

Rec Holidays + Yachts # 118
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St. Helena, Calif., July 12, 1925

Portland, Oregon

Dear Brethren:

Someone has sent to me a copy of a four-page program regarding the 4th of July picnic of the Seventh-day Adventist Churches of Portland and vicinity, held in Columbia Park Sunday July 5, 1925.

It is with much surprise and sorrow that I have perused this program.

This celebration, it seems to me, is one step farther away from the old-time simplicity and godliness of the Seventh-day Adventist people, and one step nearer to the world than I have seen before in the people of your great conference.

In Matthew 5:16 we are bidden, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." In Philippians 2:15 we are exhorted to be "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

There are many other kindred scriptures which will occur to your mind in this connection. I have today time only to write very briefly, and I will ask you to picture in your minds the thoughts and feelings of young Sabbath-school students as they look upon their teachers and leaders, some of whom they have seen participate in the grotesque races listed on the second page of your program. The enemy of souls is ever on hand to bring to the minds of the young, thoughts regarding their religious teachers that lead away from seriousness and solemn regard for the truths that those teachers are endeavoring to place upon their minds.

In connection with your study of this matter I request you to read again from the booklet "Recreation" pages 37-48.

Your program was not identical with the programs at Kooranbong and at the St. Helena Sanitarium, regarding which God in His mercy sent us clear messages regarding His disapproval; but your program is so nearly like these programs that we may fear that its result was somewhat similar--results to be regreted and to be avoided.

With the assurance that my only purpose in writing to you regarding this matter is to help you in maintaining that position before the youth, before the church, and before the world that will be the very strongest evidence that you are the followers of Him who gave

His life for us; who lived in all simplicity and sobriety while among men; and who has promised to come quickly to gather His children to Himself that they may be the joyful heirs of His kingdom, I am

Your friend and brother,

W. C. White

WCW:L