

February 27, 1962
11th February, 1962

The Officers
Southern African Division
Box HQ 100
HIGHLANDS, SALISBURY

Dear Brethren:

It has come to our notice that in recent weeks literature is being sent to Africa by a medical association group in California. Since our names are mentioned in these brochures, we consider it timely to go on record again as to our relationship and attitude toward such groups and toward the denominational organization.

Over the years we have taken the stand that the General Conference is ordained of God, and in Session, is the highest authority on earth. We do not believe there is anything to be gained by criticism of the brethren, or of the organization, as such. We have repeatedly stated these convictions in writing to the General Conference and to the field so far as we were able to do so. In fact, we have made this so clear that some in the field are prone to wonder if we do not go too far in our attitude of loyalty and submission.

Our convictions as expressed in our manuscript have not changed, but have deepened and strengthened in the past twelve years, particularly in the light of further research and current history. One facet of these convictions is the firm belief that the General Conference as such and the loyal-hearted ministry of this movement in general will come to understand the significance of our history in the light of the Laodicean message, and in appropriate humility and deep contrition will clear the way for what the Lord desires to do for His people and for the world itself.

This experience is what we have always referred to as "denominational repentance," recognizing of course that it cannot be expected that all individuals concerned will participate.

As workers and as missionaries we are keenly aware that the hour demands a unity of purpose and endeavour that precludes divisive methods and overt criticism of the leadership of the church through disloyal or disruptive attitudes. In saying this, we confess at the same time that we are at a loss to understand why the denomination has refused to face its history squarely and to come to grips with the current problems growing out of this situation. The last report from the General Conference on our manuscript is, unfortunately, the most untenable of any to date. After twelve years of waiting, it seems that our document has apparently not yet been considered for content and historical truthfulness. Neither have our twenty specific questions recently submitted been given any

Sincerely your brother,

specific answer. We believe that it is precisely this attitude toward current issues which is inflaming certain militant segments of the church.

Notwithstanding this dilemma, we wish to reaffirm our faith in the Lord's leading, and the sure triumph of this denominated movement. If the Division officers wish to make some statement to those receiving this literature in this Division, referred to above, pointing out that although our names are mentioned therein we are not party to the agitation, we will have no objection. We would not, of course, wish to convey any impression that we are unsympathetic to a work of genuine revival and reformation; and we know that you brethren share that conviction of need.

Sincerely yours,

D. K. Short
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R. J. Wieland
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