

# "Watchman, what of the night?"

*The hour has come, the hour is striking, and striking at you,  
the hour and the end!"*

Eze. 7:6 (Moffau)

## ADVENTISTS & CATHOLICS TOGETHER

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### EDITOR'S PREFACE

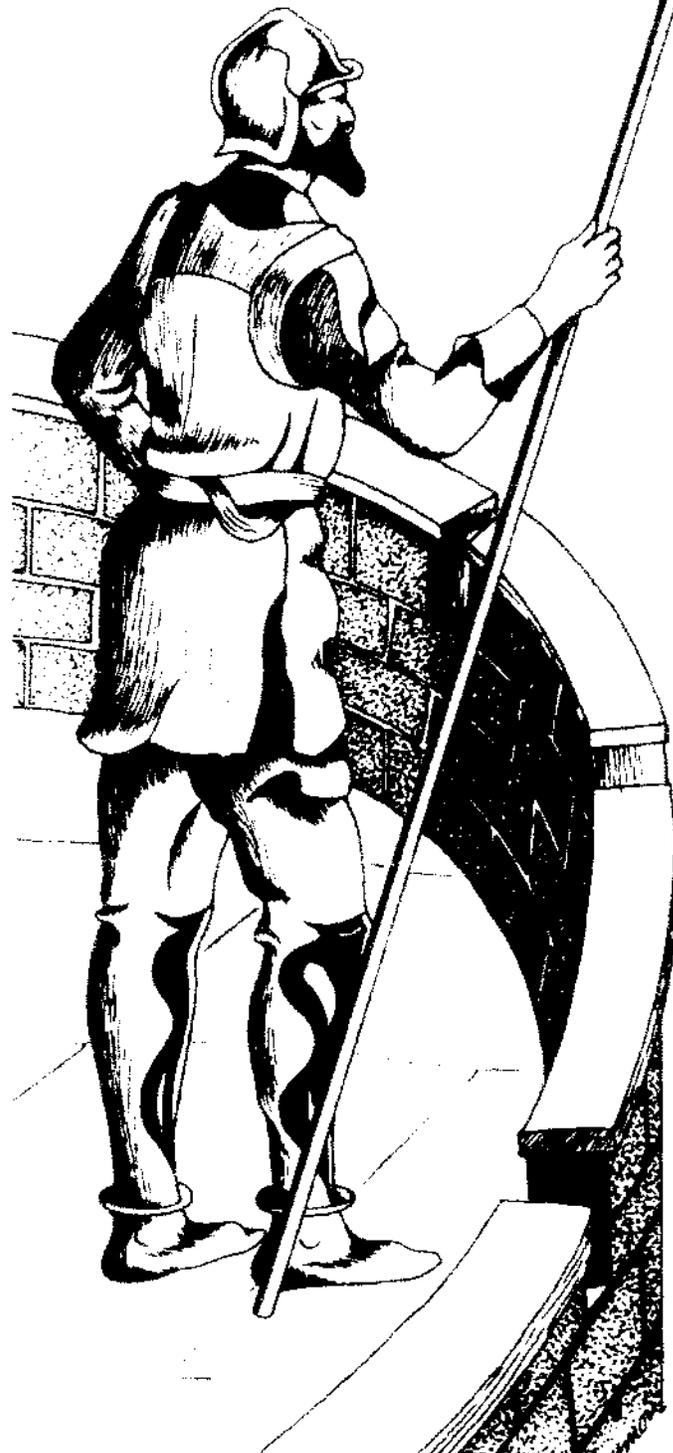
The first of two Special Reports in 1995 was headlined - "Adventists & Catholics Together; A 'Strategic Alliance' Anticipated." As the year 1995 closed, further announcements were released giving details of the merger of the Seventh-day Adventist hospital system in Colorado with the Roman Catholic facilities in the same state. These announcements of what the merger will look like and how it will function were given in a "News Release." This, we wish to share with you in this first Special Issue for 1996.

