

Ferris' Article in the Review

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: THE KILLING POWER OF TOBACCO / MAD COW IN AMERICAN CATTLE

An article entitled, "What We Really Believe about the Judgment," appeared in the June 9, 2005, issue of the *Review*. Written by Kevin Ferris, a church member living in Australia, the article tries to tell Advent be-

lievers throughout the world what they are supposed to believe about the Judgment.

Here is additional information about the true beliefs of Ferris and this article, which will mislead millions of believers.

LETTER TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT FROM KEVIN FERRIS

The following is an open letter, dated February 20, 2000, addressed to Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It is from Kevin Ferris, an Adventist living in Wishart, Queensland, Australia:

Dear Elder Paulsen,

I have just come from a service at the Brisbane City Baptist Church where I listened to the most outstanding preacher I have ever heard. His name is Dr. Desmond Ford.

The Baptist Church here in Brisbane has adopted Dr. Ford, and tonight's talk was the culmination of a weekend seminar. Next week a **group of Baptist officials** and a finance trader have arranged a meeting to plan the establishment of a million dollar trust to be used for the promotion of Dr. Ford at future public meetings.

How my heart burned as I thought of how **our church rejected one of the most valuable assets we ever had.** How can we forgive ourselves?

In today's climate of candor and fairness is it not high time we reversed this situation?

There would be few honest members, who having listened to Dr. Ford just once would not say, 'why is this man not within our ranks?' Particularly since our current *Fundamental Beliefs* support him in the matter of the sufficiency of Calvary atonement, and even more particularly that the *Glacier View Consensus Statement* both supported him and was agreed to by himself (a fact of which our members are unaware). So by continuing to quarantine him we are perpetrating the lie that what he preaches (including the gospel as the church understands it) is heresy, when this is not the case.

It is surely time a committee was formed to re-examine his position in view of current theological thought. And indeed for a reappraisal of those forces leading to his demise in the form of those groups whose views are now discredited.

We continually subscribe to this dark legacy of events to our shame. As a loyal member of our church I am embarrassed by those events, and always will be until they are reversed.

The reversal process has begun in a small way **here in Australia.** Dr. Ford has preached in one of our major churches, and will do so again shortly. He has taken Sabbath School lesson classes by invitation. It will happen more and more as honest people see what should be done and do it. We should now make this access acceptable across the board in order to benefit from the message he can most capably deliver at this time.

If we were to come across a non-Adventist preacher who powerfully defends the Sabbath, vividly proclaims the gospel, brilliantly champions Adventist doctrine to the extent of most of our ministers, and incisively communicates any Bible topic, we would go out of our way to see that person into the fold. Unless his name was Desmond Ford! Does this tell us something about ourselves?

Dr. Ford is also one of the finest Christian gentlemen one can meet. How appropriate it would be if our arms of love and acceptance were equally as expansive. It would be relatively easy to gather a few thousand signatures of support for extending those arms. But why should that be necessary?

I plead for your most prayerful, courageous and urgent consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Ferris

COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE LETTER

Here are several comments on the above letter:

1 - Although under intense pressure from the General Conference, Ford was dropped from the ministry in Australia in 1980. His church membership (at the Pacific Union College Church, in Angwin, California) was never dropped. Apparently, the faculty and staff of PUC have been very

loyal to Des and his beliefs over the years.

2 - About three years ago, Des moved back to Australia; and the South Pacific Division headquarters immediately decided that he should be permitted to speak in every church in the Division!

3 - The author of this important two-page article on the Judgment in the June 9, 2005 *Review*, stated in his open letter that Ford was “one of the most valuable assets we ever had.” Why does the *Review* publish articles by such men? Desmond Ford tried to destroy our historic teachings and faith in the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

4 - This letter above contains no less than five references to and pleas for reversal, reappraisal, and re-examination of Ford “In *today’s* climate of candor and fairness,” and “to re-examine his position in view of *current* theological thought (emphasis added).”

5 - Ferris asserts that “our current Fundamental Beliefs support him [Ford] in the matter of the sufficiency of Calvary atonement,” and that Ford harmonizes with “the gospel as the church [currently] understands it.” Such comments clearly show Ferris’ position.

6 - Ferris states that Ford agreed with the *Glacier View Consensus Statement*. He did not mention that statement was not voted on at Glacier View by the large body present. But, more important, he does not consider the implications.

Back in 1980, when Ford produced his lengthy report (“The Investigative Judgment—Theological Milestone or Historical Necessity?” following his October 27, 1979, public meeting at Pacific Union College), he clearly maintained his position that nothing happened in 1844 and Albion Ballenger—the apostate whom Ellen White opposed in 1905—was right after all!

