

Wed 13/04/2016 1:35 PM

RE: SDBs Relationship to the Church of God article update

Hello Craig.

Thank you for sharing this information. It was quite helpful and confirmed some of my own research. I have thoroughly read it and highlighted major points.

Attached are two draft chapters of my forthcoming church history book which should go into print commercially a year from now. This is a private project I have been working on for over 30 years. Each academic year as I teach church history I review and expand the material. I have several hundred books at the office dealing with aspects of the history of the church in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Please do not republish my material as it is only in draft form and I am still cleaning copyrights and keep this email private. At age 70 I don't want any more trouble.

I need an evidence driven chapter between the church in Colonial New England and the work of Miller. The data are hard to marshal. I invite and welcome your thoughts on the material. In a preliminary sense I can find no evidence of a connection between COG7 and the Seventh Day Baptists either. COG7 in its recent history rejects the idea that their movement had any succession other than severing itself from the White party. Just because various groups keep Saturday for Sunday or as a day of worship does not make them the people of God.

As to your references to my dear friend and mentor Herman L. Hoeh we have to keep in mind that he was an apologist for Mr. Armstrong as I am. His church history research was shallow however and at a journalist level not a scholarly one. His aim was to keep the peace and backup the authenticity of Mr. Armstrong's ministry. I do think he believed in Successionism through the laying on of hands as I do. The question then becomes: When the congregation in Oregon layed hands on Herbert Armstrong ordaining him an elder was there then at least one person indwelled with God's spirit so the succession would be complete? If so, who?

A few years ago I spent some one-on-one time with Don Sanford at the Janesville SDB headquarters who essentially told me I was quite wrong if I believed in Successionism. He and his colleagues did not. He believed the Baptist movement in England and the Seventh Day Baptists in America were unique and did not arise from European Sabbatarians. He also wholly rejected that there was any connection whatsoever between their SDB conference and the COG7, i.e. there is no tangible evidence. I think he saw the COG7 as a group of biblically literate ignoramuses an opinion I tend to have myself. I don't think Sanford knew that the seventeenth century Particular Baptists sent a delegation to Europe to be rebaptized and have hands laid on them by the Waldenses descendants so that the succession would not be broken. When the delegation returned to London then everyone had hands laid on them. I don't know about any rebaptism.

I am reworking the English Churches chapter at this time. I did not realize that Mill Yard excommunicated Peter Chamberlain and his wife in 1675 until this week and found he and Anne joined Belcher's Bell Lane congregation. There is much to learn.

Warm regards,

MPG