Things are transpiring with such rapidity that it is with difficulty that we can keep abreast with these events and give you detailed reporting and analysis. Coming to the desk also as 1995 closed was a report from the Columbia Union Visitor of the 90th Anniversary for the Takoma Park Church in Maryland. What this report contained raises anew a "thorny" issue but one which must be forthrightly addressed, however painful such rethinking might be.

These things noted in the above two paragraphs are matters within the regular Church. The events outside the Church which are of concern to us need to be addressed as well. The papal interest in the Near East involves a crucial issue concerning the day of worship. How will the Papacy relate to the conservative Jewish observance of the Sabbath, and the strict laws in Israel governing its observance. Or put another way, how will the Jewish Community relate to the Papal emphasis on Sunday? Then there is the Islamic observance of Friday as the "holy day"? What tie is there between Islam and Catholicism that permits a working unity between these two world religions? Then all this must be compared with Bible prophecy so as to know how God views these end-time events.

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"It is the rejection of Bible truth which makes men approach to infidelity. It is a backsliding church that lessens the dis-



## ADVENTISTS & AN UPDATE CATHOLICS TOGETHER

On the next three pages will be reproduced documents detailing the merger of management functions of the PorterCare Adventist Health System, and the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity Health Services of Colorado. Notice carefully the letterhead and order of signatures on the formletter sent to the doctors involved. Normally in a combine, the names of the organizations or individuals uniting are listed in alphabetical order. Not so here. It is evident, who is the head and who is the tail. Further, symbolically, the distance between the Adventist logo, and the Papal organizational logo is less than an inch!

In actual functioning, the head of the Roman Catholic Health services becomes the CEO of the new and "unique" structure being set-up which will "consolidate both systems' operations, management and income," according to the Louisville, (CO) Times. (Dec. 16, 1995, p. 10) Further, it has been revealed that the new management will have "its offices in a Denver facility called Catholic Health Care Initiatives, a 'soon-to-be-consolidated' organization including the Sisters of Charity Health Services of Colorado and two other national Catholic health systems." (ibid.) It also needs to be recalled that in the initial report [WWN, Special Report - 95(1)] of the planned merger, it was noted that the Sisters of Charity Health Care System was so closely allied with the Vatican that any major decision of involvement would have to have prior approval by the Pope.

The leadership of the Church became so uneasy over the reaction of what the announcement of the management combine might be, that on the same day that the letter was released to the Physicians, another letter was sent to the Pastors of the Rocky Mountain Conference by the new president, Elder James Brauer. He had hoped to call a special meeting of the ministerial workers in advance to inform them of what was about to happen. Things were happening too fast, so the E-Mail letter to him (pp. 4-5) was given to the workers. In his cover letter, he wrote - "If there are any strong reactions and you need to talk, don't hesitate to call. My beeper # is 528-2394."

Certain statements written in this letter and news release need to be carefully noted.

Terry White, President of the PorterCare Adventist Health System, indicated there were two important things to keep in mind: 1) The Church was "not 'selling out.'" This is true. It is not a sellout; it is a **giveaway!** The News Release reads - "The new organization will manage the assets of both systems." And 2) He wanted it to be remembered that the Church is "very strongly committed not merely to retaining our mission but to improving it." This is delusion of the highest type - self-delusion. Improving the mission of the Church in partnership with the Papacy! This is deception to the "nth" degree.

Among the factors which brought the two Health Care organizations together, White lists "common beliefs... derived from a common Christian heritage." In the "common beliefs" listed, White does not include doctrinal beliefs, but to claim "common Christian heritage" is to overlook basic revelations by God in prophecy as well as the teachings of Jesus Christ Himself.

It could have been said in Christ's day, that both He and the Jewish Church had a "common Old Testament heritage." It would have been a truer statement than White has made in regard to the current affiliation with the Papacy. God through the prophets has given us the source of the Papal heritage (Dan. 7 & Rev. 13). In the times of God's revelation in humanity, Jesus plainly said to the Jewish leadership - "Ye are of your father the devil." (John 8:44) There was no "common heritage"! Neither is there any today.

