



**P.O. Box 1794
Willits, California 95490**

**E-mail: sdreditor@sdrpa.org
Website: www.sdrpa.org
1-877-SDR-PA44
(737-7244)**

March 20, 2013

Dear Seventh Day Remnant Church Council of Indiana (SDRCCI),

Greetings from your fellow Seventh Day Remnant (SDR) brothers and sisters on the board of directors of the Seventh-day Remnant Publishing Association (SDRPA). We praise God that you have organized your home church to represent your members. You are now in a much better position to deal as a united group with issues affecting your home church, its members and its interests.

We are in receipt of your e-mailed letter of February 5, 2013. We thank you for sharing with us the issues that concern you, and for your patience in awaiting our response.

At this time, we would like to briefly address the following four main issues: those that deal with brother Nicholas Patula, Elder Robert Sessler, the SDR name, and the SDR trademark.

Issues Dealing with Brother Nicholas Patula

Brother Nicholas was a member of the SDRPA board for many years. Sadly, due to his actions, he was removed from the board in 2012.

Issues Dealing with Elder Robert Sessler

We realize that no one is exempt from falling into grievous sin, and if the accusations and charges you have raised against Elder Sessler are true, they are indeed serious and he needs to be held accountable. However, the SDRPA is not the SDR church. We do not control any aspect of the SDR church. We are not a secret society and have no authority over the SDR church, over

any of its groups, or over any of its individual members, and neither do we decide any church issues. We are simply a publishing association whose business affairs are governed by a board of directors, which includes deciding what materials are to be published by our press. We are not the proper organization to decide issues between brethren.

When the members of the early Christian church were faced with a divisive issue which threatened to destroy the unity among them, they took the following action to deal with the issue and maintain unity:

"Finally, the members of the church, fearing that a division among them would be the outcome of continued discussion, decided to send Paul and Barnabas, with some responsible men from the church, to Jerusalem to lay the matter before the apostles and elders. There they were to meet delegates from the different churches...Meanwhile all controversy was to cease until a final decision should be given in general council. This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country....

"At Jerusalem the delegates from Antioch met the brethren of the various churches, who had gathered for a general meeting...They then gave a clear outline of the confusion that had resulted...

"The various points involved in the settlement of the main question at issue seemed to present before the council insurmountable difficulties. But the Holy Spirit had, in reality, already settled this question, upon the decision of which seemed to depend the prosperity, if not the very existence, of the Christian church....

"The council which decided this case was composed of apostles and teachers who had been prominent in raising up the Jewish and Gentile Christian churches, with chosen delegates from various places. Elders from Jerusalem and deputies from Antioch were present, and the most influential churches were represented. The council moved in accordance with the dictates of enlightened judgment, and with the dignity of a church established by the divine will." Acts of Apostles, p 190-196.

We believe this same course of action should be pursued in this particular issue. Brother Sessler has never withdrawn himself from God's Seventh-day Remnant church body or movement in either word or writing. He has shown himself to be honest and faithful in his ministry work, and with God's grace and help has been diligently spreading the present truth of the third and fourth angels' message around the world since 1986. Surely brother Sessler deserves the chance to answer these charges for himself before an impartial and unbiased general council of his fellow SDR brothers and sisters from around the world.

We urge you to join with us in sending out the call for representatives from all SDR groups from around the world to meet together to carefully and fully investigate into the issue against brother Sessler. By following gospel order as we are instructed, whatever decision rendered would be made by an impartial, united, worldwide SDR church body, and any claims of prejudice, partiality, vendetta, etc., would be completely removed. This is the only safe and fully righteous course we see to protect our blessed remnant movement from the devil's attempts to splinter it asunder and delay the good work, and be able to maintain the precious love and confidence among us all that God desires to exist in these last days.

Issues Dealing with the Name SDR

To our knowledge, the name SDR was first thought of and used by brother Nelson Criswell in 2002. A group of around 12 members including brother Criswell, brother Sessler, and several other known separated brothers and sisters met together, agreed with using the SDR name, and then decided to form the original Seventh-day Remnant Church Council (SDRCC). At that time it was also decided to publish a magazine called the Seventh-day Remnant Voice.

The SDRCC obtained a Federal ID number in August of 2003 and opened a bank account in order to begin conducting commerce and business with the public. The SDRCC did not register as a corporation and did not obtain a 501(c)3 status. The SDRCC still exists today as a legal organization.

Shortly after forming the SDRCC and deciding to publish the SDR Voice magazine, brother Nicholas Patula was nominated and then voted onto the SDRCC.

In the spring of 2004 the SDRCC met and decided to form a publishing association which was named the Seventh-day Remnant Publishing Association (SDRPA) for the purpose of publishing the Voice magazine and other material for the remnant movement. Brother Nicholas was one of the founding members of the SDRPA and helped set up the constitution and by-laws under which the SDRPA still operates.

The SDRPA then obtained a separate Federal ID number and opened separate bank accounts under the SDRPA name in order to begin conducting commerce and business with the public. The SDRPA also did not register as a corporation and also did not obtain a 501(c)3 status. The first issue of the Voice was published later that year.

In the following years several articles from brother Sessler were published in his Let There Be Light Ministries newsletters showing the necessity of our separated people adopting the name Seventh-day Remnant in order to show themselves fully distinct from SDA's and their apostate church, as well as to facilitate unity among us as one body in Christ. These articles were then subsequently published in the SDR Voice magazine.

