

My Reputation

- *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?* [Matt. 10:24, 25]
- *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.* [2 Tim. 3:12]
- *...if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;* [1 Pet. 2:20-23; NASB]

I have often wondered at my life experience since coming to the knowledge of “the truth as it is in YAHSHUA.” I was marvelously set free from my besetting sins and lost my hereditary and cultivated tendencies to do evil by the power that YAH imparted to me—“by grace are ye saved through faith.” [Eph. 2:8]

Those who put their trust in Christ are not to be enslaved by any hereditary or cultivated habit or tendency. Instead of being held in bondage to the lower nature, they are to rule every appetite and passion. God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart. [*Counsels on Health*, page 440]

Day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year passed, and I could only rejoice in “the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.” [Gal. 5:1] Almost mysteriously, however, it seemed that my life was becoming entangled in a complex web of misrepresentations, and that, repeatedly. Whereas in the past, I had been highly esteemed in many circles (especially in relation to academic achievements), my reputation began to take another turn under the call of YAHWEH.

“But it was because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.” [Gal. 2:4; NASB] As I pondered the matter, the inspired writings supplied answers to my several questions.

The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding, circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith, and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them. This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. [*Christian Service*, page 158]

I have come to understand that “the false brethren”—and especially my “former brethren,” are the ones who usually seek to “malign” and “to excite indignation” against me. This condition does not naturally satisfy the soul. The way we are created necessitates peace and tranquility. In fact, physical and mental stresses contribute to disease more than any other factors. The heart asks, what can I do to salvage my reputation? How can I live a life of peace in the midst of the storm of persecutions?

Some years ago, I was in meditation and study concerning the last-day church and the state Christ’s Church must attain to before translation. With the many challenges facing me and others in the Body, I was reminded of the statement above: “The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding, circumstances.” With time, YAH led me to the depth of the

Sabbath. He showed me a “spirit of Sabbath” that had been missing before. I came to know it as the “Sabbath Rest Principle.”

One article that really helped me was from the pioneer Adventist writings entitled *The Three Sabbaths* (E. J. Waggoner). You may access it online by using a key-word query at the Google search engine. The “letter of Sabbath” was observed by the Jewish Church, but they did not possess the “spirit of Sabbath.” They were violating every principle of the “royal law” while keeping the letter of the law above reproach and even to fanatical extremes.

It dawned on me that the Sabbath represents total trust and rest in the Providential workings of the Almighty. I realized for the first time how the Sabbath is truly the “seal of God”—“the sign” that it is YAH who sanctifies us. Without a practical knowledge of the “Sabbath Rest Principle,” we are fully lost, for the soul is “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness” and deceived by “cunningly devised fables.” [Eph. 4:14; 2 Pet. 1:16] On the contrary, when we embrace the “spirit of Sabbath,” we know that every circumstance is YAH’s way of bringing us closer to Himself, and we rest patiently under God’s “Wings of Security.”

Many who do well under favorable circumstances seem to undergo a transformation of character when trials and adversity come; they deteriorate in proportion to their troubles. God never designed that we should thus be the sport of circumstances. We are not responsible for circumstances over which we have no control, and it is useless to deny that these often affect our life-work; but we sin when we permit circumstances to subvert principle, when we are unfaithful to our high trust, and neglect known duty. [*The Signs of the Times*, Sept. 9, 1886]

Man can shape circumstances, but circumstances should not be allowed to shape the man. We should seize upon circumstances as instruments with which to work. We are to master them, but should not permit them to master us. [*Gospel Workers*, page 292]

The example of Christ would rebuke the idea that His followers are dependent upon place, fortune, or prosperity, in order to live blameless lives. Christ would teach them that their faithfulness would make any place or position, where the providence of God called them, honorable, however humble. [*Messages to Young People*, page 79]

We are not to be controlled by circumstances. When we are placed in trying positions, and find things about us that we do not like, that try our patience, and test our faith, we are not to sink down in despondency, but to take a firmer hold upon God, and prove that we are not setting our affection on things on the earth, but on things above; that we are looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus is to be the beginning and the end, the first and the last. He is to be our strength in every time of trial. God must be our sole dependence. [*The Signs of the Times*, Jan. 9, 1893]

Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you. Fate has not woven its meshes about any human being so firmly that he need remain helpless and in uncertainty. Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them. The breaking down of one barrier will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press with determination in the right direction, and circumstances will be your helpers, not your hindrances. [*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 331, 332]

The above paragraphs, excerpted from the Spirit of Prophecy, are only a few of the many treasures that could be shared regarding our life circumstances. The point I wish to make is that knowing and understanding the benefit of Sabbath offers repose to the soul’s cry for answers. My reputation is bound up with the all-wise Providence of the Almighty Father in Heaven. And the Sabbath guarantees me perpetual peace, even in the eye of the storm. Amen!

I want to use space here to conquer some of the “opposing circumstances” that have crossed my path and affected my reputation within the recent past. As noted above, “We are not responsible for circumstances over which we have no control, and it is useless to deny that these often affect our life-work.” It is my determination to preserve my reputation so far as it may affect the image of YAH in the message of Creation Seventh Day Adventists to the

world. What are some of the latest inveracities propagated that might cast a dark shadow on my life- work and diminish the impact of the last message of mercy to the world?

- 1) It is said that I fled to Africa to avoid the consequences of my actions in America related to the SDA trademark lawsuit. Somehow it is concluded that I am “endangering other Advent believers.”

Chick McGill stays out of the country, so he will be safe from prosecution; but he apparently, or thoughtlessly, does not mind endangering other Advent believers. [Vance Ferrell, *End of the McGill Lawsuit...*; WM 1529, page 4]

It is quite obvious that if McGill had not fled the country, the court trial would have taken place. Both sides would have fully presented their briefs, and a jury would have decided the case. They could well have decided in favor of McGill! [Ibid, page 5]

But then, as the trial neared, you did not want to appear as if you had become afraid to not go through with your repeated statement that you would go to prison before you would take down the sign. So you fled the country—and remained out of the country. And then told everyone that you had missionary work in Africa that you needed to do instead. [*Letter to Chick McGill from Vance Ferrell, March 1, 2010*]

These elements of falsehood were published and sent to thousands of Adventist believers around the country and the world who would maintain some potential for believing the tainted report.

What is the truth of the matter? In 2007, we (the CSDA Church) were contacted via email by some purportedly Advent believers in Kigali Rwanda. They invited CSDA evangelists from the United States to visit them in Kigali and share the most precious faith and present truth. After some prayer and investigation we agreed to meet their request. Brother Luke Chartier and myself went to Kigali at the end of January, 2008. We almost immediately encountered difficulties, as the so-called believers were basically imposters, though “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” [2 Tim. 3:5] Our purpose was to make good the trip in spite of the drawbacks, since YAH’s treasury was spent for an evangelism effort. Soon, however, I fell ill with malaria, and Brother Luke followed in physical declension after tending to me day and night for more than one week. Once my illness was overcome, I encountered another affliction that was related to my general weakness caused by the ten days of malaria. By this time, a doctor in Rwanda advised surgery and assisted in arranging my emergency travel back to Tennessee for further treatment at the VA Hospital in Memphis.

Upon examination at the VA Hospital, it was determined that rest and some natural treatments would be sufficient to effect adequate recovery. Healing was incremental, but YAH honored me with restored health, and that, within two months. I had told my wife and several of the brethren that I would “never return to Africa.” My attitude was based upon the life-threatening experiences while there. The SDA trademark lawsuit was progressing very slowly—General Conference Jeffrey Tew had resigned, and Joel Galanter replaced him. The jury trial date was consequently to be postponed.

One Sabbath, when I was sitting in the desk to address the Church assembled, the Spirit of YAH poured upon me, and said, “Go back to Africa.” I immediately felt the sensation in my flesh to fear, but I resisted the temptation to disregard my Father’s voice. While sitting in front of the brethren and on Internet radio, I announced, to the great surprise of all, “YAH is sending me back to Africa.” I still recall the expression on my wife’s face, as she was shocked at my words. The Church was expecting me to serve a mission in Canada, but YAH was sending me back to Rwanda for some unknown reason.

