

## MY CONSOLATION

It was on the afternoon of April 18, 2011 when I accessed the United States Supreme Court website to look up the decision of the Court respecting *McGill v. General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*. The justices had convened on April 15<sup>th</sup> to decide whether to grant or deny my petition for writ of certiorari. As the webpage loaded on my computer display, my eyes fell on the dreaded words, “*Apr 18 2011 Petition DENIED.*” I felt an instantaneous pain in the region of my heart that felt as if a bullet had pierced me there.

I immediately logged on to my lawsuit email account to see if the counsel of record, Seth Galanter, had sent me the notice. His following email was in my box:

Pastor McGill-

I regret to report that the Supreme Court this morning denied our petition for certiorari. The order is reflected on page 4 of the attached.

We knew from the beginning that the odds of the Court taking the case were small, but we had hoped to beat the odds. There is no other realistic recourse available at this stage.

If you have any questions about the denial of review, please let me know.

This denial of cert. concludes our Firm's representation of you. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

-Seth

My response to him was as follows:

Dear Seth,

Thank you for your post. I saw the notice posted on the Supreme Court site, and immediately had the feeling I had been shot in the heart. I accept the matter, however, with gratitude for your efforts and those in association with you. I appreciate the efforts of the Rutherford Foundation as well.

I am truly exiled from my homeland now. At least, for now, I am free to worship as my Creator has instructed me. May God's best be yours.

Respectfully,

Pastor "Chick" McGill

"It is neither right nor safe to go against conscience." (Dr. Martin Luther)

In a previous email to Creation Seventh Day Adventist members and friends, I had posted the idea that from a purely prophetic viewpoint, I did not expect the Supreme Court to grant the petition. That did not in the least diminish my desire and hope for a positive outcome.

So, what does this Supreme Court decision mean in terms of prophecy and the future? Well, I certainly do not see any opportunity for me to return to my earthly homeland again. That amounts to my permanent exile in Uganda or wherever I might find asylum. As for the Church, we can conclude that our worship in America is forever terminated. There are no further appeals open to us presently. In some ways “The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall.”

Prophetically, it also appears that the curtain of national probation has fallen on the United States of America. As Ellen G. White penned, “the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land, and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” For many years, it has occurred to me that when we are no longer able to function as a church in any particular jurisdiction, that indicates the close of probation for that district, region, or nation.

Certainly, Creation Seventh Day Adventists must plan wisely and efficiently since we have such limited resources, both temporally and humanly. We are few in number and basically poor in financial assets. I am reminded of a writing from the Apostle Paul, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.” (2 Cor. 4:8, 9) We, as the last faithful Christian Body on planet earth, must rise to the occasion and finish the work of the Third Angel (of Revelation 14) in the power of the Fourth Angel (of Revelation 18) against seemingly insurmountable odds.

In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: "Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace." They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it. (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 608, 609)

For Seventh-day Adventists of the nominal order and the world in general, life proceeds as usual. Nothing intervenes to disrupt their normal lives except the ever-increasing judgments in the land. “**For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**” (Matt. 24:38, 39) What will arrest the attention of those who are “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage?”

To complicate matters even more, there is a modern movement sweeping the world under the name of *eBible Fellowship*. Their prediction is that the “rapture” will occur on May 21, 2011 and the total destruction of the earth and ungodly will happen October 21<sup>st</sup>. Satan is successfully gathering his fanatics on the one hand, putting the many pleasure-lovers to sleep on the other hand, and leading the masses astray via scientific intellectualism and secular humanism.

The principles of Satan's working in heaven are the same principles by which he works through human agents in this world. It is through these corrupting principles that every earthly empire and the churches have been increasingly corrupted. It is by the working out of these principles that Satan deceives and corrupts the whole world from the beginning to the ending. He is continuing this same policy-working, originally begun in the heavenly universe. He is energizing the whole world with his violence with which he corrupted the world in the days of Noah. (*Letter 156*, 1897)

I was directed to another paragraph in the Spirit of Prophecy that describes the experience of the people of God in our present situation.

I saw our people in great distress, weeping, and praying, pleading the sure promises of God, while the wicked were all around us, mocking us, and threatening to destroy us. They ridiculed our feebleness, they mocked at the smallness of our numbers, and taunted us with words calculated to cut deep. They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world. They had cut off our resources so that we could not buy nor sell, and referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition. They could not see how we could live without the world; we were dependent upon the world, and we must concede to the customs, practices, and laws of the world, or go out of it. If we were the only people in the world whom the Lord favored the appearances were awfully against us. [...] and this little feeble people stood out in defiance of the laws of the land, [...] and claimed to be the only ones right on the earth. (*Maranatha*, p. 209)

Then, the following Scripture came to me:

And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city. And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head. (Eze. 9:4-10)

What then is “the world’s greatest need?”

The world's greatest need is consecrated effort for the salvation of souls. Christ desires by the fullness of his power so to strengthen his people that through them the whole world shall be encircled with an atmosphere of grace. When his people shall make a whole-hearted surrender of themselves to God, walking before him in humility and faith, he will carry out through them his eternal purpose, enabling them to work harmoniously in giving to the world the truth as it is in Jesus. He will use all, men, women, and children, in making the light shine forth to the world, and calling out a people who will be true to his commandments. (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Nov. 21, 1907)

And, what is the world’s “greatest want?”

The greatest want of the world is the want of men,—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall. (*Education*, p. 57)

After all is considered, said and done, it is my greatest desire to say with the Apostle Paul, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Tim. 4:7, 8)

How vividly before my mind was the boat with the disciples buffeting the waves. The night was dark and tempestuous. Their Master was absent. The sea was strong, the winds contrary. Had Jesus, their Saviour, been with them, they would have felt safe. All through the long and tedious night they bend to their oars, forcing their way against wind and waves. They are beset with danger and horror. These were strong men, accustomed to hardships and perils, and not easily intimidated with danger.

They had expected to take their Saviour on board the ship at a certain point designated, but how without Him could they even reach that spot? All in vain, the wind was against them. The strength of the rowers was exhausted and yet the merciless storm had not abated, but was lashing the waves into a fury as though to engulf the boat and themselves. Oh, how they longed for Jesus.

In the hour of their greatest peril, when they had given up all for lost, amid the lightning flashes in the fourth watch of the night, Jesus is revealed to them walking upon the water. Oh, then Jesus had not forgotten them! His watchful eye of tender sympathy and pitying love had watched them, all through that fearful storm. In their greatest need He was close by them. (*Letter 5*; April 11, 1876, to James White)

And, that is truly *MY CONSOLATION*.

Writing from Africa  
Pastor “Chick” McGill  
April 18, 2011