

May 4, 2004

From: Prof. W. J. Veith
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(I am currently in the USA and will return home in May. I can be contacted at: admin@amazingdiscoveries.org until the 23rd of this month)

To the following Brethren

BRI staff: Director - Dr. Angel M. Rodríguez, Drs. Ekkehardt Mueller, Gerhard Pfandl, George W. Reid,
Euro-Africa Division: President - Ulrich Frikart
Bogenhofen: President - Dr. Winfried Vogel, Dr. Frank Hasel
ThH Friedensau: Rector - Prof. Dr. Udo Worschech, Prof. Dr. Thomas Domanyi,
AD Germany: Stan Sedlbauer

Dear Sirs:

It has come to my attention that there has been an exchange of information between the BRI and certain leading parties in Germany regarding lectures that I have presented in that country, particularly with regard to a lecture on Bible versions. It is not normally my style to answer to criticism, but in view of the events surrounding this issue, I deemed it appropriate to raise some issues which have concerned me for some considerable time.

Firstly, I would like to point out that I deem it inappropriate for any worker in God's vineyard to turn his weapons against the church militant, and I have refrained from doing so throughout my ministry, and I also intend to continue in this way in the future.

You will notice that this letter will also be forwarded to parties directly involved so that it cannot be said that I acted in a closet fashion. I became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1987, and since that time, even while actively employed as a full-time academic at secular universities, I have nevertheless made time to share my newfound faith with as many as possible. I have also served as evangelist for a Seventh-day Adventist Conference, as well as having officially pastored a Seventh-day Adventist Church, and am still actively engaged in official evangelism. I am extremely loyal to the church. I do not follow the path of independent ministries, and have never publicly issued one negative statement regarding our institute or any of its leaders. Nevertheless, I am sad to say, that I have not always obtained the same treatment over the years.

It is a sad reality that our church is deeply divided today, with extreme positions on both the left and the right. I would hereby wish to make it perfectly plain that I do not support either of these camps. My messages are linked to the three angels' messages which are the very reason for the existence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I could supply numerous quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy to substantiate this claim, but I'm sure that the brethren will be aware of them.

A brief history of my German and European encounter in general, might clarify certain issues, but I would like **to keep this information amongst ourselves**, in view of my above stated position regarding the 'dirty linen' of the church. The three angels' messages are a message of separation which currently seem problematic to the brethren in Europe, in view of their flirtation with the ecumenical movement. This can be denied as much as they want; the relevant documentation is readily at hand. Of course, these messages would seem to undermine the very delicate discussions that we as a church have with all the relevant institutes (protestant & other). The message of separation does not imply lack of contact – we have to evangelize Protestant churches as well, and I certainly do not separate myself in the sense that I regard the others as plague struck. I have often been invited by other denominations to preach and present series in their churches. Separation does, however, imply that there cannot be any formal cooperation with regard to agreements of understanding and liaison with Rome. Our position on Rome as the antichrist must be particularly offensive to many, including members of our own ranks. It is therefore not surprising that some of our leaders discourage any discourses on these issues. In fact, one pastor in Germany rushed onto the stage after a public presentation on the remnant church and apologized to the public that I had said that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church. He also wanted to remove all references to the papacy from my presentations.

In another instance, I was informed personally (telephonically) by Prof. Dr. Thomas Domanyi, who was then with the division in Switzerland that I should refrain from referring to the papacy as the antichrist as this was antiquated doctrine. He tried to persuade me to not present such lectures but rather to stick to issues of science. Is this not our duty as Seventh Day Adventists? Does the Spirit of Prophecy (let alone Daniel 7) not clearly state this?