In obedience to the call of God, I departed for Kigali alone at the end of May, 2008, about the time District Court Judge Breen rescheduled the three-day jury trial for October 6, 2008. From that time to this, I have been involved in full-time evangelism and medical missionary endeavors in Africa, according to the leading of YAHWEH.

Interestingly and unfortunately, a magistrate judge ordered mediation on June 3rd to be set for July 15th. However, the District Court Judge granted summary judgment in favor of the Plaintiffs on June 11th, which came as an overwhelming surprise. I admit that after this unexpected Court decision, approving the GCC trademark claims for “Seventh Day Adventist,” I saw no valid reasons to spend valuable time and/or resources defending the remaining ancillary aspects of the lawsuit. YAH never instructed me to drop my mission in Africa and return to America. It was further understood that we would submit an appeal to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, and that did not necessitate my presence. Sadly, the Court ordered me to attend a mediation conference that I could not in good conscience comply with. I held no grounds for compromise, and the Court had already effectively decided the pertinent issue of the conflict regarding the name “Seventh Day Adventist.” Therefore, I refused to leave the African mission assignment.

- 2) It has been rumored in Uganda that I am a criminal, having fled from America, and that I had been deported from Rwanda for my wicked deeds.

These falsehoods have caused me days and weeks of inconvenience and expense. My enemies fabricated stories that were received by various government officials and followed with in-depth investigations by the highest police staff. At one point it appeared that the work of CSDAs in Rwanda and Uganda would be terminated without appeal.

However, YAH stepped into the fray and opened “the door of opportunity” that I wrote about in a previous essay. Truth was brought to the front, and my reputation was vindicated on all counts. The outcome was just as the Bible promises, “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” [Rom. 8:28]

- 3) Some of my former brethren still publish that I was guilty of “kid-knapping” a ten-year old girl in Guys, TN when I lived there.

The truth of this matter is that I was exonerated by the authorities of the McNairy County Sheriff’s Department and Tennessee State Social Services Department. When the child was interviewed by the judge, she indicated that she wanted to be with our Church members, and the mother had agreed in writing that one of our congregants should have temporary custody. This inconvenience was brought about via the malicious designs of offended “former brethren,” but they did not prevail.

- 4) A former brother in Canada has developed a website mimicking our CSDA message in part, but the content has detailed various unfounded accusations against me as well.

This one is almost without a necessity to mention, since very few souls will be inclined to read or take seriously his tirades. However, it is possible that even his rants could adversely affect my reputation, and it seems to be the case that one new CSDA member was seriously affected and lost her way as the result of reading those fabrications. It is my regret that she failed by refusing to discuss the issues with me.

- 5) Another website has been published under the name of “Walter McGill and the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church Hoax.”

I do not find it necessary to deal with this in detail within this essay. It has been rebutted adequately online at the following address:
http://www.whypastorwaltermcgillisnotaffiliatedwithgcsdaadventistchurch.net/Walter_McGill_and_the_Creation_Seventh_Day_Adventist_Church_hoax.html. Any further questions relating to this subject are welcomed.

- 6) An American Peace Corp volunteer, assigned in Uganda, accused me of threatening her life after I emailed the Peace Corp asking about their standards of conduct.

This complaint found its way to the United States Embassy in Kampala and precipitated a major police investigation, reaching the Central Police Station at the capital. The outcome of this was a temporary reassigning of the Peace Corp volunteer, and the clearing of my reputation. It was no small matter, however, and hours and days were required to overcome the assault.

- 7) The Chairperson of the local district here in Uganda was informed that I was financing and advising parties that were illegally taking over a government-aided school located in an out-lying sub-county. I was threatened with deportation from the Kisoro District (and possibly from the country).

The result was that I was summoned to appear before the Chairperson and give my reasons for the reported activities. After my unequivocal denial of all involvement, the Chairperson reversed his position and investigated further. As the result, it has been said that the Chairperson now respects me for my blameless reputation.

