



J.O.S.U.A. BW Camp Meeting

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Statement of Esslingen on the Everlasting Gospel

1.

The three angels' messages of Revelation 14 are the greatly urgent message for our time. As the most solemn warning in all of Scripture it has the highest priority and its worldwide proclamation will usher in the end of the world and the long-desired second coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

2.

The essence of the three angels' messages is the everlasting gospel, the true message about righteousness by faith. It is in full harmony with the biblical doctrines of a literal six-day creation, the soon coming of Christ, an investigative judgment starting in 1844, the fall of the nominal churches, the state of the dead, the obligation of the Ten Commandments including the Sabbath, and the warning of a future national Sunday law, all of which are included in this message. Christ is to be the center of all these doctrines, which we teach and affirm.

3.

God has committed the proclamation of this message to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Her identity and raison d'être is historically, theologically and with regard to mission inextricably linked to the three angels' messages. We do not support any offshoots who misuse these messages for their divisive purposes, while at the same time we distance ourselves from any attempts within and without the church to reinterpret, mitigate, or marginalize the historic prophetic understanding of these messages.



4.

We believe that a correct understanding of the theological content of the three angels' messages – while indeed being necessary – is not sufficient. The everlasting gospel is a power that changes our lives when lived out in faith. The message must be visible for our fellow men in our daily lives; only thus it can make its voice heard.

5.

The proclamation of this message on a global scale will only be possible if Seventh-day Adventists on all levels of our church structure – from the General Conference President to the lay member – will work in a united manner. We believe in the constructive cooperation of local churches, administrations, and self-supporting ministries and initiatives, and we deem true unity on the basis of unalterable biblical truth to be the key to a successful mission. We believe that, as in Joshua's time, God is not waiting for individual champions of faith, but for a people of faithful servants who jointly go forward in faith.

6.

The proclamation of the three angels' messages includes the advancement of the health message, of Christian education (e.g. through our schools), of literature evangelism, and of other important branches of missionary work. These areas of outreach – especially highlighted by the Spirit of Prophecy in multiple testimonies and instructions – are not only a supplement to the message, but rather constitute ways of practically demonstrating the truths of the everlasting gospel in everyday life.

7.

We confess that during the last years/decades the three angels' messages have not been proclaimed in our sphere of action as they could have been. The causes for this are manifold and can best be summarized in Jesus' depiction of the church of Laodicea. We call on ourselves and all our brothers and sisters in Germany to rethink these things and return to the Lord. The call for revival and reformation is more urgent than ever. We want to clearly articulate this call as well as address it to ourselves.



8.

Our desire is that the study and proclamation of the three angels' messages in all its facets will again become the highest priority of all church activities. Each yearly plan, every strategic paper, and all outreach activity should come about with the objective of investing the everlasting gospel in all its biblical facets with more charisma and power.

9.

We see the religious-political events around us in a vigilant and sober way, without falling into speculative fanaticism. In view of the increasingly distinct delineation of the prophetic fulfillment of Revelation 13 and 14 we call all brothers and sisters, all ministers, administrators, ministries, etc. to gather and unite under the banner of the three angels' messages. This message has the power to overcome old trenches and individual conflicts. We believe that we are standing at a historically important waymark. It is crucial now to make the right decisions.

10.

We are firmly convinced that Jesus is waiting for the harvest of the earth to ripen and that the proclamation of the three angels' messages is an essential factor of this ripening. In our lives, in our churches, in our local outreach, and in our global mission we want to promote and strengthen spiritual growth and spiritual maturation/ripening. We want to steadfastly focus and fully turn our eyes upon Jesus.

Esslingen, June 6, 2015