

## **Riley Jack (The Advent Gospel Promotions)**

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**Van:** "Rudy Dingjan" <rdingjan@adventist.nl>  
**Aan:** <rdingjan@7da.nl>  
**Verzonden:** donderdag 26 juni 2003 11:41  
**Onderwerp:** aanvulling materiaal infoavond

Beste ontvanger van het materiaal van de infoavond,

Zojuist kreeg nog een reactie vanuit de Noord Amerikaanse Divisie. Er staat niets fundamenteel nieuws in. Deze bevestigt datgene wat Jim Cress van de Generale Conferentie al schreef. Je vind hem onderaan deze mail.

Groetjes,

Rudy

Dear Rudy,

Below you will find the answer I received from the assistant to the President in North American Division.

Wish you all the best in your work.

Sincerely,

Harald

-----Original Message-----

From: Kermit Netteburg [<mailto:Kermit.Netteburg@nad.adventist.org>]

Sent: 25 June 2003 19:26

To: hwollan@ted-adventist.org

Subject: Re: FW: question

Don Schneider is out of the office today, and his secretary has asked me to respond to your email. I fear we are too late to be particularly helpful with the information night you wrote about, but I do want to share this information.

We have had few congregations break from the Adventist Church in the past five to ten years. I don't know that we've counted the number, but I am sure it is less than 10. (We have 5,000 churches in North America.) I don't recall any congregations leaving in the past three years. The congregations that did leave largely abandoned the Sabbath after a few years as well.

As you will understand, congregations really don't leave the Adventist Church. Members leave the Adventist Church. Sometimes a group of members leaves a church at the same time, and that group of members forms a new congregation that is not part of the Adventist Church. But churches have never left the denominations as intact groups.

The influence of Willow Creek has been minimal. We have had some pastors attend Willow Creek seminars, sometimes with their lay leaders. Those pastors, with perhaps an occasional exception, still lead Adventist congregations that are true to the Adventist message and a part of the Adventist Church. Any negative influence of Willow Creek has been vastly overstated by its critics within Adventism

That having been said, we wanted to be responsive to the concerns of those few people who didn't feel Willow Creek's seminars would be a positive force in Adventism. So we have developed the annual Seeds Conference as an Adventist alternative. The conference focuses on church planting, but most of its material is relevant to any church that wishes to experience dramatic church growth.

A final footnote: We have had congregations formed that wish to proclaim more stridently the Sabbath truths about as often as we have had congregations formed to abandon the Sabbath. The issue is a very small one in North America

I'm sorry this is later than the deadlines you had shared. I hope it may still be useful

Kermit Netteburg  
Assistant to the President for Communication  
North American Division

Please note my new email address Kermit.Netteburg@nad.adventist.org

>>> "Harald Wollan" <hwollan@ted-adventist.org> 06/25/03 10:51AM >>>  
Don Schneider,  
President  
North American Division

Dear Don,

I hope you have time for a short interruption to your work, as I need your help to find the correct answers to the questions I received in a recent e-mail from the Netherlands. As you can see from the message below, the answers are overdue, but we cannot do anything about that I have just returned to the TED office after an extensive itinerary to Pakistan, and given the security issues and the heat, I did not bring my computer with me. Coming back we had hundreds of e-mails, this one of them As you can see there are some information's from Our Firm Foundation that SDA congregations now are separating themselves from he church to start Sunday keeping churches

Could you please help find the correct answers to the questions raised, and if you have additional comments I would be happy for them as well

May God continue to bless your ministry!

Sincerely,

Harald

-----Original Message-----

From: rdingjan@adventist.nl [<mailto:rdingjan@adventist.nl>]  
Sent: 12 June 2003 15:29  
To: hwollan@compuserve.com  
Subject: question

Dear Harold,

I am preparing some answers for an information night about Willow Creek here at the Dutch Union Office

Our Firm Foundation is claiming that through the influence of WC SDA congregations in North America have split off from the church and have started to keep Sunday

I would like to know the real facts: How many churches have split off in the last ten years and how many of them have stopped keeping Sabbath? What were the

underlying issues? Was it only WC?

I can imagine you do not have the answers by hand, but maybe you can mail this through to a GC or NAD-person, who does know the details

The information night is June 19