

The Mustard Seed Advent

Grammar School Understanding

28-Apr-09

Dear M _____,

Along with your much appreciated expression of joy over the work, you also expressed a zeal to help with the editing. This gives me an opportunity to interrupt my normal, writing schedule and to address an issue which heretofore, I have not been able to reveal. You wrote the following:

“I’ve had something on my mind for quite some time that I would like to share with you and Vinnette. While I read/study through your literature, I can’t help but pick up on certain and ongoing grammatical inconsistencies. Proofreading is something that I was trained to do many years ago. I usually got very good grades in English all through grammar school and college. In 1990, I got a job as a bank secretary in VA. One of my tasks was to type up cash management proposals (up to 25 pages per proposal) for a couple of sales reps in our office. Those proposals had to be perfect in every way if they were going to make a good impression on a potential buyer. I spent hours combing over words, sentences, and paragraphs looking for mistakes.” —Saturday, April 25, 2009 11:38 PM

Thank you for your words of appreciation and your keen perception of the Comforter’s work expressed in the body of your letter but not fully quoted above. Thank you also for identifying one of the short comings of the Mustard Seed’s work. I am impressed with your experience and hope to one day fully employ it. I say this as I try to say everything: with full sincerity and without any “jive”.

You mentioned “grammatical inconsistencies” that you have detected in the work —such is really putting it nicely. I smile to myself as I feel the care to which you seem to take so as to be polite. If my sense is true in this regard, you must know that such politeness is appreciated, but —because of the “child conversion” requisite to my work— it is not necessary. Nevertheless, I thank you for your consideration. I know that there are some grammatical errors which require correction, but they must also be put into perspective. When the day comes that the MSC has an office and can better coordinate a staff, believe me, your skills in this area will be sought. But even then, you will notice that not all errors, as some may correctly or incorrectly define them, will be eliminated. For now, we must not ask Father for blessings that He has yet to bestow without first fully appreciating the vastness of what has been given. To illustrate perspective in an abstract way, I remember, as you also may, that to withdraw lunch money from a bank 30 years ago required that one exhaust almost their entire break standing in line for a teller. You were left unsatisfied, stomach growling, as you were cheated from your lunch. Today, people without this grueling experience become frustrated if another patron, first in line, causes them to stand another minute at the ATM. With the MSC, we can buy our proverbial lunch and eat it too. More to our point, when we begin to consider the large volume of doctrine coupled with the precise degree of theological correctness —a thing unknown beforehand in world history— that is now fed to us on a weekly basis by the Lord’s Mustard Seed we will not feel any hunger pangs, we “shall not want”. We will see more fully our blessing: that we comprehend the things which the prophets of yesteryear desired to understand and could not. Then as we shout for joy, the few spelling errors that our sharpened minds are made to detect will become an even smaller burden upon our minds. From your letter, I sense that you are already growing in this direction. To encourage you further, I must speak more to the issue of perspective: “Grammatical inconsistencies” should not be gauged or compared to the authors of the world. These are men

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whose teachings seem to never get crossed examined, who employ a full staff driven by monetary motives, and who do not even successfully answer all the burdens in their fields of expertise. They may produce a book once in a lifetime or even once a year. MJB, the late president of Bashan, compares more to my work. He had a fulltime publishing staff; yet, when reading his work, we were still left puzzled, if not starved, for clear doctrinal answers, and we had to wait for that meager, spiritual portion, “lunch” one or two times a year. Today, the MSC writes multifold more doctrine, delivers it with accelerated speed and resoundingly educates and answers all doctrinal questions of the day—even those about grammar. In fact, the MSC answers questions of which people oftentimes have never even thought. Beforehand, such a vast blessing of light has never been done. Therefore, as we count spelling errors, we should keep them in perspective and gauge them against all the benefits.