“Called to Expose Man of Sin.--In the very time in which we live the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. **He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin** who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord.” --Testimonies to Ministers, p. 118. (1903) {Ev 233.2}

“We are to give to the people the warnings contained in Revelation. But many workers are engaged in a line of work that is disqualifying them to preach the word and do the very work God has appointed them to do. The truth in regard to the Sabbath of the Lord is to be proclaimed. The seventh-day is to be shown to be the seal of the living God. **People are to be shown what they may expect from the papal power.** The time has

come when the Protestant churches are reaching out to grasp the hand of the power that has made void the law of God. . . . [Here follows lengthy quotations from Revelation 18 and brief comments.] This is the message Satan would have silenced. . . . Shall this message be considered an inferior matter?" {4MR 426.1}

When I questioned Prof. Domanyi with regard to the Spirit of Prophecy, he told me emphatically that the spirit of prophecy references regarding the Papacy did not apply to our age. The same gentleman, I gather, is now teaching at Friedensau, where the Rector Prof. Dr. Udo Worschech, according to a reliable source present at the time, echoed a similar sentiment in a sermon, stating that we cannot allow ourselves to be influenced by someone with 'only three years' of education. It seems appropriate to remind the brethren, that if God should choose to communicate His wishes through even a donkey, let alone someone with three years of education, then willful disobedience could result in a confrontation with the Angel of the Lord.

The message of separation is uncomfortable and my evangelistic series meets with cold opposition from some of these leading brethren, although it is received with tears of gladness by many of the old guard some of whom have been driven to the point of despair. The cold war of opposition has to the credit of the leadership, once resulted in a formal discussion held at Marienhöhe, and on this occasion I was asked to no longer speak on Freemasonry or Secret Societies as it seemed speculative to them and not related to the Biblical exegesis of the book of Revelation. On that occasion I agreed that two of my videos could be withdrawn since some of the data could have been interpreted as speculative. Since then I have replaced these two lectures with fourteen lectures which leave no room for speculation since every source is quoted verbatim. Also the sentiment that secret societies have nothing to do with prophecy is not substantiated when we take into account the numerous quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy which state the opposite. I quote just two for the sake of clarity:

"This terrible picture, drawn by John to show how completely the powers of earth will give themselves over to evil, should show those who have received the truth how dangerous it is to link up with secret societies or to join themselves in any way with those who do not keep God's commandments." {14MR 152.2}

"There are those who question whether it is right for Christians to belong to the Free Masons and other secret societies. Let all such consider the scriptures just quoted. If we are Christians at all, we must be Christians everywhere, and must consider and heed the counsel given to make us Christians according to the standard of God's Word." . . . (Isa. 8:9-13 quoted, {Ev 618.1})

I was informed emphatically at that meeting that I was no longer permitted to state in Germany that we should distance ourselves from the trade unions. How is this possible in the light of the clear directives from the Spirit of Prophecy which states:

"The trade unions and confederacies of the world are a snare. Keep out of them, and away from them, brethren. Have nothing to do with them. Because of these unions and

confederacies, it will soon be very difficult for our institutions to carry on their work in the cities....” {2SM 142.3}

“Those who claim to be the children of God are in no case to bind up with the labor unions that are formed or that shall be formed. This the Lord forbids. Cannot those who study the prophecies see and understand what is before us?”--Letter 201, 1902. {CL 12.1}

Do our opinions stand above divine counsel? In the light of these irreconcilable differences, I am not surprised by the animosity I encounter to my message of separation. At one stage, an official letter of complaint was lodged to the Conference in Germany in which I was blatantly called a liar after presenting a lecture on the Spirit of Prophecy where I had outlined the physical manifestations associated with the visions of Ellen G. White. The complainant had never even heard of the physical manifestations, let alone read about them! Do you think that a letter of apology was forthcoming upon receipt of all the relevant quotes from the relevant Biographical manuscripts? Of course not, but I have come to expect that.

