

Pastor “Chick” recently wrote an article called “My Final Chapter.” He dealt with a phrase used in the writings of Ellen G. White bearing the words “highest earthly authority.” It is interesting to note that the author of the segment below writes, “Highest earthly authority for 1.1 billion souls, or one-sixth of world’s population.” *Forbes Magazine* has published Pope Benedict XVI to be the fifth most powerful person in the world.



AP Photo/Matt Cardy

#5 Pope Benedict XVI

Age: 83

Title: Pope

Residence: Vatican City

Country of citizenship: Germany

Highest earthly authority for 1.1 billion souls, or one-sixth of world's population. Staunch traditionalist deplors secularism, consumerism and moral relativism, unbending on birth control, gay marriage and ordination of female priests. Despite major gaffes (including lifting the excommunication of a Holocaust-denying Bishop and quoting a 14th-century source that declared the only new things the prophet Mohammed brought were "evil and inhuman"), appears genuinely interested in healing old wounds. In September, not only became the first Pope to visit Westminster Abbey since the Protestant Reformation, but also shook hands with a clergywoman (another first). Widening sexual abuse scandal could undermine moral authority, but increasingly willing to tackle issue head on: "Forgiveness does not substitute for justice." Stylish: Has brought back traditional red, custom-made "pope shoes" and old-school Ecclesiastical headgear.

(Source: The Most Powerful People on Earth 2010; Forbes.com; *by Nicole Perlroth and Michael Noer; Wednesday, November 3, 2010*)