As it stands now, Vinnette, me, and John Anderson (also a highly trained editor in Davidian circles) now perform the task of editing. The work to which you refer containing errors was released before we finished our editing work. I suspect this because, I am often given editing corrections to make. In rereading *Journey through the Murky Bogs*, I have just made several editing corrections. Many of them relate to style more than standard grammar and would probably be unnoticed by you. For just one example, I changed “Mic 4” to read “*Mic four*”, a correction which few, if any, experts would enforce, but that correction does relate to your concern of “consistency”. Therefore, before any can help me in editing, they must learn all the technical dimensions of my style in writing. This speaks to the need to understand something which is often unnoticed: With the skills that the Lord has graced me, by the time you read the work, its errors—in comparison to the volume of the publication, the immense dimension of the written work, and the multi-dimensional requisite of editing—have been reduced to perhaps a small morsel of what they would normally be. This fact can be readily seen and validated merely by comparing it, the MSA’s E-mails, with other E-mails that you read on the forum. More of this will be said below.

I know the focus of many: they think as you too may think, that perfection is now required and should be manifest by correcting all grammar and spelling errors. This is indeed the day of perfection, but it must be scripturally defined (edited) for us. Such editions in the thinking of the saints is the central mission of the Mustard Seed for if the saints are not thinking the present truth as God reveals, perfect spelling will not help them. Why refine and define the concept of perfection? We must do so because, it is the Scriptures and not secular authorities which point us to this standard. Therefore, the MSC is pleased to do what none have ever before done and educate the disciples on the perfection—not the misguided notions which may swim in their heads, but—that which Father requires. Someday, the Lord will grace us with even greater literary perfection; however, the perfection that He demands now is full compliance and submission to the Father’s will, that we inherit the ‘mind of Christ’ (*Phil two*, John 8:32). Showing that the disciples do not understand the Lord’s concept of perfection, Christ needed to define it to the *rich young ruler*, He said “...**IF THOU WILL BE PERFECT, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor...and come and follow me**” —Matt 19: 21. Convincing Davidians to achieve this level of perfection is my cross and my burden (Matt 16:24). I need others to come in and do as you have already sought to do: that is, help me to carry this cross. It requires that we edit our concept of perfection: that we, as rich young rulers or men/women with great doctrinal wealth, begin to sell all of our Adventist and Davidian Adventist doctrines and deliver the proceed, the wealth which will ensue from the sell, to the poor. In other words, all triumphant Laodiceans need to desist from their condemned efforts to parade their great light, their wealth before their Luke-warm Laodicea brethren, men who themselves are—by comparison to Israel, the children of the captivity (*Ezek three*)—not the true poor, and to instead redirect their light to “the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind” (Luke 14:21). This is what the Lord meant when He said “sell that thou hast, and give to the poor”. Then, added to His definition of perfection,

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He said that we should follow Him. When this is accomplished, such “wise virgins” will be regarded as perfect —sinless before the Father in the Atonement— men/women at one with God. This is the effect that occurs when we embrace, teach, and heed the *Testimony of Jesus*. We will be credited as men/women who follow Christ. Again, giving to the brethren this real formula for wealth and perfection is my biggest editing challenge. If they study the literature carefully, as I know that you have done, they can reach this goal of perfection even though they may encounter some spelling errors.

