

Glendale City Church Sets Another Precedent

THE LEADING GAY MUSICAL GROUP IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS COMING TO ONE OF OUR CHURCHES

According to news reports, today in February as I write these words, the Gay Men's Chorus of San Francisco is entertaining excited crowds in front of the San Francisco City Hall; here, day after day, hundreds of lesbians and homosexuals are obtaining marriage certificates. As they exit the building into the Civic Center and kiss one another, shouts of triumph arise from the overjoyed throngs milling about.

But, within a short time, another major gay musical group, which sang "Chapel of Love" to the revelers in San Francisco, will have a different audience; but this one will be the members and visitors attending the Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Glendale, California.

Not long ago, by a large vote of approval, its church board voted to have the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles come to the church and entertain them with an exciting medley of music. This will be a full-fledged concert, given by the largest homosexual music group in southern California.

An important goal of the gay movement is to penetrate the various churches and eliminate their prejudice to practicing homosexuals.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles is an important part of the musical scene in the city. It periodically rents the large Alex Theater, in the heart of the city, and sings for large audiences. Each event provides opportunities to meet people and establish new contacts.

Glendale City is an unusual church. It contains the largest number of gays and lesbians in the Southern California Conference.

It is also the wealthiest local church in the conference. This is paradoxical. The church, in the late 1980s, used to be packed, Sabbath after Sabbath; it has dwindled, year after year, since then. Now only about 150 to 200 attend at the 11 o'clock hour. Unhappy with what has happened at Glendale City since its most recent two pastors arrived, most of the faithful believers have left. During those downward years, first Rudy Torres pastored the church and now Mitch Henson.

But the conference is not disturbed in the slightest; because the practicing gays and lesbians, which replaced those who left, have poured lots of money into its coffers. Since they do not have families to support, their expendable income is larger than that of average breadwinners.

A number of years ago, under the balcony, the church built a glass wall at the back of the auditorium for mothers with young children.

Today, those mothers and children look out on, what the members call, "the gay section"—which is in the back half of the church, directly in front of the mothers and children. This provides them with a learning experience.

On occasion, Pastor Mitch Henson takes part in special gay and lesbian wedding services and wedding anniversary celebrations. At various times, a gay will teach Sabbath School classes, serve as a deacon, or sit in the head chair at the table during communion service. Awhile back, a non-Adventist was hired to teach the Junior Class during Sabbath School.

The church, located on the corner of California and Isabelle, has a large sign on the front of the church which regularly posts forthcoming events to passersby. Its announcement of this event will provide the gays with another way to push their agenda. As they do with other events, gays will advertise this concert, to be held in an Adventist Church, in newspapers all across southern California.

Thousands of non-Adventists, from San Diego to north of Los Angeles and east to Yucaipa, will learn that Adventists apparently approve of the gay lifestyle.

Your expressions of interest are always welcomed by Adventist church leaders. Those who wish to discuss the situation will find it best to phone or write the Southern California Conference President, Larry L. Caviness, or the subsidiary Region Director, Gerard Kiemeney. Both are at 818-546-8400 / fax: 818-546-8430 / socalconf@sccsda.org / P.O. Box 969, Glendale, CA 91209-0969. Dr. Marsh, a retired surgeon who has been at Glendale City for decades, is Chairman of the Board at the church. His phone number is 818-244-7241. He, as well as the others, would be happy to speak with you. No date has yet been set for the concert. The church will probably be packed with visitors that day. It promises to be a gala affair.

I am sure each of the above leaders will appreciate your interest in what is taking place at Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We live in very unusual times. How close do you think we are to the Final Crisis and the Second Advent? Surely, it cannot be far off.

