

southernconnect



Samuel Lee
*Asian-Pacific Region
Director, retired*

Post-Truth and Love

a philosophical and political concept for “the disappearance of shared objective standards for truth.” In essence, your feelings have more influence than actual facts.¹

We have been experiencing the post-truth phenomenon in today’s society—not only in the socio-political field but even in the religious and spiritual areas of life.

The clear and distinct line between the truth and lies is being blurred. Ekkehardt Mueller, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, believes that we have arrived at an age of “fake news.” Fake news messages are written and posted in all forms of media with the intent of creating one’s own interpretation of the truth, misleading organizations and/or individuals, gaining financial or political advantages, and, ultimately, harming others. Fake news is often spread with sensational, exaggerated, or false claims in order to attract attention.²

Unfortunately, we as Christians and Adventists are not immune to this issue. Whether or not we are aware, this culture influences and shapes us to some degree.

When truth is attacked by post-truths, love, which is at the center of Christianity, is also affected because truth and love are so closely connected. 1 Peter 1: 22 says, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying *the truth* through the Spirit

Post-truth. This term was named Word of the Year in 2016 by the Oxford Dictionary, where it is defined as, “Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” Post-truth is

in sincere *love* of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (NKJV, emphasis added). Love without truth is not love, just as truth without love is no longer truth. This is because both love and truth are grounded and united in God.

Oswald Chambers makes a valuable point in his book: “God and love are synonymous. Love is not an attribute of God, it is God; whatever God is, love is. If your conception of love does not agree with justice, judgment, purity, and holiness, then your idea of love is wrong. In that case, it is not love you conceive in your mind but some vague infinite foolishness, all tears and softness and utter weakness” (*The Love of God*, p. 11).

I was amazed to discover that the prophetic insights of Ellen White predicted exactly how the concepts of love and truth are being practiced in our lives today. In her book *The Great Controversy*, she includes a chapter entitled “Spiritualism,” which states, “Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a *weak sentimentalism*, making little distinction between good and evil. God’s justice, His denunciations of sin, the requirements of His holy law, are all kept out of sight. ...

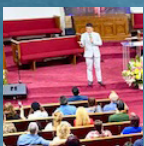
Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned” (p. 558, emphasis added).

We must be aware that within this modern form of “spiritualism,” Satan appears in a form of love as a counterfeit of Christ’s love. He promotes a weak and diluted version of love, blurring the distinction between good and evil. We need to renew our attention to Jesus’ definition of love, just as His disciples were commanded: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; *as I have loved you*” (John 13:34, NKJV, emphasis added). Ellen White comments on this by

GOD AND LOVE ARE SYNONYMOUS.

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Meet Chris Jordan

This summer, SCC welcomed Chris Jordan as our new Asset/Risk Management Director

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Meet Chris Jordan: SCC Asset Risk Management Director

BY LAUREN LACSON

This summer, the Southern California Conference was please to welcome Chris Jordan as our new Asset/Risk Management Director.

Jordan has worked in the industry for more than 20 years, most recently serving as Senior Development Coordinator for Logos Faith Development, Inc.

"I really like to see assets maximized and expanded so that the impact of the organization can be felt in the communities where they exist and where

there's a need," Jordan shared. "There is always risk; however, the objective is to minimize the risk and ultimately protect the asset and those who are directly and indirectly impacted by a negative event."

After beginning a second career in non-profit management and urban development in 2000, Jordan gained experience in construction management and long-term operations, which included elements of asset and risk management. Having worked in

"I APPRECIATE AND DON'T TAKE FOR GRANTED THE OPPORTUNITY GOD HAS GIVEN ME TO BE USED IN THIS CAPACITY."



Chris Jordan. Photo by Lauren Lacson.

this field for other organizations and denominations, Jordan "saw an opportunity to offer my gifts to my own house of faith" in this position. Jordan hopes to make a positive impact and help develop a culture of safety and minimized risk within our entities. ●



The church was fully attended each night. Photo provided by Sam Del Pozo.

What was intended as a small group Bible study grew into a four-day evangelistic series at San Fernando Spanish church, resulting in four souls won for the kingdom of God.

When Sam Del Pozo started his post as senior pastor at San Fernando Spanish church this summer, he

Evangelism Flourishes at San Fernando Spanish Church

BY ARAYA MOSS

asked the first elder about potential topics for the congregation to study, and the elder suggested end-times prophecy. Upon further reflection, the church realized these messages of Jesus' return were too important to not share with others, and they began inviting people to attend the evangelistic series.

The speaker for the meetings was Joel Flores, an evangelist of the New Time Network for the South American Division. With Flores' help, the series was not only streamed through the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel, but also shared with a wider audience through TV Tu Mundo and Esperanza TV.