Ford stated that “Ellen White did not give us a single truth of doctrine,” and that her role is “pastoral, and not canonical.” According to Ford, she presented no divinely revealed truth.

In the early 1980s, I wrote extensively on Glacier View and the teachings of Desmond Ford. For much more information, I refer you to my 320-page, 8½ x 11 *New Theology Tractbook*. It contains a wealth of data which I wrote between 1980 and 1991. Our people need to return to the reading of, and simple obedience to, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

“The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God’s hand had directed the great advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.”

COMMENTS ON FERRIS’ TWO-PAGE REVIEW ARTICLE

Following the pattern of most new theology books and articles written for our people, Ferris uses an intricate style and subtle phrasing to carefully place error in the minds of the reader.

If you number the 14 paragraphs in his *Review* article, you will find that he tries to teach four primary errors:

Paragraphs 4-7. None of us will be judged by our works. (So just have faith and live as you please.)

Paragraphs 8-11. The sacrificial death of Christ on Calvary began and ended the entire work of atonement. (You were saved at the cross, so you can now enjoy life while you wait for death and heaven.)

Paragraph 12. The judgment reviews the lives of the people, but does not decide their destiny. (So it is not really a judgment at all. Bible writers gave it the wrong name.)

Paragraphs 13-14. All the Gospel does is let people into heaven, regardless of the way they live.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 ridicules the idea that there could be any kind of “judgment” of people in heaven.

Paragraph 4 ridicules the idea that there could be “record books” in heaven.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 - It could not be that anyone is judged, because then the Buddhists and many Muslims would be saved ahead of us.

Paragraph 11 - Because Christ’s death on the cross was perfect, He had to enter the most holy place when He died.

Paragraph 12 - Essentially nothing occurred in 1844 or thereafter.

Paragraph 13 - “Though we must all appear before the judgment bar, there is no judgment.”

—After a careful reading of this *Review* article, I suggest that this article may well have been written by Desmond Ford, himself. It is very much like his intricate reasoning pattern and writing style, and broad understanding of the subject.

It is very possible that Ford also wrote that 2000 letter to the General Conference president. Des knows how to work with words.

THE KILLING POWER OF TOBACCO

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 1.1 billion smokers around the world. That is about one third of the entire adult global population. Smoking causes more deaths and disabilities than any other single disease, accounting for 7% of all deaths, with about 13,700 people dying each day of tobacco-related illnesses.

The WHO's projection, that states that tobacco will result in more than 10 million deaths annually by the year 2020, would make it the leading cause of death and disability. Thus it becomes more lethal than HIV, tuberculosis, car accidents, maternal mortality, suicide, and homicide combined.

There is an estimated 42% of men and 24% of women that smoke in developed countries; while, in developing countries, 48% of men and 7% of women smoke. There are 800,000 smokers and an estimated one million people who die annually from tobacco in developing countries.

An estimated 80% of adult smokers began smoking before the age of 18. Each day, approximately 5,000 children and youth under the age of 18 smoke their first cigarette.

In the United States, smoking is the leading cause of preventable death leading to more than 440,000 deaths annually. The health-care costs associated with tobacco-related illnesses in the U.S are more than \$75 billion.

In developing countries, cigarette sales have increased by 80% since 1990. In Africa, the annual rise in the rate of smoking is estimated to be 2.5% higher than in other developing countries. It is anticipated that, in the next 20 years, tobacco-related diseases will become the number one cause of deaths in Africa.

Not only does smoking affect the person who chooses to smoke, exposure to secondhand smoke can and does affect nonsmokers, espe-

cially children whose bodies are still developing. Parents who smoke around their children increase their risk of occurrence of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and middle ear infections. This also causes an increased incidence of respiratory diseases: such as bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, and lower respiratory tract infections.

In adults who are lifetime nonsmokers, secondhand smoke is also a cause of lung cancer and coronary heart disease. Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is listed by the National Institutes of Health as a human carcinogen. Therefore exposure to ETS is a causative factor of human cancer. Around 3,000 deaths caused by lung cancer occur each year among adult nonsmokers. Studies also show that ETS is the cause of 35,000 deaths from ischemic heart disease in the U.S each year.

The global tobacco epidemic is predicted to prematurely claim the lives of some 250 million children and adolescents, a third of who are in developing countries. Over 6.4 million children living today will die prematurely due to smoking. Studies have shown that children can become addicted to tobacco after smoking only a few cigarettes.

According to a report in the journal *Tobacco Control*, a study performed on nearly 700 schoolchildren in the U.S., with an average age of 12, showed that a quarter of the children who smoked had cravings within two weeks of beginning to smoke. Some even had symptoms of addiction within days of starting to smoke.

Women who smoke during pregnancy place their babies at an increased risk of miscarriage, low birth weight, and intrauterine growth retardation.

