

Sept. 8, 1955

Elder John Kiess
491 1/2 Spahn Street
Stand Junction, Colo.

Dear Elder and friend:

It is with a very red face that I undertake to answer your letter of July 26th. I sincerely hope that you will forgive us this once. We promise to be more prompt in the future.

The fact is, we are only just beginning to get caught up with the backlog of literature orders and correspondence. I am still trying to put in a normal eight hour day outside at carpentry, and catch up with the office work in my spare time. What makes it worse right now, is the fact that the temperature has been over 100 for the past 15 days. I have formed the habit of going to work early, around 7 a.m. and working to about 1 or 2 p.m., and laying off during the worst of the heat, and then going back around 4:30 or five, to complete my 8 hours. I call it my "siesta," and catch up with some of the office work during that time. The heat has got me "off my feed," and I can't rest good at night. I'll sure be thankful when it gets cooler.

We are getting things in fairly good shape around the "home-place," here on Prospect Ave., but we will soon have to go back up on North Vine street to finish up around the two houses up there. We will have to build a garage, walks, steps up into the houses, driveways, and re-do all the interiors, as well as repaint all the exteriors.

I will be glad when it is done, in a way, so that I can get back to the office for good, and start creating order out of chaos there. But, these extra earnings have been of great help to wife and I in our circumstances, and so they have been appreciated.

Yes, Elder Ballenger is still fairly active for a man his age. His mind is exceptionally good for one that age. You see, he will be 91 on his next birthday, in November, the 11th I think it is. Of course, he is getting feebler all the time, and it is not to be wondered at that he gets to be a little childish at times. But, for one his age, his mind is very keen.

If you are asking me to substantiate the claims of the booklet, "Before Armageddon," you have come to the wrong place. I don't mean that quite like it sounds. There is a lot of good and truth in the book, but I don't go along with the Ballenger interpretation on everything, by any means. I shall do my best to help you find the references you want, however. We do not have any book known as the "Catholic Encyclopedia," and Elder Ballenger says that there is a copy in the public library. So, I will have to make a trip there to check on that point. I will be glad to do so, and will report

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my findings to you. I don't blame you for being doubly cautious in presenting such material, until you have checked all references very carefully. I have come up short a couple of times that way because I thought some one's veracity and integrity was beyond reproach, and failed to check on their references.

I agree with the Ballengers on one assertion. It was the beast that received the deadly wound, and not the harlot, or the woman riding the beast. So, the fact the Pope was taken into custody by the French Army in 1798, has little or nothing to do with the deadly wound that was received by the beast.

Personally, I do not place too much importance on the study of Armageddon, except to acknowledge that it is the final battle that leads up to the grand entrance of the King of kings, and Lord of Lords. I think the subject of His glorious reign, and the restoration, is far more important.

I do not have any children. There is just the wife and I. However, her teen-age sister is living with us at present. She starts to Junior High School this coming Monday.

We have a little group here in Riverside that we meet with every Sabbath. We meet in the home of Brother Trinidad Padilla in West Riverside. We usually have around a dozen adults, and 7 or 8 children. Brother and Sister Padilla have come to Riverside only recently from Albuquerque. He and family are Spanish speaking people, although we conduct our services in English. Brother Padilla has traveled extensively in old Mexico, visiting all the 7th day Church of God people down there. He reports that there are over a hundred churches in old Mexico, and some very large congregations in the Mexico City area. The work has grown there to the extent that they are no longer on a mission status, but have organized their own district. I plan to go down that way with them some time in the future.

But, I well recall a mission report that was read one Sabbath while I was still an Adventist. It said that the Mexico City area was extremely hard to work because of another Sabbatarian organization that had already been firmly entrenched there for years. They neglected to mention them by name, but I know who they were now. Adventists are extremely cautious not to blow anyone else's horn.

You will hear from me again in a few days, after I have had an opportunity to check with the Catholic Encyclopedia.

Wishing you every blessing as you labor for the Master, I am