

# Observations from Anaheim

By Sharon Trense  
RENEW Network Assembly Team Member

The Quadrennial Assembly of the UMW was a very orchestrated weekend. It is my observation that a carefully crafted, feministic, left-leaning political ideology permeated throughout. The Plenary sessions were especially interesting to observe because there was a consistent, though subtle, message of angry feminism and irresponsible liberalism. Some of the words of traditional music loved by all Christians were changed to support the agenda. Two of the keynote speakers displayed rage to the point of shaking their fists. Most of the anger was vented toward men and their power. Sadly, during a particular tirade, one could hear a UMW woman sitting nearby muttering, "Thank you, Jesus. Oh, thank you Jesus."

Terms used throughout the weekend were solidarity, pluralism, globalization, "femicide," social justice, intolerance, poor vs. wealthy and oppression. One speaker, who led the "Bible Study," boldly legitimized her charges by citing Scripture, Isaiah 58:6-12, to make her point claiming, "Where there is solidarity and compassion, there is God" and "Our light shines just at God's light shines." The word "light" was carefully woven throughout the Assembly, and with the exception of some songs and litany, it was the light of self, not Christ. There was severe and highly charged criticism of democratic governance calling on the audience to "seek forms of life where bread can be shared," and the "injustices in the name of democracy" can be overcome.

One evening there was a fashion show against the militarism of the United States. (At this point, I cannot help but editorialize and thank God for my fellow Americans who fought and died for the freedom of speech these women were given at this Assembly. Could it be that our God-given blessings in America may someday be our curse, when our freedoms are abused by our own citizens? May God help us.)

During the close of one session a call for a Transference of Money in the Federal Budget was introduced and a Money Transfer Request Form was circulated. The members were asked to sign the form and in turn, the leadership promised to deliver the forms to the Chairpersons of the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations in Washington, D.C. Calling for a "budget for justice," it demands transferring money from Military Spending to Training and Social Services, from Tax Cuts for the Wealthy to Health Care and Affordable Housing, from Nuclear Weapons to Restoring the Environment and from Federal Crop Subsidies for the Wealthy to Foreign Aid/Development funding requests. All these requests emulate a call by the UMW for a different form of governance in America, a call for a governance of socialism, closely resembling communism.

The carefully orchestrated weekend was a choreography of deception. While the songs and litanies of the weekend called for worshiping a loving, triune God, the rhetoric reflected anger. While Scripture was read to illustrate God's call for compassion and caring, it was manipulated to call for an overthrow of power and governance. While we read Scripture and litany about Jesus Christ's light, we heard testimonies which never gave thanks for His light, yet

spoke of a personal, self-light. While we heard rhetoric and power from the lips of angry keynote speakers, there was no mention of the power of the Holy Spirit and the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the fall of Communism in Europe an Italian Communist leader boasted saying although we cannot bring America down militarily, “We will bring her down from within.” Is the aforementioned rhetoric to women of faith in part the compliance the Italian leader has been patiently awaiting? Perhaps so, since all this did occur at the meeting of one of America’s mainline Christian churches, the Quadrennial Assembly of United Methodist Women in Anaheim, California, in 2006.

Please pray for discernment that the Truth may be revealed and the veil will be lifted from all who are deceived.