



# A CALL TO PRAYER

## SABBATH, JULY 8, 2023

“Service for God demands the whole being—heart, mind, soul, and strength. Without reservation, we are to give ourselves to God, that we may bear the image of the heavenly instead of the image of the earthly. There must be a quickening of the sensibilities, that the mind may be fully awake to the work to be done for all classes, high and low, rich and poor, learned and ignorant. We are to reveal the tenderness shown by the great Shepherd as He gathers the lambs in His arms and carefully guards His flock from harm, leading it in safe paths. Christ’s followers are to show His tenderness and sympathy and they must also show His intensity of desire to impart the truths which mean eternal life to the receiver.

“To be good and to do good—this is our part. The heart must be right with God. The affections must be devoted to Him. To the world, to angels, and to men we are to show the blessed results of being in God’s service, of conforming to His will, and bearing His sign, shown by observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. The reverence that we show to this day is the sign that we accept Jehovah as our God.” —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 214.



### INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH REFORM MOVEMENT

General Conference  
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June 28, 2023

To: Ministers, Bible workers and church leaders in general

Re: Invitation to unite in prayer

Dear leaders and brethren throughout the world,

May the peace of the Lord be with you. We greet you with the Word of God in Ephesians 1:3:

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”*

The Lord has blessed His church during this administration with an increase of souls, new territories opened, and projects completed, for the glory of God. The time has come for the World Assembly, a most awaited event and so much more this time after getting past the pandemic. As you know, this assembly will be from July 11 to 30, 2023.

For the glory of God, most of our delegates who require a visa have already obtained it and are making arrangements to arrive at the Carlos Kozel facilities in Peru for the delegates’ sessions. In this assembly, important decisions on doctrinal and administrative matters will be made, and new officers will be elected. Our next appointment will be from August 2 to 5 in the coliseum of Cajamarca, El Coliseo Gran Qhapaq Ñan; it will be a beautiful conference with approximately eight thousand people present.

The motto of this event is: “Prepare to meet Thy God,” where, by the grace of God, more than 200 souls will be baptized. There will also be a special youth program with an excursion to Cusco, Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

With this brief information we want to invite all our brethren around the world to join us in prayer on Sabbath, July 8, 2023. Feel free to unite in fasting as well. We pray that the Lord Jesus may be our chief guest and His Holy Spirit may guide each event to be held.

Thank you in advance for keeping us in your prayers throughout this administrative period; we have felt that your prayers have been powerful as the prayer of Elijah; so it will be today if we join together in crying out to the Lord: “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” James 5:17, 18. May the glory be to God.

May God bless His church throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Tzvetan Petkov  
President of the General Conference

TP:kk

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# HEALTH HABIT UPDATE

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**D**ear prayer partners, This letter is long overdue; but, as you might imagine, this has not been an easy year. In my last letter, I explained that the Health Habit store was just not doing well, and I asked for prayer. I wrote: “I trust God’s will. I trust God’s timing. I trust that His ways are not my own. But I do not have peace that it is God who is trying to close down Health Habit.”

I then asked for one of two specific answers to our prayers. “So please join me in praying this week for either (1) an increase in sales or another way to keep the store financially afloat, or (2) peace in my soul and a closing path that is easy to follow.... I know God knows what is best!”

I am so happy to report that our prayers are being answered! First, let me bring you up to date. Last October, God sent another extremely gifted manager to operate Health Habit. She is a God-fearing Christian who believes in the power of prayer and faith. She has many years of experience in the health food industry and knows a lot about business. On top of that, she has been wonderful to work with! She is more than an employee; she is a friend. She is truly a Godsend!

In January, Nikki was no longer able to work at the store. But in February, God sent another young worker—a diligent Christian girl—to operate the deli. She loves to cook and enjoys her job! Thanks to her, many customers are still enjoying our plant-based food. (We were also blessed to have one of our former employees, Emma, filling in when needed.)

Having all this good help has allowed me to focus on Small Cloud Christian School and healing.

However, our financial situation has not gotten any better. Earlier this year, we made the decision to let the store go at the end of our lease, which is this coming October. I hate to “give up” on anything, but we cannot continue with the store without taking more serious dips in our energy levels and finances.

In all honesty, I cannot tell you why God asked us to buy Health Habit (although I believe He did!). It has hurt not to have it

succeed in the way that we envisioned it. But I do trust that someday we will know!

In the meantime, I am, finally, experiencing a tremendous peace about what God is doing. I am completely at peace with selling or closing the store or whatever combination He has in mind. Although I am a bit sad, I am at peace.

God is also laying a path for our feet. We are not being rushed or “forced.” We are being led. Thank you again for your continued prayers as we let God lead.