Smoking has become a worldwide epidemic, an unnecessary killer that everyone could avoid.

MAKE COPIES OF THIS SHEET AND SHARE THEM WITH THOSE WHO NEED THEM,—ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT STARTED SMOKING YET.

Mad Cow Disease in American Cattle

FEDS HIDING MAD COW CASES: American Records Not Credible, Former Packing Plant Vet Says.

The Edmonton [Canada] Journal, April 7, 2005—
EDMONTON - A former American government packing plant veterinarian says the United States government is hiding cases of mad cow disease.

Dr. Lester Friedlander said Wednesday that colleagues with the United States Department of Agriculture have told him of cases that the USDA has chosen not to announce. Friedlander, who has been invited to speak to Parliament's agriculture committee next week on proposed changes to Canadian inspection legislation, refused to give details. He said the USDA employees are close to retirement and risk losing their pensions.

He has previously spoken out, however, about a Texas cow that had mad cow symptoms and went untested to a rendering plant after a USDA veterinarian condemned it at a packing plant in San Angelo.

Mad cow cases in America

There have been U.S. news reports that just three cows processed by the plant were tested for bovine spongiform encephalopathy over two years. The plant, Lone Star Beef, processes older dairy cows considered at higher risk of carrying BSE.

Friedlander said it's not credible that the USDA has found just one BSE case and only in a cow that entered the United States from Alberta rather than being raised in the U.S.

"You've found four cases (including a cow from Alberta discovered in Washington state with the disease) out of 12 million cattle and the United States has found none out of 120 million," Friedlander said in an interview during a speaking visit to Edmonton.

He said production practices in the two countries are similar enough that the USDA should be finding more BSE cases.

New Agency Needed

Friedlander was in charge of meat inspectors at the largest U.S. culled-cow packing plant, in Pennsylvania, until 1995. He lost his job for, in his words, "doing too good a job."

He has since become a public speaker on food and animal safety issues. He was in Edmonton as a guest of the Edmonton North Environmental Society.

The USDA's record looks worse than the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's, but Canada needs a new "consumer" agency to oversee packing plant inspections, he added. He said the USDA and CFIA both suffer from having too much influence from politicians eager to please the food industry. His proposed consumer agency would be a government body but would have more safeguards against political influence.

Marc Richard, speaking from Ottawa for the CFIA, said the agency enforces rules set by Parliament and does its job well.

He said it reports to Agriculture Minister Andrew Mitchell and a replacement government agency would have to do the same.

Friedlander also warned against intensive livestock operations, such as cattle feedlots and large hog operations. He said they are ideal breeding grounds for bacteria and disease; and authorities have tended to react slowly when there's an outbreak.

Delayed reaction to avian flu last year at a British Columbia poultry operation led to a large and costly outbreak, he said.

John Feddes, an agricultural engineer at the University of Alberta, said the province's confined feeding operations are generally run well, under stringent rules. Large hog operations, Feddes said, are clean.

"Just because they're large doesn't mean they're going to be out of control."

Dr. Gerald Ollis, Alberta Agriculture's chief veterinarian, said confined feeding ops tend to have well-educated people in charge and are big enough that they can have vets visit more often than at smaller farms.

Ollis added that his experience of CFIA inspections is that they are done well.

He was not aware of reports of limited BSE testing at the Texas packing plant, but said the USDA is concentrating its tests at high-production operations.

U.S. HIDING MAD COW CASES: Expert Says

Ottawa Citizen, March 7, 2005— . . . Mr. Friedlander is a former veterinarian with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And, since he left in 1995, he is now a well-known whistle-blower. He used to supervise meat inspection at a slaughterhouse in Pennsylvania that processed 1,800 cows a day, including many "downers," or suspect animals no longer able to walk.

In April, he intends to travel to Ottawa to speak to parliamentarians reviewing our rules for food inspection. They're in for an earful.

Mr. Friedlander says, flat out, that mad cow is probably prevalent in the U.S., but has so far been kept out of the public eye. "There's no doubt in my mind."

Mr. Friedlander said he was one of the first government vets to begin looking for mad cow in the late 1980s when he used to extract cattle brains and send them to labs for testing . . .

The problem, he explained, can be traced to the way cattle are fed. Until 1997, it was common to use rendered cattle remains as a component in cattle feed. Both countries stopped the practice at roughly the same time . . . "They're all eating from the same contaminated source."

In the early 1990s, he said he was speaking to the USDA's chief pathologist about mad cow when the following exchange took place:

"Lester, if you ever find mad cow disease, promise me one thing?" he was asked. "What's that?" he responded. "Don't tell anybody."

Mr. Friedlander says he would take a lie-detector test to back up his story. "Once I heard that, then I knew this whole thing was a joke."