If God has called us out of the Babylonian apostasy, there can be no affinity with Babylon. The eternal God has drawn a line of distinction between His people, and those whose heritage is derived from paganism. "The two classes do not blend into each other imperceptibly, like the colors of the rainbow. They are as distinct as midday and midnight."

What causes the greatest wonder is that many of God's professed people, knowing of the backsliding of the Church toward the Papacy, continue still to support the Church with their tithes and offerings and to use their talents to forward their worship services. How shall they answer to the eternal God who has drawn a line of distinction between truth and error?

When we reject the revelation that God has given in prophecy, we manifest infidelity to Him. By supporting the church as it moves toward the papacy, we are partakers with it in its backsliding.



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*S e r v i n g   C o l o r a d o   C o m m u n i t i e s*

December 14, 1995

Dear Physician:

We want you to be among the first to know that the combining of the management functions of PorterCare Adventist Health System and Sisters of Charity Health Services Colorado has been finalized and will take effect in early 1996. We are very enthusiastic about the potential of the new management company to be the premier health services provider in the state of Colorado. With this relationship, we become one of Colorado's largest companies, with \$1.3 billion in gross revenues and approximately 12,000 employees.

This unique structure calls for the management company to manage the assets of both not-for-profit organizations. All operating, management structures and income statements will be consolidated. Each system will retain its own distinctive identity, beliefs and missions. The partnership will allow us to join forces to provide the state's most extensive integrated health delivery program, covering more cities and more covered lives in Colorado than any other.

As you know, healthcare is one of the most rapidly changing industries in America. Creative alliances such as this will enhance our ability to compete favorably with the large investor-owned health delivery companies which are moving to dominate the field of healthcare. These for-profit organizations are committed to enhancing stockholder profits, whereas we are committed to our mission of community service.

We hope you share our enthusiasm for this new venture. We look forward to continuing and growing our relationship with you in the future through the many physician partnering opportunities we will be developing. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call one of us.

Gary W. Susnara  
President and CEO  
Sisters of Charity Health Services Colorado

Terry W. White  
President and CEO  
PorterCare Adventist Health System

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December 14, 1995  
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(Following is the E-Mail Message as it came to me.)

TO: Pastors, Rocky Mountain Conference  
FROM: Terry W. White, President, PorterCare Adventist Health System  
DATE: Dec. 14, 1995

Following is a copy of the news release being sent to media concerning partnership between the PorterCare system and Sisters of Charity. Please share this information with your members as you see fit.

There are two very important things to keep in mind. First, we are not "selling out." And second, we are very strongly committed not merely to retaining our mission but to improving it.

Next week, please watch your mail for a more detailed description of the agreement and what it means for us as an Adventist health system. Also, I will be present at the pastors' retreat in January to share more about the developments. If you have questions about this, please feel free to call me or any of our administrative team. Thank you--God bless.

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NEWS RELEASE....

**TWO OF COLORADO'S LARGEST HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FORM SINGLE ORGANIZATION**

DENVER, CO (December 14, 1995)...Two of Colorado's largest health care providers have finalized an agreement to form a single management company, which will create Colorado's largest provider of integrated health services. With the partnership, the new organization will become one of Colorado's largest health care systems and employers with \$1.3 billion in combined gross revenues and approximately 12,000 employees statewide.

The announcement made at a news conference today held by by PorterCare Adventist Health System and Sisters of Charity Health Services Colorado, both non-profit health care systems, will consolidate each system's operating and management structures and income statements. The new organization will manage the assets of both systems. The new organization is expected to take effect early 1996, following standard regulatory reviews.

The purpose of the new management company is to: extend to the community each system's mission of service; expand the continuum of integrated health care, providing access for all

Pastors  
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Colorado; and to create the organization of choice for physician partners and third-party payers (health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations and government entities).