PERSONAL OPINION —

Dean's New Organization

When Howard Dean began campaigning, the media commented with amazement on the tens of thousands of Americans who immediately began sending him donations. It appeared that he had thousands of supporters all across the nation. Rather quickly, his contributions totaled over \$30,000! (Eventually, over \$45,000!) This was seen as astounding, in view of the fact that his rival contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination were financially limping along. There was good reason for that paucity of support: Polls indicated all of the nearly one dozen candidates ranked alike; and individuals and corporations were waiting to give their money to the one who would do best in the first few state elections. None of this had yet taken place.

In addition, Dean suddenly had a “national organization” of dedicated people trying to get him elected. No other candidate had this. How such a grassroots, full-blown organization could suddenly develop was indeed mysterious.

To add to the mystery, individuals all over America suddenly began opening new websites, on which they were campaigning for him and requesting donations! All the while Dean was preoccupied back East, busily speaking in Iowa and New Hampshire. This whole thing was too organized to be the result of grassroots individualism. The labor unions, abortionists, or gambling interests were not behind this; for they still did not yet know which of the nine candidates to throw their support to.

Viewing this sudden crescendo of support, people began thinking, “Well, if so many others in the country believe he is the man of the hour—then I guess I should think so too!” Within a short time, he shot to the top of the national polls.

However, Dean’s obvious self-centeredness, intolerance, caustic attacks, rages, and extreme liberalism ultimately cost him the initial crucial elections.

From the very beginning, I strongly suspected that, before he came to the public’s attention, Dean had made a secret compact with the gays. He had been the governor who, in Vermont, signed into law that first liberal law about homosexual unions, which led to the enactment of more elsewhere.

Gay organizations are excellent at providing financial, logistic, and organizational support to pro-gay candidates (including Willy Brown in San Francisco and Gray Davis in Sacramento).

Today, February 18, I listened to Dean’s announcement, made in Burlington, Vermont, that he was pulling out of the presidential race. During that speech, he

mentioned that nearly a third of his financial contributors were “under 30.” That is revealing. In that speech, he spoke with utter confidence, that he was in charge of a nationwide organization of multiplied thousands of totally loyal supporters. How could he dare say that—on the day that he was dropping out of the presidential race? Amid frequent hooting and screams from the audience, he declared in the strongest tones that, because of his new organization, “*we will no longer be divided by sexual orientation.*” “We will change the face of democracy in America.” “We will take back the country for ordinary people.” “We expect the next president to obey our standards.” “We will get equal rights for every single citizen.”

The media seemed puzzled as to the meaning. Dean is clearly setting himself up as the one man leading out in a nationwide organization—which is going to dictate what the Democratic Party is to enact on executive and legislative levels. And you can know that his demands will be as extreme as possible, far surpassing the milder objectives of average Democratic politicians who are careful to placate a wide range of voters. They have to get re-elected; Dean is bound by no such limitations.

I predict that you have not seen the last of Howard Dean. He will try to become the national spokesman for every type of pro-homosexual, feminist, abortionist, etc., group in the land.

If you will stop to think about it, although the homosexuals have made great strides in legislation, courts, and schools and already have a number of separate gay and lesbian coalitions—yet, so far, they have lacked a single coherent national base with which to place intense pressure on the Democratic Party, to enact anything they order it to do. (Recognizing that at least 50% of Republicans are Protestant or Catholic, the gays know they will have to rely on Democratic functionaries, on all levels, to accomplish their purposes for America.)

Why do I mention this? First, it is a national development. God’s faithful ones should be aware of what is taking place. Second, what Dean is trying to do could help crystallize the determination of a combined Protestant-Catholic coalition to “save America’s morality” by, among other things, enacting a strict National Sunday Law.

And that would throw us into the end. (See my *End-Time Series*, which contains the most complete, classified collection of Spirit of Prophecy statements on last-day events.)

I am not saying that Dean will be the one to thrust us into final events. But I am saying that we should be observant as to what is taking place. To the degree that we are able, we should keep distributing low-cost missionary books to everyone around us. We should pray and do what we can to forward God’s cause at this time in history. The end is nearing.

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