

January 31, 1960

Elder R. R. Figuhr, President
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Washington 12, D.C.

Dear Elder Figuhr:

Since your letter of January 13th arrived, we have not ceased to pray and ponder our whole experience of the past ten years and all matters pertaining to the manuscript, "1888 Re-examined." The fact that after nearly ten years this whole matter has not died of its own accord is cause for serious reflection. During this period we have done nothing to foster our views or in any way to agitate our understanding of current denominational history. However after all this time the matter is now being given consideration by the most responsible officers of the church--to say nothing of mounting interest in the subject from the field and in some cases by those who have not so much as seen the manuscript. The Adventist conscience is indeed true, the sanctuary will be cleansed, the church will triumph and God's name will be vindicated.

We would submit to you that it is precisely because we do have faith in God and confidence in our brethren that we have refrained from publishing a word of the manuscript and have advocated this stand to those who wished to do otherwise. We deeply regret that would-be-reformers use the manuscript to their own ends--but they use anything which they think will serve their purpose. Such use of the manuscript stems out of a misunderstanding of the high destiny the Seventh-day Adventist church has, and a complete failure to grasp the premise of or end result of the manuscript. To a large degree our own dear brethren have failed on a similar score--or perhaps more correctly have not as yet been willing to face the issues involved.

As we have gone back and read and re-read the correspondence of the past ten years we are constrained to say we have shown every deference to our brethren in leadership. We plan to continue this course. At the same time during this period we have stated and we would repeat that this submission is not because we think ^{our} verdict is correct, but rather because they are the Lord's chosen vessels. Thus we wrote on February 27, 1952, and thus we repeated on January 21, 1959,--we resign the whole matter to the disposition of Providence. We believe most emphatically that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Having therefore placed the matter in the hands of the Supreme Judge of the universe, we deem it untenable and unthinkable to place the matter in other keeping. We are willing to wait on His verdict.

If reasonable sound evidence means anything, surely the past ten years ought to speak clearly. We believe this has been eloquently stated by you,--"If God wants this material circulated, you may be sure that

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no one on earth can impede its circulation." To this we would say a solemn, "Amen," and it should be added--not even the General Conference can impede its circulation if it is God's will otherwise.

With humble respect to you as God's chosen leader of His Remnant Church, we would say it is time to stop halting between two opinions. The brethren have seemed loathe to accept the principles outlined in the manuscript, yet after nearly a decade not one single reason has been given as to what is basically wrong with its premise. If the manuscript is heresy, if it leads to "the path that Satan trod," it should be extremely easy for men of discernment in Israel to set the matter straight, to outline in a clear simple way the error portrayed and permanently settle the question. Obviously this would cancel the need for any statement from its authors.

If on the other hand the manuscript presents facts that are true and in harmony with the Spirit of Prophecy, if it is a correct portrayal of our denominational history, if it points out a course to be pursued such as an increasing number of our ministers, workers, teachers and scholars readily admit,--then is it not time to make such acknowledgment and in humility come before the Lord with sincere repentance and confession of our failings present and past and forthwith to present the matter to God's people as a whole? If this generation fails to come to grips with the problem, we are bound to remain in this old world for a future generation to cast the true verdict. However this need not be. It is now time for the sanctuary to be cleansed--it is now time to obtain the faith, the spiritual discernment and the spotless robes of righteousness that have been patiently offered to us for many years. May God's will be done speedily!

With continued prayers and kind regards, we remain

Sincerely your brethren,

D. K. Short

R. J. Wieland