

HWAPP#2573

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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

BRICKET WOOD, ST. ALBANS  
HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

27th July, 1971

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong,  
300, West Green Street,  
Pasadena, Calif. - 91105,  
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

When I heard that you would not be passing through Bricket Wood I felt I ought to write and thank you for your personal and most welcome letter, and bring to your attention two developments which I am sure you would want to be aware of since the matter is now in your hands.

It is very comforting for me to know that you will look into this matter in detail; this is all I had asked for originally. I am also very happy that it is now clear that my paper was concerned with a matter of terminology -- though I am sad that Mr. McNair had not conveyed this rather important point to you.

As to whether I have misunderstood Mr. McNair's saying that God reveals truth from the top down, I hope you are right; but it does seem to me that I have heard such comments frequently, in sermons also. Even recently Mr. Hunting, in a sermon directed at people who write papers on points that are already established, asked quite strongly: "If you are so right, how is it that God revealed it to you and not to His chief servant?"

(Of course I have never claimed that this has been "revealed" to me; I have only said that it is written in plain language in the New Testament and is both clear to read and unambiguous for any native Greek. Thus it is not a matter that involves some "special" revelation. I am sure that Mr. Hunting is particularly concerned with such discussions imposing unnecessarily on your time and thus hindering the primary commission of the Work.)

Mr. Armstrong, your letter gives me encouragement to say that even though the matter is now in your hands the situation over here has been a very difficult one for me. Although -- as both Mr. McNair and Dr. Wainwright have told me -- we are not supposed to be discussing this issue at all, it nevertheless has been pointedly alluded to from the pulpit in Bible Studies and in sermons.

On the Friday after you left, while I was taking the London Bible Study, Mr. Hunting spent a considerable amount of time at Bricket Wood stressing to the congregation that now Ambassador College was beginning to produce men who in their vanity begin to look up the Greek and Hebrew words and arrive at conclusions which are different from those taught by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong for over 30 years. He said that in all his time in the Church he has never found you wrong on any such issue, and that when he is faced with papers claiming to point out errors on such matters it does not take him long to realise that they are totally in error.

As I said, I was taking the London Bible Study at the time; the details were reported to me the next day by people who of course know nothing of what was being discussed, but who nevertheless wondered if I was the object of Mr. Hunting's remarks since they were pointed enough to make one think that he meant me in particular.

I mentioned this to Mr. McNair but he said that he wondered if God hadn't perhaps inspired Mr. Hunting to make such comments.

This would not be so serious for me but for the fact that similar comments had been made before by Mr. Hunting to the Bricket Wood Church and by the fact that Mr. McNair had also mentioned my name in ministerial meetings in my presence saying that "others" have been "put out" of the Church for clinging to "heresies and doctrines of demons."

I would therefore like to request that as long as this matter is in your hands, and as long as I continue to be considered a minister faithful enough to be entrusted with Bible Studies, sermons, etc., all such remarks be deleted in public, at least until a decision has been made by you.

Unfortunately such remarks have over the years -- and especially during the last few months -- tended to undermine our courses in the Biblical languages and to associate them unfairly with imbalance and tunnel vision; the usual comment is that Mr. Armstrong never studied Greek or Hebrew and yet God has used him more than any other person.

While I do not think it is necessary for any man to know either language in order to understand God's truth or to be used by God, I do feel it would be better for the Church and the College if we ministers and lecturers had the wholehearted support of those in higher authority -- especially in public.

As it is now, we have been "chipping away" at the value of such knowledge for so long, sometimes strongly, that one wonders if everybody would not be happier without such courses.

I am sure that it is better for members and students not to know that the ministers are in disagreement with one another -- even on points of terminology; but they are not without perception when pointed and derogatory remarks about Greek are made from the pulpit.

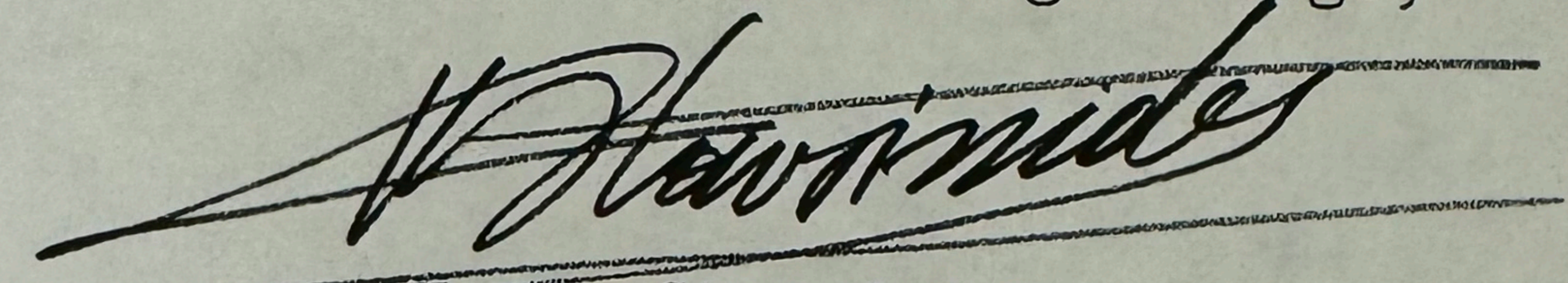
The other point that I feel ought to be brought to your attention is this: On the 9th of July Mr. McNair came to my office and asked if I would organise a social for the Church and the students; at the same time he asked if I would write up the details of my baptism. He explained that up to that time he had never questioned it, but now that this discussion had arisen he was sure that you would want to go into my baptism in order to determine its validity. (I interpret this to mean that if my baptism is at least questionable, my ordination is sure to be also!)

Mr. McNair has known me since 1960 -- in classes, clubs, socials, visiting, sermons, etc. I counselled and baptised many people before and after my ordination, performed weddings and anointed the sick (many of whom were healed on the spot). I do not understand how Mr. McNair is happy for me to continue carrying out all the duties of a minister and, at the same time, entertain doubts about my baptism.

I hope that soon this matter can be cleared up and perhaps some of the other issues that I have raised over the years -- which unfortunately seem to have been permanently shelved.

Thanking you once again most sincerely for your prompt and personal letter,

With heartiest greetings,

  
K. J. Stavrinos.