

A.V.O. to T.O. HERMANSON

March 15, 1960

Mr. T. O. Hermanson
General Association of
Davidian Seventh-day Adventists
Mt. Carmel Center
Waco, Texas

Dear Brother Hermanson:

A few days ago I returned from an extended visit in the Inter-American Division. It is truly inspiring to witness what God is doing in Inter-America. Notwithstanding all the persecution and other hindrances that Satan has thrown in the way to retard or destroy the work of God there, this work is sweeping forward from victory to victory. The division is now averaging one thousand baptisms a month.

Inter-America is not the only field that is meeting with very encouraging gains in soul winning. From all around the world cheering reports are coming in. Africa is moving forward with mighty power, and from little Korea, where the work used to be hard and slow, we now receive the good news that a thousand new members are being added every month to our Sabbath schools. We have every reason to thank God for His good hand that has been over His people and work. Our hope for the future is in Him.

While in the Inter-American Division field, I came across copies of your report of the hearing here in Washington last summer, and I understand that you have sent copies of it broadcast, to fields across the seas as well as to all parts of North America. I must confess that this action on your part has surprised me, for, in your Symbolic Code, vol. 14, no. 6, after enumerating on page 7 the seven plagues -- part of which consisted in (1) "the distribution of the vast amount of literature to Seventh-day Adventists," and (3) "the passing out of Rod literature to the Adventist churches" -- you said, on page eight: "Our announcement that the one that is now in progress is the last, may bring you great relief." In view of this announcement, how can you justify your present action in flooding the field with your report?

In glancing through your report this morning, I was sorry to notice some statements that are not true to facts. Allow me to call these to your attention as follows:

FIRST:

In the opening paragraph of your report is this statement:

"In the last few days of this past Spring, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists sent some conference men to Waco, Texas on an unusual mission. Their assigned purpose, they said, was to hold meetings in an endeavor to reclaim the Davidians."

I made no such statement. When, at your request, I met with your Council, I stated that we were aware that you had met with a disappointment, and that if you felt that we could help you in any way, we would be glad to meet you, at any time during the day, in our Waco church, to talk things over. At this Sister Houteff said that all who were at Mt. Carmel would like to hear us, and she graciously invited us to speak in your tabernacle. This we agreed to do.

When the General Conference brethren invited me to go to Waco, they never said a word about holding meetings. I had no plan to hold meetings for the Davidians, either in Waco or at Mt. Carmel. When we went to meet your council we had no plans for holding meetings. The only plan we had was to be available in case you should want to discuss some problem, or problems with us. When you invited us to preach in your tabernacle, we gladly accepted.

SECOND:

On page six of your report, in referring to the proposal for a forum, you say:

"The General Conference representatives communicated by telephone with Elder Figuhr for instructions. He instructed the General Conference brethren not to comply with the request."

This statement is not correct. I did not telephone to Elder Figuhr for instruction regarding this matter.

Here are the facts: On our way back to Waco, after the proposal had been made to us, Brother R. L. Winders and I discussed the proposal, and, before we parted at the hotel, we agreed not to comply with the request, for the simple reasons which we gave you the following evening.

I do not charge you with any intention to misrepresent us, but I do feel that in making the statements you have made, as quoted above, you have been guided by your imaginations rather than by the facts.

From material that has come to my desk, it would seem that you are having your share of trouble with offshoots from our movement. My dear brother, why don't you and your associates acknowledge that the failure of your predictions of a year ago has demonstrated that your message is not of God, and come back into the remnant church? We still love you, and we want you to join hands with us for the finishing of the great work that God has given us to do.

With kind greetings, I am

Sincerely your brother,

A. V. Olson

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