The new organization will be a unique organization in the United States which financially combines two separate Christian health care systems in this manner. The distinction between this organization and other health care systems in Colorado is its focus on community health and wellness and a full continuum of care -- not just sick care. It is also focused on values and community mission, on quality and service in the most cost-effective manner. Also, as a non-profit organization, it is committed to a mission of community service, not to enhancing stockholder profits.

As part of the agreement, each system will retain its own distinctive identity, beliefs, and mission, but will join forces to provide integrated health care throughout the state. A name for the new organization is in development and will be announced when a decision is made.

Factors that brought these systems together include common beliefs of the importance of physician partnerships; community service as non-profit organizations; shared values of health care as mission derived from a common Christian heritage; and cost reduction and operational efficiencies that will be provided through a single management company. Both systems are sound Colorado health care providers and each has deep historic roots in the community dating back more than 100 years.

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"PorterCare Adventist Health System facilities will continue to be Adventist and Sisters of Charity Health Services Colorado facilities will continue to be Catholic," said Sisnara.

. . . . .

The organization will be governed by a board of directors who represent both PorterCare Adventist Health System and Sisters of Charity Health Services Colorado. Susnara will serve as chief executive officer. The balance of the management team will be announced over the next few months along with the final business and organization plans.

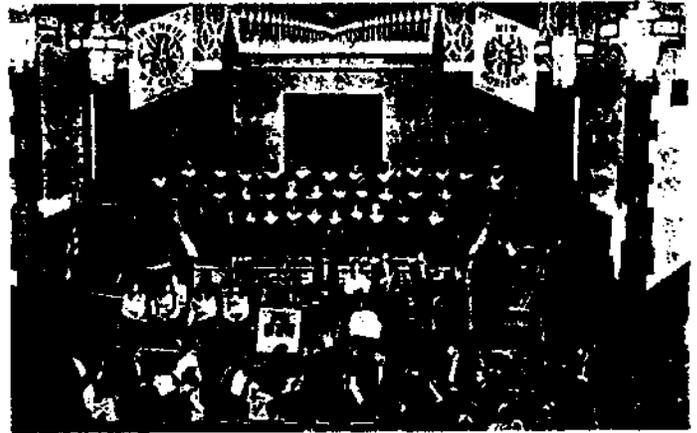
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### 90th anniversary for Takoma Park church

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Takoma Park celebrated 90 years of ministry to the community with a weekend of fellowship and spiritual renewal September 30-October 2. Friday evening Francisco de Araujo's production of St. Ellen reaffirmed the role of the Spirit of Prophecy in our denomination. Sabbath services featured music by the New England Youth Ensemble and messages of reflection, renewal and recommitment by Elders Neal Wilson, past General Conference president and Leonard Jaecks and Fenton Froom, both former Takoma Park pastors.

Afternoon activities included a fellowship luncheon for all guests and members at John Nevins Andrews Elementary School and a tour of Adventist historical locations researched and directed by Trevor Delafield, associate pastor of the Takoma Park church. The evening homecoming banquet, coordinated by Marjorie Kingston, featured food catered by Joe and Francis Blahovich,



**The Takoma Park church choir, New England Youth Ensemble and Columbia Union College Brass provided musical selections for the Sabbath services.**



**Neal Wilson**



**Leonard Jaecks**

served by church youth and enjoyed by former members and pastors. The joyous reunions and the sound of happy voices reminded friends that the homecoming in heaven is not to be missed.

On Sunday the church provided computer health screening, a Pathfinder booth, and literature from Elder Ron Ninala at the 14th annual Takoma Park Fall Fest. The weekend of activities was truly a blessing to all as a reminder of our past, a challenge for our present and a vision for our future.

**Bernadine Delafield**

"Saint" or "Saints" are good New Testament words. They are translations of the Greek word, hagios, meaning "holy one(s)," and were used to refer to the members of the first Christian communities. Paul addressing the Church at Corinth, wrote "to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints." (1 Cor. 1:2; the words, "to be" are supplied) Some whom he describes in this letter hardly qualify as "holy ones."

