

COPY

21st June, 1961

Elder R. R. Figuhr
General Conference of S. D. A.
Washington 12, D. C., U. S. A.

Dear Elder Figuhr:

We regret the delay in acknowledging your letter of June 8, due to unavoidable circumstances. We have given very serious thought to your letter and to the situation, as best we can understand it. We have endeavoured in the past to state our position; and feel we cannot conscientiously take another position than that expressed in our letters to you of June 14 and September 25, 1959, which we referred to in our recent letter of May 21.

It has seemed to us that we have followed the counsel you have quoted to us. In no way have we agitated or published our manuscript. We have yielded to the condemnation of the General Conference as regards the manuscript even though we are constrained to believe that they have not as yet given a judgment concerning its actual subject matter. It seems to us that this goes even beyond what the statement you quote requires.

Since receiving your letter we have again carefully and prayerfully gone over relevant Spirit of Prophecy instruction in other places. With no desire to contend a point with the highest officer of the church, for contention's sake, and with no desire to minimize the grave implications of what you have quoted to us, may we kindly and in humility request you to note the counsel in Gospel Workers, pages 303 and 304, where it appears to us that a distinction may fairly be recognized between "leading brethren" and "brethren of experience," which latter phrase can possibly include some other brethren of experience besides a small sub-committee of the General Conference.

May we also state, with the deepest respect to brethren whom we fully recognize to be appointed of God to places of authority in the church, that similar counsel in Testimonies to Ministers, pages 70, 76, 105-107, and elsewhere, requires attention in this connection. We readily concede the importance of such counsel as is found on pages 227-229, and much similar counsel elsewhere, to the effect that no message should be proclaimed until it has borne "a careful scrutiny in every jot and tittle." We trust that our brethren in the General Conference will not feel unkindly towards us if we suggest that eleven years of extremely valuable time in the world's crisis era is more than enough for such a serious matter as this manuscript presents to be given such careful attention as to subject matter, and dealt with in a way that will commend itself to the loyal Seventh-day Adventist conscience.

May we also mention again, and we say this also with respect, that it may not be what is written in our manuscript which breaks down confidence in the church or its organization, which you mention; but what can easily have that very effect is for the General Conference to maintain an unsubstantiated condemnation of what loyal and thoughtful Seventh-day Adventists find it impossible to consider as anything but simple, obvious truth. Such a situation can be extremely serious.

We trust that the following statement will be satisfactory to you:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We, the undersigned, authors of the manuscript "1888 Re-examined," wish to

state that the publication of this document or agitation of it is not of our choice or consent. It was never written for publication in the first instance. We have consistently refused permission to anyone to publish it, and have no sympathy whatsoever with its use in any subversive way to break down confidence in the church and its organization which we firmly believe is of God and will triumph.

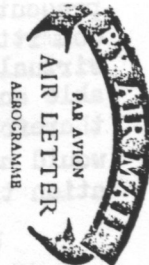
Written as a private document, this manuscript is still under the consideration of the General Conference. In view of this fact, we reaffirm our refusal to anyone to publish or agitate it, pending a forthcoming judgment of the General Conference on its subject matter.

Sincerely yours,

D. K. Short

R. J. Wieland

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Sender's name and address:

← Second fold here →

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.