

# THE CSDA *Signet*

And Thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO YAH. (Ex. 28;36)

*A bi-monthly publication of the CSDA Church*

## *A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*

We at the CSDA Signet hold a faith that many in the world, among both Adventism and the rest of Christendom, consider to be rather peculiar in many regards. We hold doctrines that many consider heretical, yet we remain unconvinced from Scripture that any are in error. We hold practices that many consider erroneous, yet we remain unconvinced that they are anything but the express command of the Almighty God.

Yet while we are aware that we stand apart from mainstream Christendom in many ways, and acknowledge this freely, we cannot concede that we should be subjected to bias, persecution, and oppression for these things. It is the God-given right of every man, woman, and child to believe as they wish to believe and worship as they wish to worship, according to the dictates of their conscience. We stand firmly upon this principle, for it is one that more qualified men than we have shed their blood to establish and maintain.

We find that when the angel Lucifer harbored rebellion in his heart against the Almighty, the course of action taken by the latter was not to exterminate him completely; rather, He allowed the erring one to work his course, so that all may see the folly thereof.

When the Apostles were brought before the counsels of judgment for their faith, the words of Gamaliel were found to be wisdom: "Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For be-

fore these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." (Acts 5:35-39)

When Christ was told of those who practiced in His name without following with Him, He did not commend his zealous disciples for chiding them regarding it; instead, He responded, "Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me." (Mark 9:39)

And when in the days of the Apostles there were those who took the names of both our Savior and Paul upon themselves to exercise a false ministry, we see the results of, not the force of arms, not the threats of men, but the natural outworking of cause and effect: "Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. [...] And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And

the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified." (Acts 19:13,15-17)

Christianity is not based upon force, but faith; faith and force cannot abide together, for where there is force, there is no faith, and where there is faith, that abiding trust in the ability of the Most High to work out His good will, there cannot be force. Force is the outworking of faithlessness, the expression of belief in the power of the flesh to overcome.

When a man or a movement, professing to be Christian in nature, uses force of arms and threats to secure his/its kingdom, you may know that their kingdom is of a surety of this world. Christ Himself made this principle very clear when He stated, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36) If then the servants are fighting, the kingdom for which they fight is of this world.

We do not believe that the wisdom of the Messiah is flawed in this regard, nor do we believe that the Scriptures are erring in their consistent and oft-repeated teachings regarding the use of fleshly power to coerce the consciences of men. Further, we do not believe that history bears witness to anything other than what we have stated thus far. Force is the last resort of every false religion; from apostate Judaism, to apostate Catholicism, to apostate Protestantism, to apostate Adventism.

Yet for all this, we are aware that these are the last days, and as such, things will go on as they have from the very beginning; Cain will slay Abel, Manasseh will slay Isaiah, Judas will betray Christ; the righteous will be persecuted for righteousness' sake, for the servant is not better than the Master, and "the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." (John 16:2)

Walter "Chick" McGill, the Pastor of the Guys, Tennessee congregation of Creation Seventh Day Adventists, has recently been served with

papers from the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, on behalf of the entire denomination, for using the name "Seventh Day Adventist" as part of his religion, as the writings of Ellen G. White plainly instruct faithful Adventists to do.

Now, of those who receive this issue, some may be Adventists, some may not; for those less familiar, Seventh Day Adventists in general hold Ellen G. White to be a source of inspired writings, prophetic in nature. We are told in the Scriptures that "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17), and we believe this to be truth; we have tested the writings of Mrs. White by Scripture, and have found them to be of matching principle.

We realize that some may agree with us on this matter, while some may disagree with us sharply; that is the free choice of every individual, and this is not intended to be an article defending the prophetic gift of Ellen White. Yet whether the reader agrees or disagrees, we seek that one thing may be established and agreed upon: It is anti-Christian, immoral, and unconstitutional for us to be brought up on charges for our beliefs in this regard, in particular by those who profess to have the same belief themselves.

