

## OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE

### Interview with R. J. Wieland and D. K. Short

I. Background of the interview: This interview has been arranged by the officers of the General Conference as a result of two letters written by R. J. Wieland and D. K. Short to the General Conference Committee under dates of July 11 and 18, 1950. In these letters some very serious charges are leveled against the ministry of the denomination which the General Conference officers feel are of such a serious character that an opportunity should be given for the two brethren making them to elucidate their statements and explain their import. These letters came as a great surprise and a shock to the officers of the General Conference who read them. However, inasmuch as no evidence was given in the letters in support of the charges nor any persons pointed out as guilty of teaching the false theories claimed, it was felt that the brethren should have the privilege of a face to face interview with the brethren appointed to find out what specific cases they have in mind in making their statements which have seemingly been directed against some of their brethren in the ministry stating that they are teaching doctrines which would lead the church into Babylon.

II. Purpose of the interview: The purpose of this interview is only to inquire into the statements made in the letters of July 11 and 18, 1950, signed by Brethren Wieland and Short, and to give them opportunity to present definite, clear-cut evidence in support of especially the following statements made by these brethren in their letters.

1. That some of our ministers are teaching a "refined spiritualism" or "a species of Baal worship" in their ministry today. It is suggested that definite statements made by our ministers containing such heresies be presented.

2. While we recognize that there may be isolated "examples of treachery, immorality, cupidity, fraud, and embezzlement within our ministerial ranks" we are concerned at the sweeping character of this statement, and further we

request proof that this condition is "the fruit of this apostasy."

3. We would request evidence that "modern spiritualism" with "its counterfeit Holy Spirit" is in any way being substituted for the latter rain by any of our ministers; and, further, that "spurious manifestations of miracle working power have been evident among us" and that as a result "our people are tragically confused, as sheep without a shepherd, and await a clarification of this matter."

4. We would ask for proof that the preaching of the "Christ-centered message" by any of our ministers has any connection with, or is in any way drawn from the theories and sophistries of Doctor Kellogg's "Living Temple," or that any such preaching is in any way bringing about a "damnable confusion."

5. We would ask these brethren for evidence that they in any degree represent the voice "of our dear people" who they say would "appeal to the highest committee of authority ... to clarify" these differences between the "true Christ and the anti-Christ, the true Holy Spirit and spiritualism." What mandate do they have from "our dear people" to represent them, or how do they know that our laity are at all concerned in these matters or believe that our ministers are presenting a "species of Baal worship" or "refined spiritualism" in their "Christ-centered message?"

III. Limitations of interview: It is not the primary purpose of this interview to undertake a study of or to inquire into the doctrine of righteousness by faith or the place of the cross in salvation or any related doctrines. These and other doctrines are related no doubt to the question, but we will not attempt to establish any doctrinal truths in this interview. We would not be qualified to undertake such a task. Further, the loyalty of brethren Wieland and Short to this message or its doctrines is not questioned. We have not charged them with teaching false doctrines. The question is entirely one of permitting these brethren to prove from the teaching or sermons of any

of our ministers of the denomination if their charges are substantiated. Then it will be left to the interviewing brethren to report to the officers their findings, and the duty of the officers to follow up the matter as they see fit. The two brethren are not on trial in this interview, the interviewers have no commission to prove any doctrine taught by these brethren to be in error. It is not a question of proving what they have been teaching to be false, but only and solely a question of whether they are right and justified in making the charges they have made against their fellow ministers.

It is the hope of the interviewers that this interview may be under taken in the spirit of love and fellowship. While recognizing the serious character of the charges made we do not impugn any malicious intent on the part of those who have made the charges. We believe that they love this truth and are desirous of seeing it go forward under the guidance of the Spirit of God to its triumph. It is our hope that the interview may, therefore, result in bringing about an understanding where all may work together under the guidance of God's Spirit, each in his own appointed way, to accomplish the great task that lies before us in finishing the work and getting a people ready to meet their Lord. This, we believe, can only be done in the spirit of fellowship and cooperation, recognizing that, while none of us are without fault, the Lord has not chosen us to condemn our brethren but to preach the message which under God's Spirit will be the power of God unto salvation to all who believe.