Wherever I go in Europe I have to face a brick wall of opposition in view of prejudice which is created by brethren in high positions. The President of the Euro-Africa Division, Brother Ulrich Frikart is notorious for his communications to affected parties, but what goes around comes around; do these gentlemen believe that I do not hear of the accusations ranging from issues of health to theology? Never once have these gentlemen followed the Biblical path of addressing a communication to me personally. Never once have they had the courage to confront me personally since they know full well that they will have to come with a Bible or Spirit of Prophecy quote to state their case. Do I cherish these differences? Certainly not! I tried to set up a meeting with Brother Frikart when I was in Germany in February of this year, but he avoided me like the plague, first pretending that there was no problem whatsoever and then avoiding the meeting even though we had set a time and a place.

Before I even started the February series in Germany at the official invitation of a Seventh Day Adventist church, the leadership displayed such animosity that even the critics were surprised. They threatened the church members with disfellowshipping and the Rector of Friedensau, Prof. Dr. Udo Worschech sent out a carefully worded (of which I have a copy) letter warning the student body against the lectures. The tone of the letter and the veiled accusations were certainly not becoming for an institute that hails itself as a High School of repute. I have served in professorial positions in secular universities of repute and I cannot recall one incident when anyone would dare to treat a fellow academic with such disdain as was forthcoming from the pen of the rector. The letter stated emphatically that I was not a mainstream Adventist. What a blatant lie. I adhere to every principle of Adventism and recall having made baptismal vows which these people break with impunity. Bear in mind that official documentation on the teachings of Friedensau has been submitted by other parties in the past which outline (with proof) the appalling nature of the corruption of the advent message prevalent at that institute.

The students at the institute showed me their course outline and the prescribed books which clearly indicate the direction and thought of the institute. Willowcreek methods are taught, The Textus receptus is described in their prescribed work as “the worst text of the New Testament”, the Spirit of Prophecy is marginalized and it seems as if their representative at the Faith and Science conference (I do not remember his name and do not know whether he is a staff member or a co-opted representative) does not believe in the Biblical version of the creation account. He greeted me in German at that conference (although I did not know him) with the shouted words: “I eat meat” (as if this had something to do with the conference) followed by a barrage in front of hotel guests of: “You and your stupid Ellen White (or words with similar intent).” Well how primitive can you get? Before the meetings near Friedensau, the students contacted me and requested a meeting with the leadership of Friedensau to which I consented. The school declined, upon which the students directed their request to the Division, which also declined. After the meetings were over, suddenly a meeting in the form of a debate was agreed to, which I declined. I give this information so that you do not again receive a distorted picture of my unwillingness to communicate. Do these people not know what the Spirit of Prophecy says about debates? Is truth these days subject to debate where the loudest wins?

Now with regard to the letter of response from BRI which was formulated by Ekkehardt Mueller. This response was written in answer to a request sent to BRI by the brethren in Germany with reference to my lecture on Bible versions.

Your first point suggests that my lecture might just represent the ramblings of another conspiracy theorist gone wild, after all there are many of them in the world such as the David Ikes with their reptilian philosophy or the many anti Zionist groups that abound. I also find these somewhat amusing at best. Let me assure you that I have none of these biases. In view of my background I have had a somewhat closer brush with occultism than most and I have made it my business to carefully sift error from wild speculation. I have spent 15 years of meticulous study in this field using the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy as my guide. I have studied the original occult documents which govern the secret societies in detail and what I reveal in my lectures is but the tip of the iceberg. Also I do not use common or hearsay sources, but my information is taken from the occult resources themselves (believe me brethren I have them). When, after much soul searching and careful consideration, I started to reveal some of these connections, a great cloud of protest arose. Is it possible that a raw nerve was struck?

The occult world is not run by some fringe group but by an elitist carder, which can be traced to the very heart of Catholicism itself. Freemasonry is but a tool in the hands of higher manipulators to bring about a desired pantheistic fusion of all under the spiritual leadership of the man of sin. One quote will suffice at this stage, more information can be obtained from my lecture on ‘The Secret behind Secret Societies’:

“There is considerable analogy between Masonic and Jesuitic degrees; and the Jesuits also tread down the shoe and bare the knee, because Ignatius Loyola thus presented himself at Rome and asked for the confirmation of the order.”[i] Heckethorn, 1900,

Occult Theocracy, Lady Queenborough, (South Pasadena, California: Emissary Publications, 1980; originally published in 1933) p. 313.