- 8) The Federal Court in the United States has maligned my reputation to a significant degree, misrepresenting my actions and making inaccurate statements of fact in writing.

I have commented on this in previous essays and will not take space here to repeat myself.

As you read this article, you find that my reputation has clearly encountered many attacks within a reasonably short span of time. I have not mentioned some of the issues that challenged me during my year in Rwanda before moving the mission to Kisoro Uganda. Suffice it to say, Satan has been working with redoubled efforts to disorganize my life-work, destroy my reputation, and distort the truth of YAHWEH.

There are ever to be found those who will sympathize with those who are wrong. Satan had sympathizers in heaven, and took large numbers of the angels with him. God and Christ and heavenly angels were on one side, and Satan on the other. Notwithstanding the infinite power and majesty of God and Christ, angels became disaffected. The insinuations of Satan took effect, and they really came to believe that the Father and the Son were their enemies and that Satan was their benefactor. Satan has the same power and the same control over minds now, only it has increased a hundredfold by exercise and experience. Men and women today are deceived, blinded by his insinuations and devices, and know it not. By giving place to doubts and unbelief in regard to the work of God, and by cherishing feelings of distrust and cruel jealousies, they are preparing themselves for complete deception. They rise up with bitter feelings against the ones who dare to speak of their errors and reprove their sins. [*Testimonies for the Church Volume Three*, page 328]

But in man's behalf, Christ met the specious temptations of Satan, and left to man an example as to how to overcome Satan in the conflict. He exhorts his followers, saying, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Satan has made masterly efforts to perpetuate sin. He arrayed all his civil agencies to war against Jesus Christ in an active, desperate conflict, in order that he might bruise the heart of infinite Love. He seduced the people to bow to idols, and thus gain supremacy over earthly kingdoms. He considered that to be the god of this world was the next best thing to gaining possession of the throne of God in heaven. In a large measure he has been successful in his plans. When Jesus was on earth, Satan led the people to reject the Son of God, and to choose Barabbas, who in character represented Satan, the god of this world. The Lord Jesus Christ came to dispute the usurpation of Satan in the kingdoms of the world. The conflict is not yet ended; and as we draw near the close of time, the battle waxes more intense. As the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, satanic agencies are moved from beneath. Satan will not only appear as a human being, but he will personate Jesus Christ; and the world who has rejected the truth will receive him as the Lord of lords and King of kings. He will exercise his power, and work upon the human imagination. He will corrupt both the minds and the bodies of men, and will work through the children of disobedience, fascinating and

charming, as does a serpent. What a spectacle will the world be for heavenly intelligences! What a spectacle for God, the Creator of the world, to behold! The form Satan assumed in Eden when leading our first parents to transgress, was of a character to bewilder and confuse the mind. He will work in as subtle a manner as we near the end of earth's history. All his deceiving power will be brought to bear upon human subjects, to complete the work of deluding the human family. So deceptive will be his working, that men will do as they did in the days of Christ; and when asked, Whom shall I release unto you, Christ or Barabbas? the almost universal cry will be, Barabbas, Barabbas! And when the question is asked, "What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?" the cry again will be, "Crucify him!" Christ will be represented in the person of those who accept the truth, and who identify their interest with that of their Lord. The world will be enraged at them in the same way that they were enraged at Christ, and the disciples of Christ will know that they are to be treated no better than was their Lord. But Christ will surely identify his interest with that of those who accept him as their personal Saviour. Every insult, every reproach, every false accusation made against them by those who have turned their ears away from the truth and are turned unto fables, will be charged upon the guilty ones as done to Christ in the person of his saints. [*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, April 14, 1896]

The "spirit of Sabbath" has been an effective spiritual weapon against the onslaughts of Satan, as I have learned to "rest in Christ." *My Reputation* also rests under the Almighty's "Wings of Security." So, I leave you with one last promise from the inspired pen:

The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and "all things" that are permitted "work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28. [*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, page 71]

"Be of good cheer," my brethren. "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." [1 John 2:12-14] "**Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**" [Luke 10:19, 20]

I rest the case for *My Reputation*.

Writing from Africa
Pastor "Chick" McGill
June 11, 2010