The word, "saint," has now taken on another meaning due to its use in Romanism "as one officially recognized as preeminent for holiness through canonization." There are many within the community of Adventism who have "canonized" the Writings of Ellen G. White, if not in word, in use. Now are we to cite references from those writings by noting, St. Ellen, Vol. 8:247, as some do with the Bible, for example, St. John 1:14. When are we going to recognize the Biblical doctrine of Spiritual Gifts as it is taught in the Scriptures and place the "Gifts" where the Bible places them? We have not sainted Paul so as to reaffirm the gospel he proclaimed. Why "St. Ellen" to reaffirm "the role of the Spirit of Prophecy"? Or is it to affirm a "new" role?

# THE POPE AND THE NEAR EAST

In his Encyclical, Tertio Millennio Adveniente (The Coming Third Millennium) released November 10, 1994, Pope John Paul II called for "interreligious dialogue" with non-Christian religions. He wrote - "In this dialogue the Jews and the Muslims ought to have a pre-eminent place." In a previous Encyclical, Centesimus Annus (May, 1991), John Paul reaffirmed Leo XIII's call for "Sunday rest so that people [may offer] the worship they owe to Almighty God."

In calling for dialogue with Judaism and Islam, he faces two distinct problems - The orthodox Jew observes the Sabbath and the Moslem, Friday. In fact, Israel has very strict Sabbath closing laws. However, a recommendation by Rabbi Schlomo Riskin, chief rabbi of Efrat, one of the largest new towns in Judea and Samaria, might bridge this gap. In a speech before an overflow audience at Toronto's Congregation B'nai Torah, "he advocated concrete steps to end the antagonism [between the secular and religious Jew] by requesting that Sunday, as well as Saturday, be legalized as a day of rest." (The Jewish Tribune, Dec. 7, 1995, p. 14)

What about Islam? Dave Hunt in his book, A Woman Rides the Beast, reminds his readers that Islam's veneration of Mary could be the link by which they could be united into a universal faith. (p. 458) Quoting from Fulton J. Sheen's book, The World's First Love, he noted that Mohammed wrote after the death of his favorite daughter, Fatima - "Thou shall be most blessed of all woman in Paradise, after Mary." Sheen also observes how remarkable it was that Mary chose to appear at Fatima, named for Mohammed's daughter, and thus became "Our Lady of Fatima." When this statue of Mary is carried in Islamic areas of Africa and Asia, "Muslims turn out by hundreds of thousands to worship her." "African Muslims... are seeing apparitions of the Virgin Mary and 'are not required to become Christians' to follow her."

When we realizes that no one is more devoted to the adoration of Mary than John Paul II, who dedicated himself and his Pontificate to Our Lady, one can see how he expects to dialogue with the Muslims. In the new world order, one might see a long weekend for everyone - Friday through Sunday.

How does this relate to prophecy? Gabriel gave to Daniel what was noted in "the scripture of truth." (10:21;11:2) This prophecy was not given in symbolism as had been the other revelations given to him (Chapter 7 & 8). The "king of the north" and "the king of the south" are not symbols but the actual powers controlling the area north and south of "the pleasant land." In the context of time in the last part of Daniel 11, both "the king of the north" and "the king of the south" are Islamic. Thus at the "time of the end" these two powers come against "the king" of Daniel 11:36. (See v. 40) What has this king done? He has planted the tabernacles of his palace "in the glorious holy mountain." (v. 45) Can the Lady of Fatima unite "the tabernacles" of the Papacy, and the Mosque of Omar? For how long? (Rev. 17:17) What then? (Dan. 11:45b; Rev. 17:16) Think about it for a while. ‡

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**Note:** - When ordering the booklet - The SIGN of the End of Time - please send direct to the Foundation office, P. O. Box 69, Ozone, AR 72854. Keep in mind that the booklet is 5 for \$1.00 plus postage.

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Do you know what your Christian Heritage really is? If you have a question, send for the tape - "Our Christian Heritage" - \$4.00 postpaid.

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