We are told by our former brethren, "Change your name", yet these same men profess to believe the same words as do we: "As to the name Seventh-day Adventists: I was shown in regard to the remnant people of God taking a name. . . . No name which we can take will be appropriate but that which accords with our profession and expresses our faith and marks us a peculiar people. The name Seventh-day Adventist is a standing rebuke to the Protestant world. . . . The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind." [Ellen G. White, *The Early Years Volume 1*, p.438]

"We are Seventh-day Adventists. Are we ashamed of our name? We answer, 'No, no! We are not. It is the name the Lord has given us. It points out the truth that is to be the test of the churches.'" [Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 384]

We cannot in good conscience surrender

the name that God has given us to bear. And as a result, Pastor McGill will be taken to task before the courts of the world by those who profess to be the people of God. For this, we cannot remain silent. For this, we protest.

The next pages of this paper include two letters of appeal that have been sent to various ministers, elders, and other leaders in the Adventist church, appealing for support and protest of this injustice. So far, we have received little but mocks and sharp insults in return, the general attitude and common sentiment being, "You had it coming."

## Dear Staff Member...

Dear Staff Member,

We are pleased to present you with a gift of the included publication entitled "*Finally... Out of Darkness, Into His Marvelous Light.*" Our prayer is that your soul will be nourished to an experience that measures with the inheritance of the saints in light.

In the event that you have not been informed of recent developments within the legal department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, our pastor, along with our various ministries, have been served with a lawsuit complaining against our use of the religious name "Creation Seventh Day Adventist." This action is based upon an alleged trademark infringement of the purported mark SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® and can be accessed online at <http://csdadventistchurch.us/Lawsuit/>. Much of the SDA trademark controversy history may be viewed at [http://csda.us/tm\\_alert.html](http://csda.us/tm_alert.html).

We believe that the name "Seventh-day Adventist," and reasonable variations thereof, was given to us by Yahweh, the God of Heaven and Earth, in accordance with the statement of the Seventh-day Adventist prophetess Ellen G. White: "We are Seventh-day Adventists. Are we ashamed of our name? We answer, 'No, no! We are not.' It is the name the Lord has given us. It points out the truth that is to be the test of the churches." [Manuscript Releases Volume One, page 156, paragraph 1] It is our understanding based upon Adventist principles that religious organizations that profess to be Christian in

We include these letters of appeal now in hopes that some will take note and consider the issues at stake in this matter. May the Spirit give wisdom and discernment to all who read, for the deceptions in these last days are so great that, if it were possible, they would deceive even the very elect.

May the Gamaliels in this generation stand and speak, and may those who seek the destruction of our work take care; for they know not to Whom the work truly belongs.

nature ought not to employ the aid of civil authority, nor the threat of civil penalties, for the enforcement or protection of their doctrines, reputation or other identifying features, which the Creator Himself has pledged to protect. (Isaiah 31:1, Zechariah 4:6, 2 Kings 19:34)

We believe, as did early and respected Adventist teachers, that the practice of involving the worldly courts to settle ecclesiastical matters is directly antithetical to the spirit of the Sabbath commandment which the Advent movement has been covenanted to reveal to the world: "Now I want to state a little further upon the principle that no Christian, being a citizen of the kingdom of God, can of right start any procedure in connection with civil government. After it is started by the government itself, that is another question [...] I repeat therefore, that upon the principles which govern kingdoms and governments, the very principle of the law in heaven, or law in earth, a Christian cannot start any procedure in connection with civil government. And of all Christians, Seventh-day Adventists cannot do it. The very keeping of the Sabbath forbids it." [1895 General Conference Bulletin, page 28, A.T. Jones]

In light of this aspect of Adventist teachings, we stand convicted by conscience, and find ourselves compelled to protest the actions of the General Conference in both registering its trademarked name and bringing litigation against those it considers to be heretical, thus

employing the strong arm of civil government against conscientious dissenters such as ourselves.

It is hoped that our doctrine, outlined in detail in the publication we are sending you, will supply the necessary oil for your lamps, so that you may be found among the wise virgins in this testing hour.

Beyond this, we offer a cordial invitation to all who are willing to reason together on the current Adventist controversy as suggested in Isaiah 1:18. Let us labor together in adopting a

pure worship that is acceptable to the Almighty. At your convenience, we will meet with any who are willing to prove all conclusions from the Bible, rather than modern traditions adopted from the papacy or the opinions of men.

