxy”

Brian McLaren

- * “If Revelation were a blueprint of the distant future , it would have been unintelligible for its original readers...and would only become relevant for one generation...if Revelation is instead an example of the literature of the oppressed...it presents each generation with needed inspiration. In this light, Revelation becomes a...book about the kingdom of God here and now, available to all.”
- * “A Generous Orthodoxy”

Ellen White

- * “The line of distinction between...Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by **sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism...**

Ellen White

- * “Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and **they will see in this union** a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the **ushering in of the long-expected millennium.**”

GC 588

New Age and Eschatology



Barbara Marx-Hubbard

“ Sadly...the Christian religion has misconstrued the secret message of Jesus entirely. *Instead of being about the kingdom of God coming to earth, the Christian religion has too often been preoccupied with...escaping the earth and going to Heaven.* We have betrayed the message that the kingdom of God is available for all...”

Barbara Marx-Hubbard

- * “Here we are, now poised either on the brink of destruction greater than the world has ever seen-
or on the threshold of global co-creation wherein each person...will be attracted to participate in his or her own evolution to godliness.”
- * “In the twinkling of an eye we are all changed, a peaceful second coming of the divine in us as us.”

Emerging Spirituality-Mysticism



John MacArthur

- * “The evangelical consensus has shifted decidedly in the past two decades. Our collective message is now short on doctrine and long on experience. Thinking is deemed less important than feeling... The love of sound doctrine...has all but disappeared. Add a dose of mysticism to this and you have the recipe for unmitigated spiritual disaster.

“Reckless Faith” p.154

Leonard Sweet



Leonard Sweet

- * Mysticism, once cast to the sidelines of the Christian tradition, is now situated in a post-modernist culture near the center...Too many people are nothing, as our empty pews are shouting to us, because we give them neither an energy-fire experience of Christ nor the Christ of an energy-fire experience. We may help them apprehend reality through mystical speculations but not the rapture of flow experiences.

Leonard Sweet

- * Mysticism...is metaphysics arrived at through mind-body experiences. *Mysticism begins in experience; it ends in theology.*
- * “Quantum Spirituality” p 76

Brian McLaren

- * Many Christian leaders started searching for a new approach under the banner of “spiritual formation.” This new search has led many of them back to the Catholic contemplative practices and medieval monastic disciplines.
- * “A Generous Orthodoxy” p 246

Spiritual Disciplines



Definition:

- * Spiritual formation involves “training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character” with the ultimate objective to be like Christ.
- * Spiritual disciplines include:
- * Prayer, meditation, fasting, singing, giving, hospitality, teaching, solitude.
- * Spiritual formation is the objective, spiritual discipline are the methods.

Contemplative Prayer

According to www.contemplativeoutreach.org,
Contemplative prayer is drawn from ancient prayer practices of Christian Contemplative heritage, notably the Fathers and Mothers of the Desert...It was distilled into a simple method of prayer in the 1970's by Trappist monks, Menniger, Pennington, Keating. Catholic monk Thomas Merton and Quaker Richard Foster also contributed much to the contemporary use of CP in the church today.

- * Nothing is more beautiful than the uniqueness that God has created....
- * You don't have to create the beauty
- you've got the beauty....
- * You don't have to create the freedom
- you've got it....
- * You don't have to create the image of God in you
- you have it....
- * You don't have to win over God's love
- you have more than you know what to do with.
- * Thomas Keating, 'Centering Prayer,'
Heartfulness: Transformation in Christ



Saturday, November 6, 2010

As we consent to the movement of the Spirit in our inmost being, we connect at the deepest level with every member of the human race, and with the whole of creation.

Fr. Thomas Keating, The Heart of the World - Contemplative Outreach News, Winter 1997

- * Contemplative prayer contains the notions that true prayer is: silent, beyond words, beyond thought, does away with the “false self”, triggers transformation of consciousness, and is an awakening. Suggested techniques include breathing exercises, visualization, repetition of a word or phrase, and detachment from thinking.

- * God's first language is silence. (Keating)
- * Progress in intimacy with God means progress toward silence. (Foster)
- * The important thing is that we are relaxed and our back is straight so that the vital energy can flow freely. (Pennington)
- * Contemplation is pure, virginal knowledge, poor in concepts, poorer still in reasoning...

(Merton)

- * According to Keating, CP should be a detachment from thought, getting into a state of no-thinking and that it is time to let go of all thoughts...so that only pure awareness exists...
only when we are willing to abandon our...
human modes of thought and open a welcoming space that the Spirit will begin to operate in us at the Divine level.

