

December 6, 1964

Dr. L. E. Froom  
6840 Eastern Ave., N. W.  
Washington 12, D. C.

Dear Elder Froom:

This is a delayed reply to your letter of October 29 which came as a result of the private meeting you so kindly arranged with us on Friday afternoon October 23. We wish you to know that we appreciate the time you gave to the interview and the interest you have shown in us. We would add that we are in harmony with your frank approach, for we are certain that any problems facing the church can be solved only by open, frank discussion in Christian love.

Over the years we have had correspondence with the brethren at headquarters. We have repeatedly stated our conviction that this denominated church is the one true remnant church of prophecy, and that no other church or organization will arise with a message superseding the one entrusted us to proclaim to the world. Our conviction stands the same today.

Although the manuscript we presented to the brethren in 1950 has not to this day been considered specifically by men having the time or qualifications to study the content carefully nor to reply to us accordingly, yet we have accepted the counsel not to agitate the matter. We placed the matter in the hands of the Lord some twelve years ago and are content to rest the case with Him.

We are confident that you as a noted history scholar would be among the first to acknowledge the fact that a proposition which challenges traditional thinking is not necessarily false because it is unique, or because its initial influence appears to be divisive. Otherwise, consistency would require that we condemn the work of our own pioneers, William Miller, Wesley, Luther, Huss, Wycliffe, the apostles, and even our Lord Himself who said He came not to bring peace but a sword. The credentials of truth are decisive.

Insofar as we know our own hearts we want to understand and accept any light the Lord has for us. Our whole understanding of the 1888 episode of our history and its aftermath is based entirely on numerous Spirit of Prophecy statements that we are acquainted with. We profess to know nothing more on the matter than has been recorded in the writings of Ellen G. White. The material available to us in 1950 has been augmented over the years, and further published releases from the White Estate have, we feel, confirmed the basic premise of our manuscript. We would be glad to see the E. G. White statements that you have that you feel alter our basic premise. We believe

that we are duty bound to stand by the inspired viewpoint as expressed in Sister White's statements. We further believe that if all her statements in the Vault dealing with the 1888 history were to be compiled and made available to our workers, the present confusion and agitation would be settled once for all.

We have said that the loss sustained at the 1888 General Conference was not the rejection of a "doctrine" which we had before and still have as a part of our statement of beliefs. Rather, the loss was that of an experience, a closer relationship to the Lord Jesus that would have brought about the finishing of His work in that generation had it been received. What was rejected, according to evidence we have seen, was the pleading of the Holy Spirit, and what was spurned was a right relationship to Christ. It seems to us that our denominational history can bring only one appropriate response: the humbling of our hearts in contrition before the Lord. The longer we wait, the more difficult the repentance becomes.

We stand ready to consider any evidence from the messenger of the Lord that would modify the above view which we expressed to the brethren in 1950. We are also ready to consider the opinions of any eye-witnesses or denominational students and leaders, and to give their opinions serious study, provided that we are free to hold to E. G. White testimony as above that of her contemporaries or historians if and where discrepancy occurs.

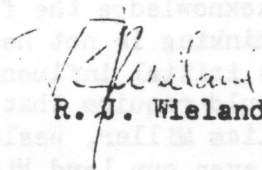
We will be very grateful to you if you will permit us to see such E. G. White testimony as you consider is relevant to the problem.

Thomas Durst has published a portion of a statement we sent him that completely dissociates us from any participation or collusion with him in his advertising or sale of our manuscript.

With kind regards, we are

Sincerely yours,

D. K. Short

  
R. J. Wieland