“Awake to righteousness, and sin not.” (1 Corinthians 15:34a) “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.” (Matthew 25:6b)

Your servants in the Messiah,  
The CSDA Church Membership

*Dear Sir or Madam...*

Dear Sir or Madam,

Greetings in the name of the Almighty God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. We would like to thank you for reading this brief letter, as the matters it addresses are of vital importance to the course of current and future events. Specifically we, the members of the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church, wish to educate our brethren about our current state of affairs, and the fact that it intimately involves us all as individuals, though some may be unwilling or uninformed accomplices of a great evil.

On your behalf, that is to say, on behalf of all its members, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has brought civil suit against our pastor, and against our place of worship in Guys, Tennessee, for an alleged infringement of the trademarked name “Seventh-day Adventist®.” While Creation Seventh Day Adventists may have some doctrinal differences with the mainstream Church, one thing we all claim to hold in common is the Protestant ethic, which is the very issue at stake in this lawsuit, the details of which may be read at the websites:

<http://www.csdadventistchurch.us/Lawsuit/>

or:

<http://www.csdadventistchurch.us/Lawsuit/Lawsuit.pdf>

Any Christian familiar with the principles promoted by the book *The Great Controversy* knows that in order for religious freedom to

survive in any country, including the United States of America, two ideas must be held inviolate. These are:

A rejection of the idea that a Church may seek to control the conscience. As we have read, “Men have taken unfair advantage of those whom they supposed to be under their jurisdiction. They were determined to bring the individuals to their terms; they would rule or ruin.” [Last Day Events, page 48]

A rejection of the idea that civil power specifically may be used to settle matters of conviction and religious duty. As our pioneers taught, “Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience.” [The Great Controversy, p. 443]

For the past fifteen years, our movement has sought to earnestly appeal to those who call themselves “Adventists” yet have been undertaking to protect their church by civil power and secular force. We have been asking them to follow the clear instructions given to us by inspired writings: “When troubles arise in the church we should not go for help to lawyers not of our faith. God does not desire us to open church difficulties before those who do not fear Him. He would not have us depend for help on those who do not obey His require-

ments. Those who trust in such counselors show that they have not faith in God. By their lack of faith the Lord is greatly dishonored, and their course works great injury to themselves [...] These men cast aside the counsel God has given, and do the very things He has bidden them not to do. They show that they have chosen the world as their judge, and in heaven their names are registered as one with unbelievers. Christ is crucified afresh, and put to open shame. Let these men know that God does not hear their prayers. They insult His holy name, and He will leave them to the buffetings of Satan until they shall see their folly and seek the Lord by confession of their sin." [Selected Messages Book 3, page 299]

We have no desire to see any men so ruined, particularly not those claiming to be heralding the Three Angels' Message of agape-love for God and agape-love for their neighbors, therefore from our place of separation we have ever sought to lead those who have done such wrong to repentance and faith. While separate, we have nevertheless retained the name "Seventh Day Adventist" as being descriptive of our faith, for as we are also told, "It is the name the Lord has given us. It points out the truth that is to be the test of the churches." [Selected Messages, Book 2, 384]

As a matter of conscience, therefore, we are unable to comply with the demand of the General Conference that we forsake the God-given title of our faith and doctrines. This is the reason we are now about to be martyred before the world's court systems for our convictions. While some hardened individuals may say, "If you keep the name Adventist while differing from us in doctrines and practices, you deserve whatever you get from the law of man," we pray that at least some of our brethren will reject this position in favor of the faith of Jesus taught by the apostles and early SDA Christians.

We have no desire to have our freedom restricted, or to face the wrath of modern-day Caesar, but our religious beliefs forbid us from surrendering the phrase "Seventh Day Adventist" as a part of our Church name, or as a testimony of our faith. It is our prayer and hope, therefore, that those who wish to follow the

teachings of the Master will join us in our last appeal to ask certain ones to cease from dishonoring the name and reputation of Jesus Christ before the world. It is not, nor has it ever been, our desire to tear anything down, but rather to build Christian principles upon the Word of God, even when the modern world would make such a desire inconvenient.