Joshua, at 15 years old, was among the four people ready to make decisions for baptism by the end of the series. "I just had to take a leap of faith," Joshua shared. "I realized there wasn't going to be a 'right time.' This was the way for me to fully commit myself to God, knowing that His word is the way and the truth."

Many others have requested Bible studies, and the church has started a Sabbath School class for those who are new to studying the Word.

"Praise God that even when you don't plan for an evangelistic crusade," shared Del Pozo, "the power of God is so big that people are going to give their life to Him." ●

in transition

NEW EMPLOYEES

Voted July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, 2022

Nuris Barriga | Departmental Assistant, SCC Youth Ministries & Young Adult Ministries departments, as of July 2, 2022.

Belinda Simoni | HR Generalist, SCC Human Resources, as of June 27, 2022.

Ron Sydney | Pastor, Ventura church, as of July 1, 2022.

Aivars Ozolins | Associate Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of July 31, 2022.

Adrienne Rowe-Saulsbury | Principal, South Bay Christian School, as of July 1, 2022.

Lisbeth Ponce de Leon | Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elementary, as of August 9, 2022.

Hyun Ouk John | Pastor, Valley United Korean church, as of August 1, 2022.

Chris Jordan | Director, SCC Asset/Risk Management, as of August 22, 2022.

Christopher Manlongat | Pastor, Central Filipino church, as of September 11, 2022.

Mario Negrete | Teacher, South Bay Christian School, as of August 8, 2022.

Paulo de Oliveira | Interim Pastor, Santa Clarita church, as of August 18, 2022.

RETIREMENTS

Voted July 14 & August 11, 2022

Paul Cho | From Pastor, Chino Valley Chinese church, as of July 2, 2022.

Rockne Dahl | From Pastor, Ventura church, as of August 6, 2022.

TRANSFERS IN SCC

Voted July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, 2022

David Olivares | From Teaching Principal to Teacher, West Covina Hills Adventist School, as of July 1, 2022.

Michelle Negrete | Elementary Teacher, from White Memorial Adventist School to San Gabriel Academy, as of July 1, 2022.

Sergio Caishpal | From Interim Pastor to Pastor, Northridge church, as of July 31, 2022.

Ashton Hardin-Artiga | From Assistant Director to Associate Director, SCC Human Resources, as of August 15, 2022.

LEAVING SCC EMPLOYMENT

Voted July 14, August 11 & 25, 2022

Brenda Richards | From Departmental Assistant, SCC Youth Ministries & Young Adult Ministries departments, as of July 14, 2022.

Jenefel Stafford | From Elementary Principal, Glendale Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

Mike Stevenson | From Pastor, Santa Clarita church, as of July 31, 2022.

Chona Tupas-Torres | From Executive Assistant/Registrar, SCC Office of Education, as of July 28, 2022.

Simon Liversidge | From Pastor, The Place church, as of August 31, 2022.

James Kyle | From Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of August 13, 2022.

Jamie Walker | From Registrar, Newbury Park Adventist Academy, as of August 13, 2022.

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Everyone has a unique story to tell, and we want to share yours! You never know how God will use your story to impact someone else. Follow the steps below to share and encourage someone else today.

EDITOR
Lauren Lacson

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submitstory](http://scc.adventist.org/submitstory)

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Upload a photo of yourself.

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writing, "To the disciples this commandment was new; for they had not loved one another as Christ had loved them. He saw that new ideas and impulses must control them; that new principles must be practiced by them; through His life and death they were to receive a new conception of love. The command to love one another had a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice. The whole work of grace is one continual service of love, of self-denying, self-sacrificing effort" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 677-678, emphasis added).

How does the Bible define love? "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us" (1 John 3:16, NIV). This definition of love is not merely an abstract, sentimental, or philosophical concept. It involves actively loving your neighbor as yourself. It is sacrificial and unselfish by nature! Christian love should be defined by the

cross of Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we anticipate the second coming of Jesus, it is our calling as Adventists to be willing to identify ourselves with what the kingdom recognizes as love. Our King Jesus said in Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me" (NASB). He continues in verse 40, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'" (NIV, emphasis added). Jesus identifies Himself with this kind of love. By the grace of God, if you can do this for the least of His brothers and sisters, you will be made in Christ.

In this era of post-truth, let us turn our eyes to the truth of the Bible, which will show us true love.

This love "compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14, NKJV) to show kindness to others.

This love teaches us to be patient as we wait for relief and deliverance.

This love motivates us to share what we have with those who have less.

This love propels us to actively support those who can't help themselves.

This love encourages those who are fearful.

This love finds ways to reach out to those who are lonely.

This love has courage in the face of danger.

This love endures in times of adversity.

This love triumphs over fear.

This love shows others who Jesus is, because it is made in Christ. ●

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Word_of_the_year

² https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Reflections-70-Theological-Focus-5_0.pdf