Eastern Religion Connection

- * The influence of Buddhism and Hinduism on Contemplative Prayer is apparent. Words such as “detachment”, “transformation”, “emptiness”, “enlightenment” and “awakening” swim in and out of the waters of Contemplative Prayer.

www.christiananswersforthenewage.org

Thomas Keating

- * “We should not hesitate to take the fruit of the age-old wisdom of the East and “capture” it for Christ. Indeed, those of us who are in ministry should make the necessary effort to acquaint ourselves with as many of these Eastern techniques as possible.”
- * “Finding Grace at the Center” p. 5

Thomas Keating

- * “Many Christians who take their prayer life seriously have been greatly helped by Yoga, Zen, TM...and have a solidly developed Christian faith to give inner form and meaning to the resulting experiences.”
- * “Finding Grace at the Center” p. 5

Isaiah 2:6

- * For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, because they are filled with eastern ways...

Basil Pennington

- * “I presented Centering Prayer in my usual way, wondering what chords of response this call to faith and love might be striking in the Hindu monk. We soon entered into the prayer and enjoyed that beautiful fullness of silence. As we came out of the experience I shot a glance at my eastern friend. He said, this has been the most beautiful experience I have ever had. This for me was very affirming.”

Jesuit Anthony DeMello

- * “A Jesuit friend of mine once told me that he approached a Hindu guru for initiation in the art of prayer. The guru said, “concentrate on your breathing.” My friend proceeded to do that for five minutes. Then the guru said, ‘the air you breath is God, you are breathing God in and out. Become aware of that and stay with that awareness.’”

Pantheism/Panentheism

- * Pantheism is the belief that there is no personal God. “God” is merely the essence of the Divine that is in all things.
- * Panentheism is the belief that there is a God/Being who is in all things

Sue Monk-Kidd

- * “If I am intent on centering my life in the presence of God, then I must understand what I believe about where this presence can be found ...God became the steam in my soup, the uprooted tree, the graffiti on the building, the rust on the fence.”

“First Light”

Ellen White

- * “Already there are coming in among our people spiritualistic teachings that will undermine the faith of those who give heed to them. The theory that God is an essence pervading all nature is one of Satan’s most subtle devices...Pantheistic theories are not sustained by the Word of God... These theories...sweep away the whole Christian economy...and make man his own savior.

8T 291

Contemplative Ecumenism



Ellen White

- * “The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.”

Great Controversy, p. 588

Basil Pennington

- * “It is my sense, from having meditated with persons from many different traditions, that in the silence we experience deep unity. When we go beyond the portals of the rational mind in the experience, there is only one God...the common experience of all persons...that when we sit together Centering we experience a solidarity that cuts through our theological differences.”

Tilden Edwards

- * “In the wider ecumenism of the Spirit opened for us today we need to humbly accept the learning of particular eastern religions. What makes a practice Christian is not its source but its intent. If we view the human family as one in God’s Spirit then this historical cross –fertilization is not surprising. Selective attention to eastern practices can be of great assistance to the Christian life.”

Matthew Fox Episcopal priest

- * “Without mysticism there will be no ‘deep ecumenism,’ no unleashing of the power of wisdom from all the world’s religious traditions. Without this I am convinced there will never be global peace or justice...The promise of ecumenism, the coming together of religions, has been thwarted because world religions have not been relating on the level of mysticism”. “ The Coming Cosmic Christ.”

Contemplative Warning



Richard Foster

- * Richard Foster claims that practitioners must use caution. He admits in CP “we are entering deeply into the spiritual realm; and that sometimes it is not the realm of God even though it is supernatural. He admits there are (unfriendly) spiritual beings present and that a prayer of protection should be said beforehand...” All dark and evil spirits must leave now.”

Contemplative Prayer Results



Sue Monk-Kidd

- * “The minister was preaching. He was holding up a Bible. He was saying that the Bible was the sole authority for the Christian’s life. I remember a feeling rising up within me. If the feelings could be translated in English they would have been the word NO. It was the purest knowing I had experienced and it was shouting no, no, no.”

* “The ultimate authority of my life is not the Bible; it is not confined between the covers of a book. It is not something written by men and frozen in time. It is not from a source outside of myself. My ultimate authority is the divine voice in my own soul. PERIOD.”

