

# Legacy Lawsuit - Update 1

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: LATEST ON LEGACY / NSL: THE CRUCIAL EVENT / JET FLYING INCREASES BLOOD CLOTS / WATER AND COKE / TITHING WORLDWIDE / GC 2003 TREASURER'S REPORT

**Sargent Simms is a deeply concerned pastor in the South Central Conference. So much so, that he is circulating an open letter to every church member in the conference, appealing to them in this crisis to immediately contact the leadership of the conference.**

Those of you who have read our recent report, *The Legacy Lawsuit against the Seventh-day Adventist Church [WM-1191]*, filed against two conferences and the General Conference, recognize that the heart of this litigation concerns very unwise activities and relationships entered into by Joseph W. McCoy, president of the South Central Conference. SCC leadership has alleged that the lawsuit is the result of actions done by McCoy without notifying them. Here is Pastor Simms' letter:

December 17, 2003

To all Fellow Members of the South Central Conference,

"It pains me to have to write this letter. At our workers meeting, it was brought to our attention that our president was out on administrative leave. When it was brought to the spokesperson's attention that what had been done was out of harmony with our constitution, the response to me was, 'So, it's done.' I did not respond then, for it was neither the time nor the place. Since then, I have done research of the matter and feel compelled to share with you, my fellow colleagues and fellow believers of this conference. I am reminded of the prophet, Ezekiel, *'I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me.'* Ezekiel 33:7. [Italics his.]

"On November 23, 2003, there was a vote to remove President Joseph Ward McCoy from serving as president of the South Central Conference because of his violation of several infractions. Since it takes two thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee members to remove an officer, the motion failed and **Elder McCoy was placed on administrative leave until December 14, 2003—when he was reseated [as president of the entire conference]**. The vote was 9 to 11, therefore 911.

#### **"Observation:**

"1. Elder McCoy, acting on his own without the support or knowledge of the Conference Executive Committee, organized a corporation called Cumberland River Health and Human Services Corporation, implicating the conference. He signed as an incorporator and served for awhile as Chairman of the Board.

"2. Elder McCoy, according to the deposition, received \$49,000 as Chairman of the Board for a period of one year.

"3. For a period of about one year, Elder McCoy served as chief executive officer of two religious corporations and received income from both, doing business between the two.

"4. Elder McCoy violated Policy 35, the Conflict of Interest Policy, of the North American Division and P-2080, the policy of the South Central Conference Policy Book.

"5. Elder McCoy rented out office space in the old conference office without the vote of the Executive Committee. He said it was a gentlemen's agreement.

"6. **On December 14, 2003, with all the information available, our Executive Committee failed to act in the best interest of our conference, but political moves were taken to reseate Elder McCoy**, because some of the Executive Committee members are also a part of the problem: **Therefore making us liable for a 152 or 153 million dollar lawsuit**, depending on who you listen to, **and another lawsuit of about one-half million dollars.**

#### **"Recommendation:**

**"Demand that a special session of the constituency be held to deal with this matter, so that, if it is still possible, we can publish a disclaimer as the General Conference did and place this responsibility where it belongs—on Elder McCoy.** You may like to know [that] **Elder McCoy has an insurance policy that will cover him, but we do not. We could lose everything.** Violation of P-35 is ground for termination and pastors have been terminated [in the past] for violation of P-35. **Write, phone, flood the office!**

Sargent Simms, Pastor"

In summary, it appears that in order to protect McCoy from legal action against him, 11 of the 20 members of the SCC Executive Committee are willing to put the entire conference in financial jeopardy.

The SCC is a regional conference covering Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and part of the western panhandle of Florida. It has 149 churches and 30,079 members. They have a lot of property to lose.

Pastor Simms (who, according to church records, pastors in the Tuskegee area) has made no contact with me, nor did he send me a copy of his letter. But you may wish to help him by also contacting SCC leadership:

Executive Committee, South Central Conference of SDA, P.O. Box 78767, Nashville, TN 37207-8767. Phone: 615-226-6500. SCC members may wish to visit the office, located at 715 Youngs Lane, Nashville.

I would urge members in the SCC to save their conference before it is too late. The plaintiffs in Indiana apparently experienced an immense loss because of McCoy. After learning what he did—and still retaining McCoy as president—the conference will definitely lose this case and lose millions of dollars—unless church members in the entire conference now arise as one and demand that McCoy be immediately fired. Demand that a special constituency meeting be immediately called!

