

## TRANSPARENCY AT SECRETS UNSEALED

In the July 8, 2023 issue of the official publication of the North American Division, *Adventist Journey* an important article appeared titled, "*Beware of the Wolves*" in which the author outlined the criteria for a bona fide supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Following are the criteria mentioned in the article. We are pleased to announce that **Secrets Unsealed meets all the criteria**.

**Criterion #1**: Bona fide speakers do not require offerings or honorariums in churches where they present.

Secrets Unsealed speakers never ask for offerings, donations, or honorariums in the churches where they are invited to speak.

**Criterion #2**: Legitimate ministries do not load the ministry's board with employees or relatives of employees.

With Pastor Bohr as the lone exception because he is the president of the ministry, none of the seven members of the Secrets Unsealed board are employees or relatives of employees who work at the ministry.

**Criterion #3**: Legitimate supporting ministries are faithful members of ASI. Secrets Unsealed has been a faithful member of ASI since 2009 having an exhibit at every National Convention since.

**Criterion #4**: The speaker of the ministry must have official credentials issued by the denomination.

Pastor Bohr has an Emeritus Ministerial Credential issued by the Pacific Union Conference valid from 2021 to 2026.

**Criterion #5**: The speakers must be members in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pastors Bohr, Murray, and Salazar are in good and regular standing in their local churches and return faithful tithes and offerings through regular channels.

**Criterion** #6: All speakers must agree with and preach the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Church.

All the speakers and presenters at Secrets Unsealed believe in and teach all the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Church.

**Criterion #7**: An official supporting ministry of the church must be financially accountable with absolute financial transparency and be audited at least once a year.

Secrets Unsealed is audited **yearly** by an independent auditing firm. Our auditors vouch for the fact that every donation is receipted and the money is used exclusively for the projects that the donor specified.

We are thankful that *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* authorizes the local church to decide who will occupy the pulpit, as long as the speaker is properly credentialed and a faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are thankful that Secrets Unsealed meets that requirement. The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual states:

"Under no circumstances should a <u>pastor</u>, <u>elder</u>, or <u>other officer</u> invite <u>strangers</u> or any <u>unauthorized</u> persons to conduct services. Individuals who have been <u>removed from the ministry</u> or who have been <u>removed from</u>

**membership** in other places, or **designing persons** who have no authority from the church, should not be given access to the pulpit. Those worthy of confidence will be able to identify themselves by producing **proper credentials**." Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, "Unauthorized Speakers," 2015 Edition, p. 120 Ellen White has made it clear that God not only empowers the 'regular channels' to further His work but also legitimate 'supporting ministries'. We are all in this together for the finishing of God's work. IT IS TIME TO GO HOME!!

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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

August 23, 2023

Pastor Olmedo Martínez | President of the Central South Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Costa Rica

Dear Pastor Martínez, this letter serves to testify that Pastor Stephen Bohr is a member of the Fresno Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. He has served in our congregation as the Senior Pastor for nearly 20 years and he continues to be loved and appreciated by our members. Our Associate Pastor and I have a cordial relationship with Pastor Bohr. He is always respectful of our leadership, he supports our ministry and is continually willing to serve when we ask for his collaboration at the Church. He is also faithful in his tithes and generous in his offerings. When invited to preach, we have always found Pastor Bohr to present the 28 Fundamental Doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with integrity.

I would further add that Pastor Bohr holds a valid ministerial credential from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and that his ministry, Secrets Unsealed, is a member of ASI - Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. M. Gouveia, D.Min. Lead Pastor | Fresno Central SDA Church 2980 East Yale Avenue, Fresno, CA 93703 Office: (559) 233-1171 dgouveia@cccsda.org

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