Believe it or not, the English grammar and punctuation; the use of commas, semi colons, dashes, hyphens, periods has become a matter of style as well as a matter of technical standard. The Lord has prepared me to comply with the technical standards, but for the issue of style, it is to paint with words the precise meaning which the author is conveying. Since the MSC must open to the disciples new meaning from familiar text —alluring them to sell their wealth in exchange for the Lord’s currency— then it is guaranteed to go against the grain of human thought. It must do so with words, grammar, punctuation, and formatting touch. Such is what I mean by style. In this regard, none can truly edit this dimension of the work except me, and I spend much grueling time and effort seeking to fulfill this duty. I joy in this personal gift which the Lord has given me because I hear that my words are not confusing. Sure, many choose to resist my message; such is a matter of their personal faith in Christ, their willingness/unwillingness to sell their wealth. But all who resist are at least able to precisely define the points which they refuse to “buy”. It has been made clear to them. The three years of the MSA on the forum illustrates my point: Then, few people if any have ever appealed to me for a better expression of meaning. I feel blessed of heaven to summarize my work with the forum these past three years as being a dialog contending over my message and not over its clarity. To illustrate, everybody who has read the work knows that I teach that Jesus did not pre-exist; that He was conceived of the Father; That Christ was the Dove which rested upon Him; that the 144,000 will not come from the SDA church; that Christ will re-articulate His testimony through a singular servant in the last day; that Derek West is that faithful steward; that the other disciples are to promote him to be their minister as the original disciples likewise did with Jesus; that the kingdom begins, not with real estate, but with people beginning with the Mustard Seed; that the Mustard Seed is the least of all seeds; that the custom of vegetarianism no longer has efficacy for the saints, etc. This clarity of message delivery has, heretofore been an under-articulated and perhaps an under-appreciated miracle. Remember, before He gives us more we must fully appreciate what He has already given. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to communicate this grace endowed to us by Father —after all, our duty as *Three Angel Messengers* is to ‘fear God and give Him the glory’ (*Rev 14*). To put this under-appreciated gift into proper perspective, many people who have written books; have, at the cost of big money, hired professional firms to edit and publish them; and then, with all that investment, have failed to communicate clear meaning. I refer to my own experience of 30 years ago and my children’s recent experiences with colleges and universities to underscore this point. They sell text books, at enormous, three-digit prices, and still many of their ardent and devoted students, people who were beforehand celebrated scholars in high school will —after their long hours of genuine effort at intense study— receive poor grades. Such could only result because the message of the authors has not been properly expressed even though it was carefully edited. These poor grades and failure happen even after hours of attendance in lecture halls given by PHD-toting professors whose goal it is to cover the very same material. But what is even more ridiculous is that, seemingly every year, the publishers of the same highly edited books, find themselves re-editing them costing students great expense. To the contrary, the MSC’s work is distributed free of charge and, to its the devoted students who apply themselves, it communicates clear meaning and great wisdom.

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The truth be told, there are some basic spelling errors such as “lose” and “loose”, “bare” and “bear”, chose, choose which required editing. There are also erroneous punctuations and capitalization marks as well. Vinnette has been good and John Anderson has been a master in spotting these and correcting them. But you must understand, What you are reading, of recent vintage, is mostly in E-mail production. This perspective seems to get easily lost. I spend days of the Lord’s time preparing those documents for clearness of expression, scriptural accuracy, and application to the issues as well as brevity (believe it or not!—smiles). When I am done, I feel great pressure to release the document so that the one to whom the document is addressing has his/her answer. To forward an E-mail, in the middle of the night perhaps, to an editor, who may not even open it for several days later, would be an abuse of the Lord’s time and a frail, half-hearted approach to delivering His salvation. But I urge you again to compare my E-mail work with the few sentences that you receive over regular E-mail from others on the forum. I do this very thing sometimes to get a full perspective and am often surprised at the difference. Still, duty requires our greatest precision. This precision comes with the further editing that occurs when, after the E-mail is sent, I receive comments from editors and make the appropriate correction. Sometimes, on rare occasions, a edited version is even rebroadcasted. But all who receive E-mails are encouraged to communicate editing corrections. As you do so, please send them to John Anderson since he would be no doubt already working on them. But as you read extensive E-mails, it will help to understand that the MSA’s use of the technology goes beyond the purpose for which the technology was created. It use to be designed for merely scribbling notes similar to cell-phone texting. To give evidence of this, consider that you have a choice for all E-mails: “Basic Text” and “Format Text”. Many send their document in “Basic Text”. To create a more meaningful reply, I put my answer on a new document so that I may format it with greater precision and clarity in “Format Text”. This option is new; I only had it since I purchased *Windows 2007*.

All can rest assured, when the E-mails are compiled and prepared for release as a booklet, I will again re-edit them. If, perchance, the books still contain errors, I can do just as does the text-book editing industry for the universities does: I can make corrections and issue new releases. A new copy of *Murky Bogs* will exemplify this. But, understand, if the multi-million dollar editing industry needs to make continued editions, then there is no shame in it for the Lord’s Mustard Seed, His growing Kingdom, in doing the same.

One final note, I do need art work to match some of the lessons given in my work. This help can be done by anyone willing and able.

Sincerely,

Derek