



## Public Statement

*regarding the action taken by the joint German Unions ( FiD ) on Dec. 4, 2012 in regard to Prof. Dr. Walter Veith's way of evangelizing in Germany*

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From Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, 2012 the annual convention of ASI Germany took place in Langenhagen near Hannover. ASI had invited Dr. Walter Veith as the main speaker. As an evangelist, ordained and employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Walter Veith holds credentials that are valid world-wide. On several days he not only spoke in workshops but in the evening presented subjects in an evangelistic outreach to the public. The topics of the public presentations included Adventist teachings about Jesus Christ and our beliefs. The workshops additionally dealt with tendencies within God's church which, according to the Bible, will manifest themselves during the last days. The convention was perceived as a great blessing by the participants. During the meetings a number of individuals turned out to be new Adventists who had been converted and found their way into the SDA Church through presentations by Walter Veith. ASI as the umbrella association of organizations and individuals active in mission and outreach is happy to see how the evangelistic work of Walter Veith is bearing fruit in the German-speaking world.

On Dec. 4, 2012 the two joint German SDA Unions [Freikirche in Deutschland – FiD] took an action concerning the presentations of Walter Veith in general in which they distanced themselves from his „public appearances“, forbade him “to speak in the name of the SDA Church”, and banned him from giving presentations in the facilities of the Church in Germany. Other official statements by the Church Administration had already been released prior to this decision. Apart from *Amazing Discoveries*, an ASI member, ASI Germany as the organizer of the annual convention is directly affected by the action taken as well.

We, the Board of ASI Germany, therefore make the following statement:

1. ASI Germany is part of the worldwide network of Seventh-day Adventist supporting institutions, lay ministries and businesses. Our motto is: „Sharing Christ in the marketplace“. In other words, to lead people to Jesus Christ is our first and foremost goal.
2. We identify with the mission and message of the worldwide Adventist church. Our goal is to prepare others for the soon coming of Christ and preach the last message of mercy to a perishing world. We find this everlasting gospel summarized in the angels' messages of Revelation 14 and 18. In a special way they have a bearing on the end-time conditions of this world. Part of this message is the warning against the deception of opposing powers hostile to God who will capture the whole world, and the biblical enlightenment about how to escape this deception. To put this message even in the vicinity of conspiracy theories would mean to reject the message of Jesus Christ (e. g. in Mt. 24) and of his prophets, and to deny the identity of our Church.

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3. We support every Adventist who makes this biblical-Adventist message of present truth the subject of his presentations. We are convinced that Walter Veith – precisely because of his particular past and conversion story – has a God-given talent to bring these subjects home to a broad public, to open people’s eyes, and lead them to Christ. Without Walter Veith many would not be members of the Adventist Church today. According to our information he is the most successful soul winner of the Advent message in Germany.
4. As the Board of ASI Germany we distance ourselves from the action taken by the FiD against Walter Veith in regard to the speaking ban imposed and confirmed recently and the reasons given for it. At the same time we want to assure him of our empathy and solidarity as a person, brother and evangelist. We do not share the assessment of the FiD regarding the quality of his presenting of the message. Furthermore we observe with great sadness that the decision makers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Germany fail to confess clearly in public a commitment to the proclamation of the 3-angels-message as the God-ordained mission of the end time church but rather oppose those who have devoted themselves to the preaching of this message.
5. Furthermore we distance ourselves from the manner in which a brother was treated and dealt with. To our regret, biblical principles of how to proceed in the face of differing views have been disregarded. This has caused great consternation among many. The course of action taken by the FiD stands in contrast to the principles contained in the resolution drafted by the SDA Church in Germany on the occasion of the leadership conference in Geseke in 2010. This resolution expresses the intention that the church administration and other parties concerned are to champion „an open dialogue even in case of diverging positions“ by „facing each other with high esteem and mutual respect for the conscience and facilitating an objective and factual discussion“. As the Board of ASI Germany and ordinary church members it is our desire that tolerance, openness, respect, and readiness to engage in dialogue, as propagated in the resolution mentioned above, will be put into practice without respect of individuals or groups of individuals.
6. It is our hope that the church leadership in Germany, in the spirit of Christ and the light of the Geseke resolution they have committed to, will reconsider their approach and action taken in regard to Walter Veith and consider the resulting consequences for the Church in Germany. In the opinion of ASI Germany such a reconsideration could reduce conflicts and polarization in the church and contribute to a peaceful coexistence that we all desire.

Darmstadt, December 21, 2012

The Board of ASI Germany

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