Freemasonry is but a tool to infiltrate every vestige of Protestantism and to destroy its tenets. It is the vehicle to introduce occult principles and to distort the pure principles of the Bible and a faith that is God centered. Many of the so called great preachers of the Protestant world are members of this fraternity and are introducing doctrines which shift the emphasis of worship away from God to man. The Gospel is being socialized and Christ is subtly (and often not so subtly) being robbed of His preeminence. Some quotes from the book *Self-Esteem: The New Reformation* by Dr. Robert Schuller will illustrate this point:

"Classical theology has erred in its insistence that theology be 'God-centered,' not 'man-centered'" (p. 64).

...(1) the church's problem is that it has had a God-centered theology for centuries, when it needs a man-centered one; (2) we're not bad, merely badly informed about how good we are; (3) it would be an insult to the integrity of any human being to call him a sinner; and (4) "Jesus knew His worth; His success fed His self-esteem. He suffered the cross to sanctify His self-esteem and He bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem. The cross will sanctify the ego trip" (p. 115)

At the heart of occultism one will find all the doctrines of Rome which shift the emphasis of salvation from Christ to man, and these doctrines have wormed their way into Protestant theology and are now being blatantly introduced into the new Bible versions themselves. One does not have to be a Greek or Hebrew scholar to find the doctrines of purgation, human immortality and many other Roman doctrines in the new versions, nor does one have to be a theologian to see how the doctrine of the atonement has been undermined in the new versions. In fact the very doctrines of Protestantism and Adventism in particular are being undermined. In the Publisher's Note of the book *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, by B. G. Wilkinson, Leaves of Autumn Books, Inc. it states:

"Currently the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a denomination has been pushing the New International Version (NIV) into our schools, and in all our publications. Versions such as this undermine the fundamental doctrines of the denomination, such as the 2300 day prophecy and in particular the Investigative Judgment. The NIV leans toward the Secret Rapture Theory, by moving the 70th week far in the future."

To assert that only theologians have the capacity to discern these things is academic arrogance of the highest order and in itself reflects Roman Catholic and occult teaching of an elite of initiates that have to decide for the "catechumens or profane" what they are supposed to believe. This notion is so unlike the pure and uplifting method of Christ who would call the humblest of instruments from both the secular and the theological world and use them to represent the very principles of the Most High. Theologians should be on the forefront of Gospel preservation and should be particularly on their guard against academic self exaltation.

Adventism is the very last bastion of Protestantism, called to present the final warnings to a world bent on self destruction. It is therefore to be expected that this organization would be a prime target for infiltration. Let us not be naïve regarding this issue. Let me at the outset make it very clear that I do not make it my business to ascertain who could fall into this category within our church; I leave this to the Lord. Even in the very worst of cases, I will rigorously defend our brethren and give them the benefit of the doubt. Believe me, however, there are some very strange attitudes and winds of doctrine blowing in our church. Why are we introducing Willowcreek methods into our church and teaching them at our colleges? Bill Hybels and Rick Warren both drink at the fountain of Robert Schuller who states of Hybels:

"I was the first person to introduce real church growth to the American Church. ... He [Hybels] became the first guy to take these principles, refine them, maximize them to the ultimate length of their potential. ... I am so proud of him ... I think of him as a son. I think of him as one of the greatest things to happen in Christianity in our time. ... Bill Hybels is doing the best job of anybody I know!" (*G.A. Pritchard, Willow Creek Seekers Services: Evaluating a New Way of Doing Church, Baker: 1996, p.56*)

