

# The Unadulterated Move of God

Matt Sorger, founder of Matt Sorger Ministries, recently received a prophetic message for the body of Christ at a service in Chesapeake, Va. He believes the Holy Spirit told him that the next move of God will be a “clear-water revival” not tainted by human flesh, in which God will remove all areas of compromise and raise up a new breed of pure-hearted believers.

The Holy Spirit spoke very expressly to me tonight. When I stood in the office before coming into the room tonight I heard the inner audible voice of the Spirit of God speak to me a word for tonight. But as I sat in this seat, I was taken in the Spirit. And the Lord spoke a very clear word that I want to declare right now.

Holy Spirit said to me that He’s releasing a “clear-water revival.” And He spoke it over and over and over again to me—clear water, clear water, clear water, clear water—He’s releasing a “clear-water revival.” ... The Lord said that He is releasing a “clear-water revival” and that this move of the Spirit will not be tainted by the flesh of man.

And then He spoke to me and He said that tonight is a night of crossing over. He said that tonight the church is crossing over into a new season. And the Lord said, “Mark this date in your Bible; mark it on your calendar.”

Tonight we have crossed over into a new season in the Spirit, and the Lord said from this moment forward, black will become very black and white will become very white. And the Lord said He is removing the grey areas. Black will become very black and white will become very white. He said there’s coming a great polarization even within the body of Christ.

He says this very night something has been set in motion in the spiritual realm. And it’s bigger than just this meeting. It’s over the body of Christ in America. Something has been set in motion tonight in the spiritual realm.

And what I sense also in my heart is that there’s a new

wineskin that God's raising up; there's a new wineskin [the] Holy Spirit is forming. You know years ago—16 years ago—[the] Holy Spirit spoke to me that there's a new breed that God's raising up. See God started to prepare a new breed 16 years ago. We're coming into a season of release right now. New wineskins are going to be released and raised up, and there are going to be new apostolic works birthed in the earth. They're already being birthed right now. And the wineskin is going to look very, very different.

There's wells of revivals that God is opening up within cities right now. And I have a feeling that this word I'm speaking tonight is a whole lot bigger than what we're seeing in this room. I'm telling you the truth.

I saw it clearly as I've seen anything in the Spirit tonight. There is a supernatural polarization that is being loosed in the spirit realm. ... Grey areas are about to be dealt with. There is coming a new housecleaning to the body of Christ. There is a supernatural housecleaning coming to the body of Christ. And every single grey area of compromise is about to be swept clean.

Because the Lord said that this is a clear-water revival. This is going to be very clean and pure. Very clean and pure. Pristine water. Pristine water. It's going to be unlike anything the world has ever seen before. Very pristine water, crystal, crystal clear. Because God has been preparing over the last 16 years a new breed that will be ready to carry and flow with this move of the Spirit of God.

They have been hidden away in caves. These vessels have been hidden away in caves. And God has been working a pure, refined heart and spirit on the inside of them. God has been working a pure, refined heart of gold on the inside of them. And God has been causing step by step their hearts to be turned away from the things of this world toward the things of His Spirit. Step by step God has been dealing. Step by step God has been refining. Step by step God has been causing hearts of pure gold to come forth to be prepared, so that this move of God can be sustained in the earth.

Matt Sorger Ministries

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# World AIDS Day Marked Worldwide

*From governments to church leaders, officials worldwide pledged to continue combating the spread of HIV/AIDS.*



[ ] Across the globe on Monday leaders of churches and nations promised to help fight the spread of HIV while observing World AIDS Day—an international campaign launched in 1988 to improve HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

“Today is World AIDS Day, a day we reaffirm our commitment to fight HIV/AIDS at home and abroad,” President Bush said.

Before heading to the Saddleback Civil Forum on Global Health on Monday, where he would discuss the global AIDS epidemic with Rick Warren and other evangelical leaders, Bush announced that his President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was succeeding.

“[It was] one of the most important initiatives of my administration,” he said. “PEPFAR is the largest international health initiative dedicated to a single disease ... and it is bringing hope and healing to people around the world.”

Launched in 2003 with the goal of helping to treat 2 million HIV patients in five years, PEPFAR had exceeded its mission, Bush said.

"The American people, through PEPFAR, are supporting lifesaving treatment [worldwide]," he said.

"We've also supported care for more than 10 million people affected by HIV, including more than 4 million orphans and vulnerable children."

With an estimated 33.2 million people worldwide infected with the HIV virus, including 2.5 million children, the United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reports that about half of the millions infected last year are 25 years old or younger.