Issues Dealing with the Trademark of the Name SDR

Brother Nicholas was not the originator of the name Seventh Day Remnant, nor was he the first to begin using this name SDR.

In 2010, both brother Nicholas and brother Sessler decided to trademark the name Seventh Day Remnant in order to allow God's followers the freedom of using that name without any future legal issues preventing them. Brother Nicholas' daughter Teresa agreed to handle the legal paperwork and the actual filing of the application, since she happened to be working at a legal firm specializing with trademarking issues. Brother Sessler had more than one phone conversation directly with Teresa regarding the trademark and application requirements for the SDR name. The names of both brother Nicholas and brother Sessler were originally on the application, and brother Nicholas and brother Sessler each paid half of the \$325 registration fee.

But before the application was completed and sent in to trademark the SDR name, brother Nicholas contacted brother Sessler asking him if he would be willing to remove his name from the application. Brother Nicholas mentioned that having more than one name on the application would complicate matters by requiring extra documentation, and slow down the

acceptance process. Since brother Nicholas' daughter was handling the filing for free as a favor to her father, brother Sessler agreed to remove his name to prevent problems with the acceptance process. The application was completed, sent in, and the process at the trademark office began.

Brother Nicholas and brother Sessler had conversations regarding transferring ownership of the trademark over to the SDRPA board of directors once the trademark had been granted. This was to ensure that ownership of the SDR name would not be held under any personal name, but would be held by a representative organization. This would prevent restriction of usage by SDR believers due to personal issues. This same discussion occurred during SDRPA board meetings dealing with this trademarking of the SDR name. Brother Nicholas never disagreed with this idea of transferring ownership of the SDR name either in the discussions with brother Sessler or during the SDRPA board meetings.

The idea of using the trademark to legally prevent other people from using the name SDR was discussed during one of the SDRPA board meetings, and brother Nicholas agreed that the trademark would never be used in this way.

These facts show that brother Sessler has as much right to own and freely use the SDR name as brother Nicholas does. The SDRPA board also has the right to own and freely use the SDR name, and brother Criswell has an even greater right to own and freely use the SDR name since he was the first to be impressed about this name identifying God's separated brethren.

Yet it was discovered that on the application itself, brother Nicholas declares himself to be the "Founder" of the name SDR (see <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/documentviewer?caseId=sn85259259&docId=APP20110309110354>). And further brother Nic agreed to the following declaration: "to the best of his/her knowledge and belief no other person, firm, corporation, or association has the right to use the mark in commerce, either in the identical form thereof or in such near resemblance thereto as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods/services of such other person, to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive; and that all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true; and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true" (see declaration at bottom just above brother Nicholas' signature - <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/documentviewer?caseId=sn85259259&docId=APP20110309110354>).

This means that even though brother Nicholas knew that brother Criswell had been using the SDR name for years, also knew that the SDRCC had been publicly operating under that name as a legal organization for years, and also knew that the SDRPA was a publicly operating legal association under that name for years (because he was still a member on the SDRPA board at that time), yet brother Nicholas still willfully declared that he knew of no others who had a legal right to the SDR name except himself.

The trademark application was eventually accepted, and brother Nicholas was awarded sole ownership of the name Seventh Day Remnant. Now brother Nicholas is forbidding the free use of the SDR name to brother Sessler, to this SDRPA board, as well as to others.

The SDRPA desires to work with the SDRCCI as a sister organization in this blessed SDR movement. Therefore, we are making the following requests:

- 1) - We implore both brother Nicholas Patula and the SDRCCI members to follow true Christian and Biblical principles in this issue, and no longer attempt to steal away our legitimate rights and claims to freely use the trademarked Seventh Day Remnant name.

2) - We request brother Nicholas Patula, owner of the trademarked name Seventh Day Remnant, to legally grant the SDRPA the legal right of free and full, unrestricted, usage of the Trademarked Seventh Day Remnant name.

3) - We further request brother Nicholas Patula, owner of the trademarked name Seventh Day Remnant, to legally grant the SDRPA equal co-ownership of this trademarked name Seventh Day Remnant.

In making these legal demands, we do not have any interest in seeking to restrict brother Nicholas or the SDRCCI from freely using the SDR name. Our only object is to protect our legal right of free and full, unrestricted, usage of this SDR name.

We thank you for your time and prayerful kind attention to our response and requests. We now await your reply.

Unanimously Signed:

1. /Rick Markwell/
2. /M. S./
3. /Richard G./
4. /Jean Johnson/
5. /Anonymous/
6. /Robert Sessler/
7. /Virginiajean Markwell/
8. /E. _____/
9. /Gary Cain/



Please see attached
California acknowledgment

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of California

County of Mendocino

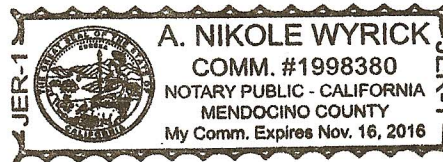
On March 20, 2013 before me, A. Nikole Wyrick, Notary Public,
DATE

personally appeared Virginia Markwell,
NAME(S) OF SIGNER(S)

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he (she) they executed the same in his (her) their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his (her) their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

A. Nikole Wyrick
SIGNATURE OF NOTARY



THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENT DESCRIBED BELOW:

TITLE OR TYPE OF DOCUMENT Statement Letter

NUMBER OF PAGES 5 DATE OF DOCUMENT 3/20/13

SIGNER(S) OTHER THAN NAMED ABOVE none