

COPY

27th July, 1961

Pastor R. R. Figuhr
6940 Eastern Avenue, N. W.
Washington 12, D. C., U. S. A.

Dear Elder Figuhr:

We thank you for your letter of July 12, and appreciate your taking the time to write to us as you did.

Under separate cover we have sent to you our recently completed resume of our manuscript. We wish to appeal to you to provide for this matter being carefully investigated by brethren who will weigh all the points involved with an unprejudiced mind. So often it seems to be human nature for committees and sub-committees to feel an obligation to vindicate the decisions of previous committees, and thus to come short of a really objective evaluation of evidence.

Not only have certain points in this manuscript been neglected, but the majority of the major points of its thesis have been left untouched since we presented it over ten years ago. The 1951 Report of the Defense Literature Committee judged our presentation to be "critical", and concluded that was virtually enough to dispose of it. The 1958 report judged we had been unreasonable and even dishonest in our use of Sister White's writings; it concluded therefore that serious consideration of the subject matter of the manuscript would now be unnecessary. These reports indicate a rather prejudiced consideration thus far.

Would it be possible to place this resume in the hands of a larger group of "brethren of experience" to include scholars who will view the matter objectively, rather than from the viewpoint of very busy and overworked administrators? Men who will not be prejudiced by rumour and hearsay about the authors, but who will consider the thesis on its own merits as historical research. Your letter seems to indicate that you would limit "brothers of experience" in the context of Sister White's statement in Volume 5, who are to pass judgment on doctrinal matters, to leading administrators. With great respect, we would say we understand the counsel in G# 422-25 to indicate that consideration of such matters should be made by men whose minds are not heavily burdened by administration. We would inquire if there could be included a few laymen of scholarly mind in this group. They might bring a fresh viewpoint and make some valuable contribution.

While we deeply appreciate your counsel in your letter, we still must recognize the fact that "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" (G# 303). We would be grateful for your comment on this statement.

older brethren to open the way for its advancement, it would never reach the people" (GM 303). We would be very grateful for your comment on this passage which we cited in our previous letter.

We do not say nor do we know where the convictions expressed in our manuscript would fit into any possible given situation; but we believe that should "some of our leading brethren" take the position that right is wrong, for example that two and two make five, we would feel duty bound not to drop the matter but to "cry aloud" that right is right and two and two make four. We would have to trust the Lord to vindicate a confession of aid and loyalty to truth.

Again, we appreciate your kind letter, and pray the Lord to be very near to you and your counselors in these increasingly difficult times.

Sincerely yours,

K. J. Wieland

L. K. Short