Sue Monk-Kidd

“...make man his own savior.” EGW 2T 291

Intersection with Adventism

- * John Harvey Kellogg

- * In 1903 the church was in conflict over whether to publish a new book by Kellogg entitled, “Living Temple.” This book was initially conceived to provide much needed financial support for building a new educational center in Battle Creek but was found to contain profound error.

Ellen White

“In his (Dr. Kellogg’s) presentation he cloaked the matter somewhat but in reality he was presenting scientific theories akin to **pantheism**.” 1 SM 197

“ In the book “Living Temple” there is presented the **alpha of deadly heresies**. The **omega will follow**, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.” !
SM 200

Ellen White

* “Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories. The omega would follow in a little while. I tremble for our people. These beautiful representations are similar to the temptation that the enemy brought to Adam and Eve in Eden. When but a girl I went to New Hampshire to bear warning against these same doctrines. There was a man... who was preaching a higher spirituality.”

* 1 SAT 341

A.G. Daniells

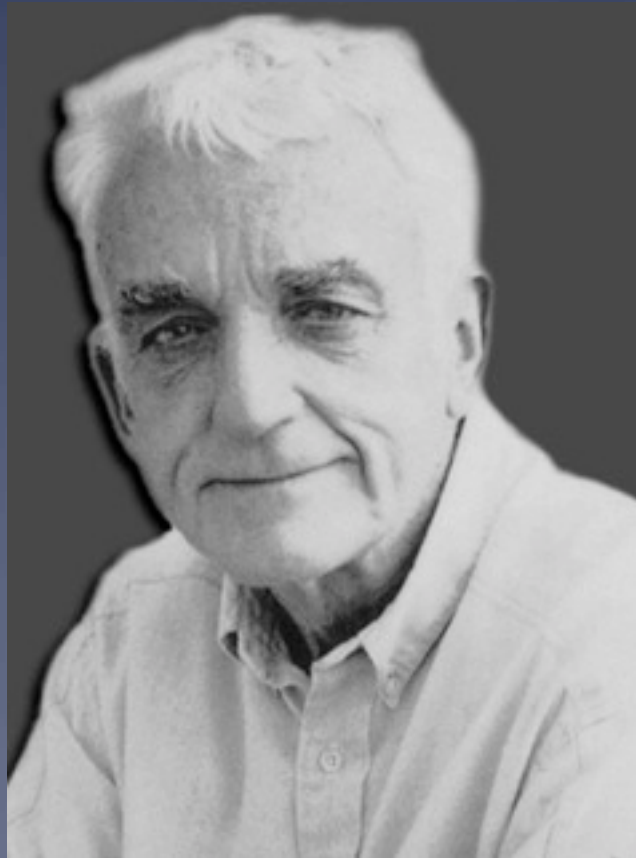
- * “Far reaching plans were then laid for the establishment of a great educational center in Battle Creek. In this college the students would certainly have become indoctrinated with the subtle teachings of the “new philosophy,” which was prominently advocated by leading members of the faculty.”

A.G. Daniells

- * “But the Lord, through His servant, sent most solemn warnings against this movement. Our youth were emphatically admonished that they should not go for their education to Battle Creek, where their faith in some of the fundamentals of God’s word would be undermined.”

“The Abiding Gift of Prophecy” p. 341

Brennan Manning



Brennan Manning

- * “The first step in faith is to stop thinking about God at the time of prayer. Contemplative spirituality tends to emphasize the need for a change in consciousness...we must come to see reality differently. Choose a single, sacred word...repeat the sacred word inwardly, slowly, and often. Enter the great silence of God. Alone in that silence...the Voice of Love will be heard.”
- * “The Signature of Jesus” p 212-216

Brennan Manning

- * “Brennan Manning is more than a Roman Catholic. He is also an ex-priest and recovering alcoholic. As far as anyone remembers, he is the first “non-Adventist” to be invited to take the pulpit for this special week (of prayer). It may be a sign of ___ spiritual maturity that we recognize him as a deeply committed brother in Christ.”

Tony Campolo



Tony Campolo

- * After the Reformation, we Protestants left behind much that was troubling about Roman Catholicism. I am convinced that we left too much behind. The methods of praying employed by ...Ignatius have become precious to me. With the help of some Catholic saints, my prayer life has deepened.

“Letters to a Young Evangelical” p. 31

Tony Campolo

- * “I learned about this way of having a born-again experience from reading the Catholic mystics, especially “The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola.” Like most Catholic mystics, he developed an intense desire to experience a oneness with God.