In addition to measures that Chinese and South African officials took on Monday to reduce the stigma attached to people who are HIV-positive, one major U.S. denomination announced its own plan to help dispel negative stereotypes.

To encourage support for World AIDS Day, the head bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will be voluntarily tested for HIV/AIDS at an upcoming convention.

Conceived by the ELCA committee on Ministry Among People in Poverty (MAPP), the bishops' actions will be presented as an opportunity for the church to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS "prevention, testing, treatment, care, stigma and discrimination."

The committee also encouraged bishops "to be supportive and involved with local events on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1."

“By personally engaging in and supporting actions on World AIDS Day ... ELCA bishops can help encourage all people to ‘know their status’ by being tested and help break down the stigma surrounding the disease,” ELCA leaders said in a statement.

Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop and president of the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland, said the willingness of African religious leaders to publicly declare that they’ve been tested is helping to lessen stigma associated with the disease.

“I believe ELCA bishops being tested will be a similar act of accompaniment and encouragement for ELCA members and global companions,” Hanson said. “This decision by ELCA bishops is one more sign of this church's commitment to respond to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.” **-Paul Steven Ghiringhelli**

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## **Todd Bentley Enters Restoration Process**

After months of seclusion, the former leader of the Lakeland revival is seeking healing

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# News Briefs

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# Renowned Abortionist Becomes Pro-life Advocate

*Former European abortionist Stojan Adasevic has performed tens of thousands of abortions and now credits a heavenly dream for his conversion to a pro-life "apostle."*



[ ] Once known as the best abortionist in Belgrade, Serbia, having performed at least 48,000 abortions, Stojan Adasevic now says abortion is "satanic" and has become one of the nation's most active pro-life advocates.

Adasevic says that though his mother tried to abort him, he'd never thought of abortion as murder until he began having

daily reoccurring dreams about the children that he aborted.

“It was a long time before I grasped the fact that a child in the mother’s womb is a living person, not from the time it draws its first breath, as the communist professors taught us, but from the instant the human embryo is formed,” he told *Love One Another* magazine.

For months he envisioned himself watching young people between the ages of 3 and 20 running and playing in a heaven-like utopia. Though he said the oasis was serene, he said he’d routinely feel anxious and would awake each night screaming with horror.

He sought both medical and psychological treatment to try to stop the dreams, but they continued nonstop for months. He soon realized that not only were these the children he terminated, but that the 20-year-old was his son, whom he aborted when his wife was three months pregnant.

“I saw without seeing,” he said to the magazine. “Everything changed after I started having the dreams.”

After a botched abortion in which Adasevic removed the beating heart of an aborted baby, he decided to never terminate another pregnancy.

Since his last abortion Adasevic has been instrumental in the nation’s anti-abortion movement. He succeeded twice in having state television air “The Silent Scream,” a harrowing recording of an actual abortion.

Abortion is legal in Serbia up until the baby takes its first breath. Gynecological students are taught that aborting a baby is no different than removing an appendix.

Adasevic also travels across his country lecturing on the detriments of abortion and fighting to pass laws to protect the unborn.

“This is a real war, waged by the born upon the unborn,” he

told *Love One Another*. “In this war I have crossed the front several times: first as an unborn child condemned to die, then as abortionist myself, and now as a pro-life apostle.”

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## Christian Groups Threaten “Holiday” Boycotts

*Christian organizations across the country have begun campaigns to fight retailers who choose not to acknowledge Christmas.*



[ ] As humanists and atheists continue launching anti-Christmas crusades worldwide Christians in the U.S. have decided to kick off campaigns challenging retailers and anyone else trying to remove Christ from the season.

Mathew Staver, founder of the Florida-based legal firm Liberty Counsel (LC), recently initiated “Friend or Foe,” an annual campaign that offers free legal services to anyone persecuted for public displays of Christmas.

As part of this year's initiative, LC is also boycotting stores that advertise Christmas products but exclude the word Christmas from its promotions.

“If a government entity censors Christmas in violation of the Constitution, then we will first seek to educate but, if necessary, we will litigate,” Staver said. “If retailers choose to profit from Christmas while pretending it does not exist, then we will patronize their competitors.”

LC's Web site includes a “Naughty or Nice” list that names names. Among the stores allegedly failing to embrace the word

Christmas in their advertisements are Circuit City, The Gap and CVS.

Focus on the Family started a similar campaign called "I Stand for Christmas" in which Christians are urged to sign a petition thanking retailers for not "purging Christmas" references from advertisements and chiding retailers who do.

Stuart Shepard, digital media director for Focus on the Family, says that a boycott by Christians during the holiday season could greatly affect retailers bottom-line.

