



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST[®]
CHURCH

Emmanuel SDA Church

April 12, 2014

Anthony A. Medley, Senior Pastor
Kelán J. Fielder, Assistant Pastor

Open Response to The General Conference's Decision to Suspend the Release of "The Record Keeper"

On behalf of the pastoral staff of the Emmanuel-Brinklow Seventh-day Adventist Church, I would like to thank Pastor Garrett Caldwell and General Conference Vice President Ben Schoun for allowing our church to be the pilot location for "The Record Keeper" evangelism series.

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"The Record Keeper" was a part of our holistic approach to evangelism. Our holistic evangelism included a health clinic, children's evangelism series, community outreach programs, vegetarian meals, counseling services, music ministries, and more. This innovative proclamation of the gospel was a combination of the 11 part series of "The Record Keeper", followed by the preached word of God.

The Biblical doctrines that were preached from "The Record Keeper" and *The Great Hope*, by Ellen G. White, by our pastoral team were: the Sabbath, the Commandments, the Sanctuary, the Investigative Judgment, the Second Coming, Creation, the Bible, the Cross of Christ, the Plan of Salvation, the 2300 Day Prophecy, Ellen White (the author of *The Great Hope*), Resurrection, and the State of the Dead.

As a result of this innovative evangelism series, 30 precious souls were baptized into the kingdom of God.

The voted decision of the leadership of the General Conference "to suspend the release of the 11 episode series called "The Record Keeper," but agreed to explore the possibility of supporting similar creative outreach projects" is both disappointing and confusing.

It was and is our understanding that "The Record Keeper" concept and manuscript was first approved by the leadership of the General Conference. However, the following statements are in contrast to the initial approval:

"The church's Biblical Research Institute provided a biblical analysis of some of the problematic and theologically inaccurate matters raised in the Web series. In addition, church leaders were looking for a much stronger portrayal of the love of God, the creation of a perfect world, the Plan of Salvation and the final renewal of heaven and earth as recorded in the Bible." (Retrieved April 11, 2014, www.news.adventist.org)



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Further,

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“While Bible studies were to be prepared to accompany the series and encourage further study, according to the Biblical Research Institute, the content of “The Record Keeper” would have put the church in the difficult position of endorsing the misrepresentation of biblical truth while at the same time offering studies that conflicted with the dramatic presentations. This would invite misunderstandings and cause confusion.” (Retrieved April 11, 2014, www.news.adventist.org)

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This official announcement from the World Church suggests that our approach to evangelism included presenting doctrinal errors. As an ordained pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I take my responsibility of being the theological and organizational guardian of a local congregation very seriously. Our preaching and evangelism did not cause confusion, nor was it a misrepresentation of the fundamental biblical principles and “Core Beliefs” of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In fact, we upheld Biblical truths and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we led others to affirm and reaffirm their commitment to live by them.

“The Record Keeper” series made a very positive impact on many who attended the evangelism crusade, and as a result, have expressed an interest in Ellen White, especially the Great Controversy, Biblical Prophecy, and the Adventist Church.

It is often suggested that the most significant part of the Adventist organization is the local church and the membership in the pews. Perhaps a conversation with the local church could have helped in making this decision.

We are very disappointed, yes, but we are also grateful for the opportunity to be the first church to experience the positive impact “The Record Keeper” had on our holistic evangelism series.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Medley, DMin
Senior Pastor, Emmanuel-Brinklow SDA Church

cc: Dr. Ted Wilson, President, General Conference of SDA



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Dr. Benjamin Schoun, General Vice President, General Conference of SDA
Dr. Ella Simmons, General Vice President, General Conference of SDA
Dr. Garrett Caldwell, Public Relations Director, General Conference of SDA
William Costa, Jr., Communication Director, General Conference of SDA
Dr. Henry Fordham, President, Allegheny East Conference
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