“Letters to a Young Evangelical” p. 30

Tony Campolo

- * “Intimacy with Christ has developed gradually over the years, primarily through what the Catholic mystics call “centering prayer.” Each morning, as soon as I wake up, I take time to center myself on Jesus. I say his name over and over again...Jesus is my mantra. I am able to create what the ancient Celtic Christians called ‘the thin place.’”
- * “Letters to Young Evangelicals”

Leonard Sweet

- * “Mysticism, once cast to the sidelines of the Christian tradition, is now situated in the postmodern culture near the center...Too many people are nothing, as our empty pews are shouting to us, because we give them neither an energy-fire experience of Christ nor the Christ of the energy-fire experience. Mysticism (which Einstein called cosmic religiosity) is metaphysics arrived at through mind-body experiences. Mysticism begins in experience; it ends in theology.”

Bailey Gillespie Ph.D.

- * Value genesis Update Letter:
- * 20% of pre-college youth believe in the Sanctuary doctrine.
- * 36% believe in Ellen White.
- * 42% believe in the “Remnant.”

Bailey Gillespie Ph.D.

- * “When you ask the ‘Remnant’ question to college and university students you can’t even get a score... it’s less than 1% of Adventist kids in college believe anything about the ‘Remnant.’ The exclusivity of this doctrine doesn’t make any sense to this generation.”

Ellen White

- * “The King did not compel the Hebrew youth to renounce their faith in favor of idolatry, but **he hoped to bring this about gradually**. By giving them names significant of idolatry, by bringing them daily into close association with the rite of heathen worship, he hoped to induce them to renounce the religion of their nation and to unite with the worship of the Babylonians.”
- * “Prophets and Kings”p.481

Adventist Review

- * Excerpts from “The Gentle Whisper-Connecting with the Divine through Solitude.”
- * “In the fourth century, men and women entered the desert in a movement known as the Monastic movement. These “desert fathers” exited society to lead a contemplative life of prayer...I’ve had a fascination with these men and have learned much...about the spiritual discipline of silence.”
- * January 29, 2004

Signs of the Times-Australia

- * “Stillness is Golden.” Contemplation is essentially wordless, but its core cry is “I consent to Your presence and action within me.” One method, called “centering” prayer, encourages you to refocus on God by internally saying one of the names of God that you relate to. This can help you to be present to God again.
- * “Stillness is Golden” Sue Tinworth

“Adventist Dominionism”



“Adventist” Dominionism

- * “I’ve been saying this for quite some time. Seventh-day Adventists love to talk about the end of the world, the destruction of the earth, and so forth. Yet the more I study the Bible the more I come to the conclusion that nothing could be more inconsistent with the overall message of Scripture than a God who destroys the earth.”

www.ryanjbell.net

- * “First of all, God six times calls His creation “good” and finished by calling it “very good.” Second, God experimented once with destroying the earth(remember the flood?) and He decided that wasn’t a good solution and and promised never to do that again. Third, the whole redemption project is about restoration and renewal, not destruction...the overall purpose of God is not destruction of the earth but the renewal of the earth.”

- * “We need to read Revelation again and get this straight. I periodically get questions from people who read this blog. They ask me, “Okay, so if this is true, what does it mean for our Adventist? Eschatology” I wish I had a great answer for that question. I’m not going to answer it here, but it needs to be worked on. Is Adventism really married to a particular sequence of events that must transpire exactly like we say in exactly the order that we say?”

“Adventist” Centering Prayer



“Adventist” Centering Prayer

- * “A good example of a short prayer is the Jesus prayer. The prayer is biblically based and says simply, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.” The Orthodox tradition repeats the prayer ... many, many times until...it moves from the head to be the constant melody of the heart. Francis of Assisi prayed all night saying just, ‘Jesus, my Jesus.’”

“Adventist” Centering Prayer

- * Referencing Jesus’ instruction not to pray using “vain repetitions” our author says this, “The short prayers I suggest here are not meaningless, and any repetition suggested seeks ...to deepen communion. Evidently Jesus Himself practiced repetition in His praying (Matt. 26:44).”

“Adventist” Centering Prayer

- * “Another method of simple praying is the use of one’s own breathing...since most religious traditions practice it, can we consider it Christian? Yes, if the content and context are Christian. I simply say as I inhale, ‘of the Living God’ and as I exhale, ‘Fall afresh on me.’”

