

July 26, 2012

Elder Ted Wilson, president
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Dear Elder Wilson:

Greetings in the Lord from your fellow servant in the cause of Christ, and medical evangelism. You may not know me personally, but I have followed your ministry for many decades, from the New York Metro ministry, when you established the Appleseed restaurant, then turned it over to Country Life for continuity. I was at Wildwood at the time, as medical director, but also served as president of Southern Missionary Society, the parent organization of Country Life, directed as you remember by Larry Fleming, who still carries the vegetarian restaurant vision.

So much for the past, and a brief introduction. I am writing today (up at 4:30 AM) out of concern for another issue, appealing to you as the leader of a powerful gospel movement, called the remnant church, entrusted with *the* most important message for this time. As you probably know, there is a man, a Sabbath keeper, an Adventist, who is currently incarcerated in San Bernardino, arrested two Sabbaths ago because of his religious convictions, now fasting as a prisoner of conscience, put there because of past and recent legal actions of the General Conference, of which you are the leader.

While I do not know pastor Walter McGill personally, I am writing to appeal on his behalf, because of this solemn admonition from the Scriptures: Hebrews 13: 23 *Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; [and] them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.* Currently, there are many newspapers, across this country, carrying the story, but not as favorable public relations for our “caring church.” While I’m not in agreement with some of his doctrinal conclusions, particularly in regard to the two-person Godhead, I feel deeply stirred that his right to religious liberty is God-given, and that he deserves to be set free, *immediately*.

As you know, the history of this trademark issue, and the law suits which the G.C. has instigated, are more than a little controversial in our church. They began under the presidency of your father, as you recall, probably the most regrettable remembrance of his leadership years. Now I am appealing to you to reverse this blight on our dear church, which I joined as an early teen, having served in many capacities, including as teammate with Mark Finley in public evangelism when he pastored at Wildwood under Elder Frazee years ago, and as health and temperance secretary in the Northern New England Conference under John Loor for about a decade.

You see, the issue is not only the right to use the name Seventh-day Adventist. The very idea of trademarking a name which the Lord gave to our people, and to Ellen White in vision, making it an issue of commercial protection under American law, is contrary to the Bible. We are not to take our brother to court, ever, for matters of faith or religious practice. *Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another.* I Corinthians 6: 1-7, etc.

Further, in the *Adventist Review* this month I read about a religious liberty conference, which you attended, and according to the report gave an inspiring address concerning the right of all faiths – even Moslem, Jewish, Catholic, or Buddhist – along with Protestants such as Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian, to practice their religions according their conscientious convictions. For more than one hundred years, Seventh-day Adventists have championed the separation of church and state, and preached about the mark of the beast, when this God-given freedom is to be taken

away, bringing back the persecutions of the Middle Ages, putting the Remnant people of God into a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.

With this humble pastor, Walter McGill, now in prison, fasting even to the point of death, because of our church leadership, the case is grieving to not only this humble physician, but to thousands of God's faithful who have learned of the matter. And, he leads only a 12 member group, called Creation 7th Day Adventist Church, meeting in an old service station in the South, certainly no threat to anyone in a local conference, union, or world-wide S.D.A. church organization. How could we get to such a state in our church, where Catholic lawyers, paid with tithe and offering donations, could be sent on such a mission of inquisition and religious war?

The matter is now in crisis, with a Christian brother starving for his faith. I appeal to you to get involved, and put an immediate stop to this legal battle, to set this man free by withdrawing the entire 'cease and desist' order, and be a true champion of religious liberty, freedom of conscience, which we preach in the pulpits and write about in the *Review*. I will not belabor the matter further, for I know how busy you must be, putting out other 'fires,' seeking to extend the cause of Christ around the world, keeping our institutions in line, and ministering to your fellow leaders, as well as a precious wife and family.

I am deeply impressed how you courageously championed the cause of Creation science, now threatening our schools, especially my *alma mater*, La Sierra in California. And, you have spoken out boldly against 'spiritual formation,' another element of apostasy which threatens our freedom in Christ. I praise God for your faithful adherence to the Spirit of Prophecy, and now rest my case with this humble appeal, between you and the Lord, who we all will have to answer to soon, as the judgment turns to the living, and all deeds and words, secret or public, come up for review before the throne of God. How precious is the thought that we have an Advocate!

May the blessing of Christ Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of God empower and encourage your ministry today.

Cordially, your brother in the blessed hope,

--- No Signature ---

R. H., M. D. (Name modified for the sake of privacy.)

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.

Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 3, page 280.3