

FROM PASTOR KEN'S DESK



Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

6100 O'Malley Road Anchorage, AK 99507

Website: www.alaskaconference.org

February 2, 2009

The Four Winds Within America

Part 5: The Emergent Church

In the last 25 years, there has been an evolution of change in the four winds in America.

Christianity has been evolving into a merging from many different, distinct denominations with varying doctrinal views to a loosely joined non-denominational coalition based on Jesus Christ alone.

The fastest growing movement within the Evangelical Church in North America today is called the ***Emergent Church***. These churches are led by men like Joel Olsteen and Rick Warren (Rick Warren mentors more than 100,000 who receive his weekly emails and sample sermons to be preached).

“*Christianity Today*” recently noted that the church in North America is emerging as the wider, informal, global, ecclesiastical (church-centered) focus of the movement,

Emerging churches have 9 main core values:

- (1) Identify with the life of Jesus,
- (2) Transform the secular realm,
- (3) Live highly communal lives. Because of these three activities, they
- (4) Welcome the stranger,
- (5) Serve with generosity,
- (6) Participate as producers,
- (7) Create as created beings,
- (8) Lead as a body, and
- (9) Take part in spiritual activities.

Bill McClaren, one of its founders and leaders notes “Perhaps our *inward-turned, individual-salvation-oriented, un-adapted Christianity* is a colossal and tragic misunderstanding and perhaps we need to listen again for the true song of salvation, which is Good News to all creation.”

The Emergent Church is based on the experience of your journey. *What God is saying to you.*

There is an inherent danger here in going down a dangerous path; in not so much relying on experience and feeling, but when one replaces “experience” over “scripture.”

These churches state that: “In order to engage in conversations in what we have in common we must stay away from whose version of Christianity is true. Yours? Mine? the Pope? They have purposely done away with distinctive doctrines such as Hell, the Authority of the Bible, Creation and the Second Coming in order to focus on the core of the gospel, Jesus Christ.

However, the question begs to be asked, “Whose picture of Christ do you follow? Is Christ currently burning some of your loved ones in hell?”

“The world is a theatre and the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to play their part in the last great drama.

With the great masses of mankind there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on and His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama-- Satan coming as Christ and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect. {8T 27: 3,4}

Next week: The Coming Together for the Last Conflict

Blessings, Ken Crawford