Brian McLaren

- * “It has been fashionable among the innovative pastors I know to say, ‘we’re not changing the message; we’re only changing the medium.’ This claim is probably less than honest...in the new church we must realize how the medium and message are intertwined. When we change the medium, the message that’s received is changed as well. We might as well get beyond our denial about this.”
- * “Church on the Other Side” p.68

“Adventist” Centering Prayer

- * “Help people to focus on the present situation in preparation to hear God’s word. Sometimes called ‘centering down’ it seeks to minimize distraction and let people concentrate as much as they can on God’s word. I ask people to relax their bodies...Occasionally people should... become conscious of their breathing. I urge them to savor that presence.”

Ray Yungen

- * “I wonder how it is possible that Christians can use the same techniques that Buddhists and Hindus use to reach their gods without, in fact, reaching their gods.”

“For Many Shall Come in My Name”p.122

“Adventist” Centering Prayer

“Begin with a brief prayer for God’s presence, guidance, and protection from evil influence. When we become quiet and open to God, we simply want to make sure that anything that happens is under Jesus’ leadership.”

Richard Foster

- * Richard Foster claims that practitioners must use caution. He admits that in CP we are entering deeply into the spiritual realm and that sometimes it is not the realm of God even though it is “supernatural.” He admits there are (unfriendly) spiritual beings and that a prayer of protection should always be said beforehand.

Ellen White

- * Writing in the context of Kellogg's book, "Living Temple" and its pantheistic influences, Ellen White says, "We need not the mysticism that is in this book. Those who entertain these sophistries will soon find themselves in a position where the enemy can talk to them and lead them away from God."

1SM p. 202

Ellen White

“The sentiments of “Living Temple” regarding the personality of God have been received even by men who have had a long experience in the truth. When such men consent to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we are no longer to regard the subject as a matter to be treated the greatest delicacy. That those whom we thought sound in the faith should have failed to discern the specious, deadly influence of this science of evil, should alarm us as nothing else has alarmed us.”
BCL 79-80

Ellen White

- * “Be careful how you sustain the sentiments of this book regarding the personality of God. As the Lord presents matters to me, these sentiments do not bear the endorsement of God. They are a snare the enemy has prepared for these last days. Many things are stated in a vague, undefined way. Statements are made in such a way that nothing is sure.

Ellen White...in conclusion

- * “What we need to know at this time is; what is the truth that will enable us to win the salvation of our souls?”
- * And the souls of our children?

Ellen White

What is our responsibility?

“With stern and commanding voice Elijah cries: ‘How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.’” In this fearful crisis, in the presence of idolatrous priests and

Ellen White

- * “If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of emergency, Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.”

3T 280

SDA

- * <http://www.sdapartnersininnovation.org/>
 - * <http://gnosticnotes.blogspot.com/>
 - * www.Faithhousemanhattan.org
 - * www.Ryanjbelle.net
-
- * Emerging ideas first introduced through health and educational institutions.

Alpha

- * World was ripe for SDA message
- * Gods people asleep
- * Brought in by Charismatic healthcare leaders
- * Attacked pillars Sanctuary, Investigative judgement SOP
- * Used hypnosis, meditation, mysticism
- * Spiritualism
- * Depersonalized God
- * Took out our largest institutions and almost lost medical work
- * Large scale apostacy

OMEGA

- * 1SM 197 The Omega will be of a most startling nature
- * Ibid 200 The Omega will follow and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.

1888 and Alpha? Omega?

- * Too early to identify emerging movement as the Omega but demonstrates many interesting parallels to the alpha of apostasy.
- * Rejection of message to church of righteousness by faith and cleansing of the sanctuary?
- * Attack on SOP
- * God's people asleep
- * Mysticism, spiritualism

...In Summary

- * The Emerging Church-
 - * Embraces the postmodern mindset
 - * Denies absolute truth
 - * Experience-driven spirituality
 - * Seeks non-Biblical sources
 - * Ecumenism based on shared spiritual experience
 - * Kingdom Now vs. Second Coming
 - * Embraces mysticism/ancient ritual
 - * Finding inroads to Adventism
 - * Return to Rome?

Challenge

- * Post Moderns want to see a demonstration
- * Don't want theology
- * The emmerging church movement is too a large degree a reaction to formalistic dead religion.
- * The SDA message was to produce a people who would stand as a witness or example to the world. And call all seekers of Truth to come out of Babylon.
- * Have we lost our vision?

1 John 4:1

- * “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out in the world.”