



April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Remember*

# DAVID KORESH?

**W**hat do you make of this? Recently at prayer meeting I felt impressed to share something that happened to me over 20 years ago. I'd been preaching in New York and was approached after the sermon by someone who said he appreciated the message, but that it hadn't gone far enough. He went on to identify himself as a "Gileadite." Never having heard that term before, I pressed him, only to find out that it refers to one of the branches of the Davidians (commonly referred to as the Shepherd Rod organi-

zation). This nut-case went on to tell me he was an angel and fully expected to participate in the slaughter of Seventh-day Adventist pastors, which he believes is predicted in Ezekiel 9.

I still don't know why I broached the subject during prayer meeting, but went on to explain that night that ever since that encounter in Manhattan, I've fully expected the day would come when there would be **a mass slaughter of Seventh-day Adventist pastors** – *and that it would be carried out by members of this organization!* Little did I realize that one of the Davidians, a

sister who sings on our choir, was sitting in the room listening to every word I said. I know this now only because a few weeks later she identified herself to one of our elders as a Davidian, telling him that if God called her to participate in the slaughter, she would.

Do you begin to see the dark, sinister forces at work within the Seventh-day Adventist Church? We're told in *The Great Controversy* that as we see the storm clouds gathering, we should do everything in our power to make the Church of God smell like a rose. To make her point, Sister White uses the

example of Jacob approaching what he anticipates to be an enraged Esau. “His only hope was in the mercy of God; his only defense must be prayer. Yet he leaves nothing undone on his own part to atone for the wrong to his brother and to avert the threatened danger. **So should the followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens liberty of conscience.**” *The Great Controversy*, page 616.

Did you catch that? As we see the storm clouds gathering, we’re expected to do everything in our power to put God’s Church in a proper light before the people. Satan, on the other hand, intends making the name “Seventh-day Adventist” stink. One of the agencies he’s going to use (I’m convinced of this) is the Shepherd Rod organization. Should the day come when these fanatics unleash their terror in the churches, it will then be oh so easy for Satan to: (i) resurrect the cult stigma that had tarnished the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than a century and (ii) paste it anew all over us. “These are the kind of lunatics bred by the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” he will have his minions in the press declare. In the confusion and brouhaha following such a catastrophe, it won’t be hard for him to tarnish not just the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but **Ellen G. White** herself – whom the Davidians are now implicating in their twisted theology.

How do I know this? Because of something I was told on Tuesday night at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Religious Liberty Dinner in Washington, D.C. I’d never been to one of these dinners before (never even knew of their existence) but four weeks ago was made aware of the one scheduled for the night of April 13<sup>th</sup>. On an impulse I’d asked a friend if he could get me two tickets. He complied. Honorees included the Honorable **J. Randy Forbes**, United States Congressman (R-VA-4<sup>TH</sup>), Honorable Representative **Dave Hunt**, Speaker for the

Oregon House of Representatives, District 40, and **Dr. Samuel Ericsson**, President & CEO of Advocates International. It was a fabulous evening, with each speaker’s faith on open display, each having contributed in some way to the cause of religious liberty. That which resonated most with me, however, was the remark about the Davidians that had come from the lips of **Lincoln Steed**, Editor of Liberty Magazine.

I’d arrived at the Capital Hilton 3 hours early and spent my time outside the Presidential Ballroom watching maintenance crews doing their thing. After an hour or so, guess who showed up? **Melissa Reid**, daughter of **Dr. G. Edward Reid**, and her crew. Evidently she was the Liberty Rep. with the responsibility of making sure everything came off smoothly – all name tags correctly laid out, video crew in place, etc. Then came **Elder Steed**, who with an associate set about unpacking and then erecting their display unit outside the ballroom. Once done, he seemed to have had some time to spare and spent some of it introducing me to a few of his colleagues as the man who’d published *The (New, Illustrated) Great Controversy*. One of those to whom he introduced me was the Church’s liaison to Congress, Elder **Barry Bussey**. It was during this time that the subject of the Davidians came up.

Elder Steed told us he’d received a most interesting e-mail that morning from a purported Davidian. Two things

startled him. First was the note of **immediacy** with which the author wrote of the coming slaughter of Seventh-day Adventist pastors. Next, this Davidian erroneously claimed Sister White agreed with their interpretation of the event. I knew this claim to be false, having refuted it decades earlier with *Great Controversy* pages 655 and 656. When Elder Bussey left, his place was taken by another of Elder Steed’s colleagues (whose name I do not remember) who continued the dialogue. In the end I urged these men not to take these threats lightly and stressed what I saw as their *duty* to warn the World Church about these lunatics.

In my opinion, communiqués from the World Church ought to be sent to every Division, Union, Conference and Seventh-day Adventist Church on the face of the earth – *immediately!* In it our people ought to be told what these Davidians believe. Next, from the pulpit to the Sabbath School Quarterly, the truth about Ezekiel 9 ought to be taught in our churches with a sense of urgency. And finally, the Davidians, wherever they can be identified, ought to be expelled from God’s Church forthwith. How can we possibly retain members whom we know to be Davidians, while such murderous thoughts are harbored in their breasts? To be planning to kill Seventh-day Adventist pastors and at the same time singing on the church choir – that’s madness!

In the end I was convinced a Divine hand had prodded me to open my mouth at prayer meeting that night ... and then led me to that dinner to participate in the conversation just mentioned. What will Elder Steed and the leaders do? I’m not sure. I don’t believe they’re going to leave the conversation where it ended, but was quite startled to hear one of them say that doing anything might simply exacerbate the problem. That’s a chance I believe the Church has to take. The consequences of doing nothing, in my opinion, could make Waco look like a picnic.



**ELDER BARRY BUSSEY**

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• DAVID MOULD