Still holding on to our Almighty God,  
*Sandy Nelson (and the rest of the Nelsons)*

**“To have faith in the promises of God, to go forward by faith, pressing on without being governed by circumstances, is a lesson hard to learn. Yet it is a positive necessity that every child of God should learn this lesson. The grace of God through Christ is ever to be cherished, for it is given us as the only way of approaching God....**

**“The faith mentioned in God’s Word calls for a life in which faith in Christ is an active, living principle. It is God’s will that faith in Christ shall be made perfect by works; he connects the salvation and eternal life of those who believe, with these works, and through them provides for the light of truth to go to all countries and peoples. This is the fruit of the workings of God’s Spirit....**

**“‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee.’ What does this mean? Christ is our righteousness. He goes before us, and we follow Him, working in love and compassion for the needy and destitute, bringing into the light of present truth many who are now in the darkness of error.”  
—Review and Herald, March 17, 1910.**



Religious Liberty  
Publishing Association

# HAS MOVED

*Larry Watts  
American Union Vice President  
Norman Park, Georgia*

Religious Liberty Publishing Assn. has been relocated from Denver, Colorado, to the new headquarters campus in Norman Park, Georgia. The move and transition began in March.

Owned by the American Union, RLPA has been in existence since 1925. It was first located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, under the operation of the brethren who moved to the United States from Germany after World War I.

In about 1937, Elder Oscar Kramer moved with his family to Sacramento, California, where he received the responsibility of the publishing work. A chapel was constructed with additional rooms and space for publishing activities. At that time,



*View from the hallway entrance; the cutter is in the corner by the back door.*

the, American Union headquarters were located in Denver, Colorado. Sister Barbara Demarest, who became my wife seven years later, began working with Brother Kramer as a volunteer in about 1960 and continued for many years as a part-time employee.

I joined her in that work in 1969, when there was a push to advance the canvassing and publishing efforts. RLPA was moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1971, when Elder



*RLPA is located in the southwest corner of this building—the Administration Building on the Norman College campus. This is seen from the main road passing through the town.*

Marinus Ringelberg was the Union President. A new headquarters facility had been purchased, having a chapel and rooms for offices, a school, and the publishing work.

In 1991, the inventory and operation were moved to Los Angeles, California, just as construction of the facility on East Mississippi Avenue was completed (the north wing had been built to house the printing presses and equipment). However, the decision was made to give up the operation of the print shop and to send the printing equipment to the Canadian Field.

After that, RLPA (printing with a laser printer or using commercial printers) was relocated a number of times to various private locations on the west coast until the American Union Committee decided to return the business back to the Denver facility in 2009

Now RLPA has found a new location with the American Union at Norman College in Norman Park, Georgia, carrying out the decision of the Union delegates.

The attached pictures show the publishing room, which is located on the ground floor in the southwest corner of the Administration Building. It contains work centers, most of the equipment, and storage space for inventory and shipping supplies.

A Kyocera laser printer is operated at present in our home, a half mile from the College. The machine prints in good quality in both black and white and full color,



*Two cabinets on the left contain a variety of publications in Spanish.*



*Two cabinets on the right contain publications in English.*

and collates, being suitable for short-run publications. Most of the items in the RLPA catalog, as well as the *Sabbath School Lessons* and *Readings for the Week of Prayer*, are printed on this printer. The need to invest capital in large printing runs is thus lessened, for RLPA can produce most items on demand, making it unnecessary to keep large inventories. The features of modern computers and equipment make

this type of operation more efficient and cost effective. The aim is to supply the church's needs for instructional materials while offering attractive missionary outreach publications.

The American Union is blessed to have this publishing operation, while by being close to the heart of the work. Despite many struggles and pressures that have been experienced in the publishing work during

its nearly 100 years of existence, RLPA continues to offer the believers spiritual, truth-filled publications.

Orders can be made by sending an email to [info@sda1888.org](mailto:info@sda1888.org), purchasing from the AU online Store at [www.sda1888.org](http://www.sda1888.org), or calling 916-765-3389. God bless all who have benefited from and contributed to the publishing work by purchasing materials for themselves and to share the gospel!



*At left under the windows is the DigiBinder for binding paperback books, and to the right is the folder, primarily for folding pamphlets.*



*Left to right, the shrink wrap machine, scales for postage and other purposes, the GBC binding machine, and the stapler.*



*Shipping boxes are located beneath the mailing counter workspace.*



*The Kyocera laser printer produces publications in both black and white and full color. It collates books, magazines, and other publications. It is currently located in a sun room in the Watts home a half mile from the College. This room also serves as an office where editing, design, correspondence, accounting, and computer work are done.*



*The back entrance allows for pallets and carts to enter and exit the publishing room directly from and to the street.*