

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

6840 EASTERN AVENUE, N.W.

TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON 12, D.C.

February 27, 1962

Pastor R. J. Wieland
P. O. Box 1352
Mairobi, Kenya Colony

Pastor D. K. Short
Rosmead Ave., Kenilworth
Cape Province, S.A.

Dear Brethren:

A copy of your letter to the Division Officers has been received and carefully read. While we appreciate your clear declaration of loyalty to the church and rejection of any suggestion of sympathy with splinter groups, we regret certain other statements contained in your letter. You are entitled to your own personal ideas and convictions. But it hardly seems proper to give expression to the sentiments you voice in the following paragraph:

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

Your document and conclusions have been given careful attention by good, reliable and experienced brethren on at least three separate occasions. Let me emphasize that these men are the equal in learning and spiritual comprehension of any among us. Your "light" has been given careful and fair consideration. Now it is time for you to follow the counsel given us by the servant of the Lord. We believe that this counsel applies right here:

"There are a thousand temptations in disguise prepared for those who have the light of truth; and the only safety for any of us is in receiving no new doctrine, no new interpretation of the Scriptures, without first submitting it to brethren of experience. Lay it before them in a humble, teachable spirit, with earnest prayer; and if they see no light in it, yield to their judgment; for 'in the multitude of counselors there is safety.'" --Test., vol. 5, pp. 291-293.

I have written frankly because I believe it is time to do so. But, with it all, be assured of our confidence in you and our sincere wish for the Lord's blessing upon you.

Sincerely your brother,

R. R. F. 177