"Whose more likely to go through your holiday catalogues to buy your Christmas decorations, your Christmas cards, and your Christmas gifts," Shepard asked on his weekly blog: "Merry Tossmas."

Shepard added: "Someone in the more than 90 percent of people who say they celebrate Christmas? Or someone who claims to be offended by the very word?"

In their new campaign dubbed "Project Merry Christmas," the American Family Association (AFA) is also encouraging people to fight against a trend that supplants the "Merry Christmas" greeting with "Happy Holidays."

The family-action group has sold out of their buttons that read: "IT'S OK TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS."

AFA chairman Donald Wildmon says that in the midst of the barrage of persecution against Christmas there lies a great opportunity for Christians to highlight the true meaning of the season.

"Christians can take a stand and proclaim to our communities that Christmas is not just a winter holiday focused on materialism, but a holy day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior," he said. **-Felicia Mann**

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# Wycliffe Bible Translators' Big Idea Receives Big Donation

*Wycliffe Bible Translators kicked off National Bible Week earlier this week by launching one of its most ambitious Bible-translation projects ever.*



[ ] After nearly 2,000 years of slow-to-no progress, the tedious work of Bible translation accelerated rapidly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

But now, with the Bible already translated into thousands of languages, the world's largest Bible-translation organization has unfurled plans to tackle the remaining 2,200 in a single generation.

With the use of new translation technology, leaders at Wycliffe USA describe their "Last Languages Campaign" () as a global, "full-sprint" effort to start a Bible-translation program in every language that needs one by the year 2025. That means approximately one-third of the world's languages.

Though the massive initiative is estimated to cost Wycliffe nearly \$1 billion over the next 10 years, a recent \$50 million anonymous donation could give the project the kind of kick-start it needs for setting out to achieve its goal

Wycliffe reported the large unexpected gift, which was earmarked for the Last Languages Campaign, two weeks before unveiling the new initiative.

"People without a written language need one," wrote the anonymous donor. "Literacy is a key to helping people work their way out of poverty and to resist oppression by others. Children who first learn to read in their own language are

more likely to become literate and to stay in school than those who first learn in a different language.”

Bob Creson, president of Orlando, Wycliffe USA, praised the generous donor for taking what he said was “a bold step of faith.”

Financial markets plunged worldwide, but the anonymous donor’s audacious multi-million dollar gift will help Wycliffe reach “more than 200 million people in Bibleless language communities with the life-changing message of the gospel,” Creson said.

Bible translators say people comprehend the Bible best when it is written in the language they speak in their own home.

Wycliffe works with thousands worldwide in translating what professionals call “the world’s most effective missionary”—the Bible.

Aside from learning to speak, write and eventually translate the native tongues of remote villagers worldwide, Bible translators stress the important communal side effects of maintaining a Bible-translation program, such as literacy, water-purifying systems, and AIDS and human rights education. **-Paul Steven Ghiringhelli**

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## Swedish Pastor's Call for Unity Criticized

*Some observers say charismatic minister Ulf Ekman is opening the door too wide to Catholicism*



[ ] After stoking controversy in the 1980s and 1990s for his Word-Faith message, Swedish pastor Ulf Ekman is again at the

center of debate for his embrace of Catholic and Protestant leaders who advocate uniting all Christians "under the pope."

In recent years, the prominent pastor of Word of Life in Uppsala has been associating increasingly with Catholic leaders, and introducing his followers to Catholic and Orthodox theology, in particular through his teaching magazine, *Keryx*. Yet Ekman insists he is not adopting Catholicism but simply broadening his theology and promoting a "unity of the heart."

"God has spoken to me as powerfully concerning unity as He did concerning the faith message," Ekman told *Charisma*. "With secularism and Islam taking over in Europe, revival slogans won't suffice. The need of the hour is a powerful, effective unity including the historical churches."

He said Pentecostals and charismatics have become "sectarian and elitist."

"Our understanding of revival is too narrow," he said. "We make too strict a distinction between revivalist and cultural expressions of Christianity."

Viewing the Catholic Church as the "whore of Babylon" is "untenable," he added. "With so much apostasy and denying of fundamental truths among Protestants, even in Pentecostal and charismatic churches, who are we to point fingers at the Catholics?" Ekman said. "The whore is present in all denominations. But then again the body of Christ is also in all denominations and certainly in the Catholic Church."

Ekman's views are being welcomed by many Swedish church leaders as interest in Catholic and Orthodox spirituality, Catholic pilgrimages and monastery-like retreats grows rapidly in Pentecostal and charismatic circles. The Catholic bishop of Sweden, Anders Arborelius, told *Charisma* that so "many Protestants approach the Catholic Church with high expectations" that he is "barely coping."