Our church is in many places formally preaching the social needs philosophy of these individuals as the new mode of evangelism in the place of the Three Angel's Messages. The leaders in Germany and elsewhere are propagating these new Catholic works orientated methods and marginalizing the distinctive truths that make Seventh Day Adventists what they are. Do we not hear Teilhardian Philosophy from within our own ranks? Was not pantheism and panentheism openly propagated at the GC Faith and Science meetings? Did not some of you from BRI openly admit this to me personally at that meeting? Is the principle of a universal flood not under attack from within our own ranks and would this not negate our judgment message and undermine the Sabbath? As one current prominent member from Geoscience admitted to me in a private conversation "this is the Omega". Why are these things happening in our church? Could it be that there is a concerted effort to change our direction? Why have prominent leaders used flattery to try and steer me away from 'exposing the wickedness of the man of sin'? When flattery does not work, why not use ridicule – do you for example really believe that I would not be able to discern between ancient vernacular usage and modern, as the BRI response document suggests? Why is it that I was told in Germany by some parties that the things I say are true, but should not be presented to the "common people" as they would "not understand and make a wrong application"? Let me remind you once again that this is arrogance of the highest order. The so-called common people often have more common sense than many an academic and besides also include many an academic with more education than most theologians. Why is it that a high conference official in Germany suggests Prof. Hans Kung (a Roman Catholic ecumenical theologian) as suggested reading for Adventists? Have we drunk so deeply from that fountain or are some of us part of that fountain?

With regard to the above, I was somewhat surprised to find echoes of this new tolerance towards Rome in the BRI response. You state in your response document that: "the early

Catholic Church cannot be compared with the Roman Catholic Church of the 19th and 20th century”. Is this a reflection of thought within the BRI or was it a slip of the pen? Do you know that we have counsel on this matter? Allow me to quote:

“The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but **she is unchanged**. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High. {GC 571.1}

“The papacy is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4. It is a part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent. "Faith ought not to be kept with heretics, nor persons suspected of heresy" (Lenfant, volume 1, page 516), she declares. Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowledged as a part of the church of Christ?" {GC 571.2}

“Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power. Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God's creation, and then it is that God will do His "strange work" in the earth".--7BC 910 (1886). {LDE 130.1}

“How the Roman church can clear herself from the charge of idolatry we cannot see. . . And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism, for **Rome never changes**. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism".--RH June 1, 1886. {LDE 130.2}

“The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony".--7BC 975 (1891). {LDE 130.3}

The BRI bases its response to my lecture on the Bible changes on transcribed notes made of an audio tape which cannot possibly differentiate between quotes and statements made by myself (a copy of the lectures in English (which is more detailed) can be obtained from AD, Canada). Is it not interesting that the loudest protests always come from those who never attend the lectures, but then have the most to say about them? It is suggested that I am using second rate popular literature as my sources and then these are somewhat derogatively referred to. Let it be known that I have read these yes, even mentioned them yes, even taken some quotes from Dr. Otis Fuller yes, but only when he quoted relevant sources. Dr. Riplinger I did not quote at all. What a hearsay response to something one has not seen nor heard first hand. Is this a new form of academic assassination where one writes documents behind people's backs without having the courage to go to them personally? The sources I use quote the proponents themselves where they themselves

say what their affiliation, doctrine and intent was. This does not sit well with those that have either been caught napping and hear it for the first time from stones that cry out or who would for some reason or other wish to conceal the fact that protestant principles are being undermined.

I do not for one moment believe that modern scholarship could not make dramatic improvements to older versions of the Scriptures with regard to vocabulary and grammar. Such changes would, however, not lead to changes in doctrinal content which would so warp the Scriptures that they could now accommodate every apostate doctrine of Rome.

Dear brethren and colleagues, I hope this response will be dealt with in a spirit befitting the solemnity of its intent. Let us not do anything to undermine the pillars that have made us what we are and let the truth of Christ be the only victor.

Your brother and colleague in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Veith', written in a cursive style.

Walter Veith