

Nov. 23, 1965

Elder R. J. Wieland
425 North Imperial
Brawley, California

Dear Brother Wieland:

Talking things over face to face would be much more satisfactory than writing, but that cannot be at the present. You state that you showed my personal letter to you (of April 16), to "several" friends both at Andrews and here at the General Conference. Apparently that is your system--what I write will be passed on, or used as a basis of enquiry, as was the case with Pearl Waggoner Howard. It is unusual, to say the least.

I had most earnestly hoped that with a new start in a new place you would "forget" your past burdens and "press" on unitedly with your brethren in the wonderful, soul-satisfying work of soul winning, instead of re-living and harping upon those speculative ideas against which Mrs. White warns and admonishes. By doing so you would be a lot happier, and so would your brethren. (And I am not referring to myself.)

But, irrespective, don't try to push the responsibility for your plight back on to me, and demand that I prove anything to your satisfaction by presenting certain restricted evidence. I am not the custodian of the E. G. White confidential materials. Ask Arthur White and you will get your answer. It is you yourself who have created your own unenviable situation, in which your brethren neither trust your discernment as revealed in your writings, nor accept your conclusions as sound and true.

By your declarations and attitudes you have cut yourself off from access to certain materials. You will simply have to live with your situation--and re-establish confidence by consistent living and cooperative effort. But you have a long way to go, if your defensive letter to me is a fair sample. You have apparently not changed a bit.

You tell me that you are not, and never have been, a follower or supporter of Brinsmead. You need to put that declaration into print where it will carry weight--where it can be seen by all, and thus clear your name of suspicion. You need to denounce their unauthorized use and sale of "1888 Re-Examined," and call for it to cease. But that you have refused, or at least failed, thus far, to do.

Many think that you must be in secret league with Brinsmeadism, for the simple reason that your "1888 Re-Examined" continues year after year to be prime literature with them, publicized and issuing from four Brinsmead outlets, and regarded by them as furthering their cause. And you have never protested and denounced that procedure in any official or representative Adventist journal, such as the Review, or even the union papers.

Brother Wieland, wherever I go with my Eternal Verities studies workers say that you must be in cahoots with the Brinsmeads, else you would publicly deny their publicity and sales. They say, further, that your materials confuse, unsettle, cause devision, and create distrust of leadership. What am I to say to them? I do not bring up the question. They do. But it always comes up. Shouldn't that very situation cause you to do something drastic to change the situation and stop the circulation?

Tell me truly, do you believe such a widespread reaction is the fruitage of a divine commission given to you?

I have repeatedly appealed to you--thus far seemingly in vain--and sought to warn you of the peril of your course of persistent justification of your views and declared positions. Instead, you only re-affirm a stand that others do not and can not accept, and which they do not feel is supported by the Spirit of Prophecy in its entire witness.

Some have referred to you as a "stubborn Dutchman" a conspicuous example of pitting one's personal judgment against all others--and that despite scores of statements by Ellen G. White about such obstinacy. It is strange that you never accept such admonitions for yourself, but pass them all on to others.

"God has not passed His people by and chosen one solitary man here and another there as the only ones worthy to be entrusted with His truth. He does not give one man new light contrary to the established faith of the body."--Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 291.

"Those who start up to proclaim a message of their own individual responsibility, who, while claiming to be taught and led of God, still make it their special work to tear down that which God has been for years building up, are not doing the will of God."--Testimonies to Ministers, p. 50.

From my contacts with you, I don't believe that you are prepared to actually recognize and admit evidence, or to realize the procedures and the basis of proof. It would almost seem that you would never admit to error of judgment on your part, no matter what was shown you, or by whom. You are always right. All others are wrong.

I had hoped for better things from you by now. I wonder what the future holds for you--if a change of attitude and concept does not come. I tremble for you if you persist in your present way--that you only are right, and all others wrong. Try to get the viewpoint of others, and make a new start. You would then thank some of us for our frankness.

Don't strike a pious pose of superior light and wisdom, or attempt to play the role of a martyr or a persecuted one. That does not impress any one. Your crucial days are surely before you. You do not have to "agitate." The Brinsmeads are doing that for you, irrespective. Deal with them.

Again I appeal to right about face.

Most earnestly,


L. E. Froom

P.S. You say that I have levelled unjustifiable strictures against you for saying that our post-1888 leadership rejected the message of 1888, and that we should repent for what our forefathers did. I respond that it is you who have defamed our post-1888 leadership--men long since dead, who cannot defend themselves, and disprove your charges. I would be less than a man if I were to remain silent in the face of such defamation. It is you, Brother Wieland, who owe an apology to their memories. I do not believe you will be cleared before heaven until you have rectified this grave wrong. I cannot say less.

L.E.F.

Dear Brother / Friend:

It is my privilege to acknowledge your letter of November 23, and to thank you again for writing.

I have read and reread your letter and have often sought for counsel and guidance from him who is the wonderful counselor. He has answered my heart's desire in my afflictions; and I know that I shall be nothing, less than the least of all saints, but truly, I respect you highly for your achievements and your wisdom, and esteem you in the love for your work's sake.

Still I must lay your counsel before the Lord and seek His guidance, for I dare not abdicate my conscience to anyone, much less to you.

Although your various letters have given an impression of severity, I do not in any sense regret it. And thank you particularly for your desire to "keep it" and the right-hand rule; it shall be a kindness to me let me know it, and I shall be an obedient son, and shall not break my head.

I do not wish to retract or to withdraw my position, but I do wish to have the matter explained and clarified over and over again, and yet I have not presented it with sufficient clarity of propriety evidence.

In 1931, when Brother Short and I received the General Conference letter condemning our pamphlet, we noted that the conference had not dealt with the things of the document. We never felt it our duty to agitate the matter, and requested others not to do so. It is not all to the disposition of Providence, a pecking to the Lord to vindicate our truth, regardless of our own fate. I trust the Lord will do as He sees fit and give His way.

The matter is still in His hands today, although I stand ready to retract or to modify any position when evidence is forthcoming that requires it. We are not in any way connected with the "winning" group nor with any others and may have agitated our pamphlet. But they have done it entirely their own responsibility over our express refusal to grant approval or consent for its publication. They consider themselves impelled by the Lord to publish the matter, and we do not at this stage feel competent to judge them. We believe that the Lord, to whom we appealed the unresolved issues, is well able to handle the situation, and that the General Conference will cooperate with Him.

I enclose herewith some quotations from your earlier writing that were to be very pertinent in this present time. I agree very