Others are deeply worried. In April and October evangelicals gathered in Örebro, Sweden's evangelical center, to caution

against the trend and to point out that unity to Catholics always meant, and still means, bowing to the pope. Bishop Arborelius seemed to affirm that view, saying: "We cannot bypass the personal wish of Jesus that all unity must relate to the apostle Peter," that is to the papal office.

The criticism doesn't deter Ekman. He speaks at Catholic charismatic gatherings and invites charismatic Catholics to speak in his church. He is also interacting increasingly with Oasis, a hub of the charismatic Lutheran renewal in Sweden. Combining a high church, liturgical profile with a broad ecumenical approach, Oasis may be the biggest charismatic movement in the country.

In the 1980s and 1990s Ekman was not on speaking terms with charismatic Lutherans. A Lutheran priest before he planted his independent charismatic church, Ekman often sparred with his former denomination because of his prosperity message.

But in 2007, Ekman preached at the Oasis Pentecost Conference, and in 2008 he was a guest of honor at the Oasis Summer Conference, taking a seat on the platform during the sermon of the event's most renowned speaker—the pope's "personal preacher," Franciscan monk Raniero Cantalamessa.

Ekman has also invited Bishop Arborelius to a "night of exchange" at Word of Life, intentionally not confronting him with controversial questions and hugging him as a "brother in Christ."

"It felt good receiving the Catholic bishop in such a manner," Ekman said. "My heart is to do away with prejudices. We need to discover and recognize each other. Unity begins at heart, not with theology."

Ekman said he does not feel "under obligation" to address the theological issues dividing Catholics and Protestants—"that is not where we are at." But supporters and critics alike interpret Ekman's new thrust in theological terms.

Bishop Arborelius told *Charisma*, "Some of the dogmatic accents

[of the Catholic Church] that were perceived of as threatening are now seen [by Ekman and others] to be helpful." Even though the Catholic position is "not fully accepted," Arborelius continued, "I think that [Ekman and others] now see the key role of the pope as a symbol of unity and the importance of the virgin Mary."

As he avoids theological debates with Catholic leaders, Ekman challenges those in revivalist circles to re-think some of their theology. "The Lakeland [Fla.] events highlight the need to tie in with classical doctrines and with a stricter understanding of the church offices," Ekman said. "If anybody can proclaim himself a leader, the result is confusion. We need to develop a consciousness of history. The early church was not [a bunch of] happy charismatics. There was much more order and structure than we have been taught."

Particularly upsetting to many critics is Ekman's involvement with the Östanbäck monastery, located an hour's drive west of Uppsala. Though nominally Lutheran, the monastery's leader, Abbot Caesarius Cavallin, is an ardent advocate for uniting all Christians under the pope, and he publicly refers to Ekman as a "pillar of support."

Ekman has donated money to the new Church of Unity to be built at Östanbäck, and in a sermon at the monastery he referred to Mary as the "eternal virgin"—Catholic terminology signifying that Mary remained a virgin in spite of her giving birth to Jesus and being married.

"That was but one sentence that I threw out to test if there are dogmas that we have let go off," Ekman said of the reference. "I find it very interesting that all reformers up until and including Wesley held the view [of Mary's virginity]. The other interpretation was first introduced by liberal theologians."

He said he likes the atmosphere at Östanbäck, and Cavallin is an old colleague. "That is why I have contributed to their new church," he said. **-Tomas Dixon in Sweden**

### **Response from Pastor Ulf Ekman**

*Charisma* published a news article about the ecumenical developments in Sweden and specifically my role in this. The article presents a very narrow and biased view of what is actually happening in Sweden. It implies that I spend my days urging Swedish Christians to bow their heads “under the pope.” That is simply not true.

What is true is that we see a development toward a stronger and more deepened unity among pastors, bishops and leaders from all denominations and churches. I am glad to say that this includes the Catholic Church and I strongly endorse this development.

Collaborations, multidenominational gatherings and spiritually warm conversation among leaders are taking place to a degree that has not been seen for decades. I am utterly convinced that this is a move of God, to prepare the church for what is to come. It is not a political controversy.

As always when we see a move of God, there are critics. What is striking in this development of unity, though, is the critics are surprisingly few. Your article gives the impression that the critique against unity is strong and prevalent. To the contrary, most Swedish Christian leaders endorse the development toward unity. It is sad that *Charisma* readers were presented a biased view.

**Pastor Ulf Ekman**  
**Uppsala, Sweden**