

26th January, 1961

Pastor R. R. Figuhr
8040 Eastern Ave., N. W.
Washington 12, D.C., U. S. A.

Dear Elder Figuhr:

Thank you for your letter of January 17. We are not at all in sympathy with brother Nagel's methods or approach, and do not wish to be identified with him. We understand that he has quoted from quite a number of our leading men in one way or another from time to time. As far as we are aware, this instance you refer to is the first he has mentioned us.

We would not want the brethren at headquarters to gather from our enclosed letter to him that we do not sympathize with the growing desire of thousands of loyal laity and workers for a genuine revival and reformation that will prepare for the finishing of the work in our time. We must say that we believe that such critical and unbalanced propaganda would lose its appeal and die out of itself if the General Conference led out in a denominational revival and reformation such as the Spirit of Prophecy calls for. It will come eventually; and the longer it is delayed, the more serious will world conditions become.

In your letter you refer to instruction divinely given us, which we assume is found in 5T 203, concerning laying such matters before "brethren of experience." We have pondered this often. Who are these brethren? There are numerous "brethren of experience" who have recognized the historical validity of our manuscript, among them scholars in universities and senior colleges. We recognize that inspired counsel differentiates between brethren of experience and leading brethren who oppose investigation and research.

"Some of our leading brethren have frequently taken their position on the wrong side; and if God would send a message and wait for these older brethren to open the way for its advancement, it would never reach the people. . . . The rebuke of the Lord will rest upon those who would bar the way, that clearer light shall not come to the people." (GW 305, 304).

We trust Him who is the "Lord God of truth" (Ps 31:5) to take care of truth and to bring error to nought. We have waited over a decade for the General Conference to give serious consideration to the subject matter we presented to them. We continue to wait, and we trust the Lord to work out this matter soon so that truth will be vindicated before His church at large, and error thoroughly defeated once for all. A "message [of truth] will go to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out." (p. 304).

We do not want to run the risk of that "rebuke of the Lord" that will rest upon those who dare to condemn truth.

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We do not by any means claim perfection for what we have written. But the fact is that the General Conference have not yet successfully refuted the premise and conclusions of our manuscript. Thousands of our people are coming to realize that there is need of leading the church to an understanding of the closing work of Christ in the Most Holy Apartment, where He is completing the final atonement for His people.

We have read some of the writings and heard some tapes of Robert Brinshaw. He is teaching truth—not in full maturity or perfection; but it is truth, free from fanciful and vain ideas. We understand he took the suggestion of our manuscript, and made a study of the writings of Jones and Waggoner when they had a "precious message" from the Lord for the church. According to GN 301, if a man "is teaching truth, they [in responsible positions] ought to take their stand at his side."

In our last letter we inquired what conclusions the General Conference had reached after their perusal of our "A. S. W." presented in 1958. We would be grateful for word about it.

Thinking you again, and with kind regards, we are

Sincerely yours,

R. J. Wiland
R. J. Wiland

D. A. Short
D. A. Short

Very sincerely yours,
R. J. Wiland