Make copies of this page and share it widely with fellow members in SCC.

McCoy may inevitably try to quietly fire Pastor Simms, and his local church should refuse to let this be done. The entire conference should refuse to let Simms be discharged. It is a man of the caliber of Elder Simms—willing to stand for the right though the heavens fall—who should be elected president in place of McCoy.

# AS WE GO TO PRESS

“January 23, 2004

“Dear Pastor Ferrell,

“I want to thank you, personally, for the article in your January newsletter about the Legacy Lawsuit against the SDA Church.

“We immediately copied it and distributed it to members across the conference. It has been well received everywhere.

“Saturday night, January 17, there was an area-wide meeting of all the churches in Huntsville, Alabama, at the Oakwood College Church. It was convened for McCoy and the Conference Committee to answer questions. But, of course, it was screened because you had to write out your questions and pass them up.

“The people asked pointed questions about the tithe. He admitted he is using the tithe for his lawsuit. The people asked him (and his Conference Committee) to resign.

“Some have called the General Conference and asked them why they are so quiet. The members told the General Conference (Neil C. Wilson is the one they spoke with) that they felt abandoned. He told them he would get back with them.

“Some are planning a website so the members will have an opportunity to air their grievances. The people involved have remained anonymous so McCoy cannot re-

We had an important health article on this page. But at the last minute, a letter arrived which bears on the Legacy Lawsuit. The entire letter is here typeset. SCC constituency is awakening.

taliat. The website will call for a constituency meeting. The website, hopefully, will be up and running by Friday, January 30.

“Thanks again for your help, and only eternity will reveal how helpful you have been.

“Sincerely,  
(Signed)

I immediately wrote this good friend and advised that they place the website in the name of a layman who does not fear reprisal, because his local church will refuse to remove his church offices or disfellowship him.

This is due to the fact that there is a way for computer experts to identify the person or organization behind any website on the internet.

We commend our brethren in the South Central Conference for refusing to let ongoing corruption in the conference to continue. They have far more stamina and moral courage than do nearly all of the white conferences. My brethren in South Central, you are showing the rest of us how to clean up the church!

We are often told that we need to be “loyal to the church”; but, according to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, our first loyalty is to God, His Word, and His moral principles. Only then can our lives be truly beneficial to the denomination.

## NSL: THE CRUCIAL COMING EVENT

Friends on the West Coast are concerned about a strange new teaching that is being taught by Marvin Moore. Because he is senior editor of *Signs of the Times*, he is in an extremely influential position, not only at Pacific Press and with everything printed in *Signs*, but also in his camp meeting and other lectures.

Moore is teaching that the crucial coming event will be falling meteorites!

Our leading missionary periodical, *Signs of the Times*, has for years been strangely silent about certain historic Adventist beliefs. Among these is its refusal to say anything negative about the Catholic Church, either in past history or today.

You may recall that, until the 1950s, *Signs* was our only missionary paper. It was printed weekly on low-cost newsprint and distributed in the millions by our people. I recall many sessions, in the late 1940s, at our local church, where we would hand address copies of *Signs* and mail them to people all over the city we lived in.

Then, in the 1950s, *These Times* (originally called *Our Times*) began being published by Southern Publishing in Nashville, as an expensive glossy monthly mission-

ary periodical. Until the mid-1950s, *Signs* editor Arthur S. Maxwell (1896-1970) clearly presented our truths in the *Signs*. But, because he refused to be hushed up about Rome, the General Conference decreed that henceforth both missionary papers would be monthly and printed on glossy paper. This jacked up the price of the *Signs* immensely. By Vatican II, none of our new denominational publications said anything negative about Rome.

Now Moore is telling us that *it is not the National Sunday Law*, but meteorites, that the world should look forward to as the coming crisis! This is another backward step in soft-peddling the truth about Rome.

You may recall the 1989 *Signs* article which lavishly praised Pope John Paul II as the world leader in promoting peace and stability (*Appreciating the Pope [WM-207]*).

The situation steadily grows worse. The focus of attention is being turned from the Sunday Law crisis to the blowing of a trumpet, which Moore says will produce one or more desolating meteorites, while another writer says the great coming event will be a massive earthquake.

Scan through the *Spirit of Prophecy Index, Vol. 3, pp. 2864-2865*, and see what Ellen White said about trumpets! Not one word about the trumpet of Revelation.

David Koresh also captured people’s minds with his almost exclusive focus on the Seals and Trumpets of that book.