While we are the ones who stand accused of damaging the reputation of the Adventist Church because our beliefs are different from the "mainstream," we have not knowingly rejected any teaching of the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. We have ever invited open discussion of our beliefs on such traditional Adventist teachings as Righteousness by Faith and the non-Trinitarian view of the Godhead. We believe that disputes about such matters ought to be settled with love and Christian reasoning, not with threats of confiscation of property, and ultimately imprisonment when we find ourselves unable to comply with the sentence of the courts to surrender those articles of our beliefs which we hold as dear as would any other Adventist believer.

If one should hold a gun to our heads and say, "Spare your lives, renounce that you are 'Christians,'" we could not do it, even to save our lives. Now we are told, "Deny that you are 'Seventh-day Adventists,' or we will confiscate your property and, if you continue to defy us, your very freedom." We cannot do it, even to save our lives; we have been told that this name is to be borne as an open testimony to humanity, and we further hope that the Satanic spirit that would motivate such a demand is made manifest by this providence of God.

Now that the process of law has begun against our people, we appeal to you to join us in our protest. While we may not agree on certain doctrinal matters, let us at least agree on the means the Bible provides for the settling of such disagreements: discussion, prayer and study, not lawyers, litigation and civil penalties. We ask that those with a heart for the truth write letters of appeal to the General Conference, particularly its president and the head of its legal department, reminding these men of Ellen White's position, "I call upon you in the name of Christ to withdraw the suit that you have begun and never bring another into court.

God forbids you thus to dishonor His name. You have had great light and many opportunities, and you cannot afford to unite with worldlings and follow their methods. Remember that the Lord will treat you according to the stand that you take in this life [...] I tell you solemnly that if you take the action which you now purpose to take, you will never recover from the result of it." [*Selected Messages* Book 3, page 304]

We appeal to you, dear reader, not for our sakes, but for the sakes of those who come against us claiming to be doing so on your behalf, in the name of our Savior, who said rather, "My Kingdom is not of this world; if my Kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." (John 18:36) We appeal to you, dear reader, not for our sakes, but for yours also, whose tithe money and efforts have been misdirected and used to pay for and support worldly lawyers to defend Him who needs no earthly defense, least of all from the Second Beast of Revelation, the United States government.

We know from the Scriptures that those who are aware of their leaders' wrongdoing yet remain silent become accountable for the actions taken on their behalf (Numbers 16:27-32; Isaiah 9:16; Mark 15:1 cf., Acts 2:36) and we wish to speak a word of earnest warning to those in danger of staining their hands with the anticipated dust of our destruction. We believe that Christ will protect His people, therefore our concern is largely for those who unwittingly stand against Him in the persons of those who sincerely seek to accomplish His will on the earth, despite the obstacles placed in our path by unreasonable men and the secular powers arrayed against the true Kingdom. As our Creator and Savior said, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40)

While much more may be said, even from a strictly Adventist perspective, on the evils of using secular courts to promote or defend Christ's spiritual Kingdom, we would like to thank you again for your time, and leave you with but three brief thoughts: "...upon the principles which govern kingdoms and governments, the very principle of the law that underlies the whole subject of government,

whether it be law in heaven or law in earth, a Christian cannot start any procedure in connection with civil government. And of all Christians, Seventh-day Adventists cannot do it. The very keeping of the Sabbath forbids it." [A.T. Jones, 1895 *General Conference Sermon* #7]

"This action, of appealing to human courts, never before entered into by Seventh-day Adventists, has now been done. God has permitted this that you who have been deceived may understand what power is controlling those who have had entrusted to them great responsibilities. Where are God's sentinels? Where are the men who will stand shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, with the truth, present truth for this time, in possession of the heart?" [*Selected Messages* Book 3, page 303]

"If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God." [*Testimonies for the Church* Volume Three, page 280-281]

Let us stand united in this matter, innocent of such a great crime in the sight of Heaven, and committed to righteousness in all that we know. This is our hope and prayer.

Your servants in the Messiah,  
The Members of  
the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church

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