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Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber comments on the “message” of Chief Apostle Bischoff

Chief Apostle Leber (Photo: NAKI)

Zurich. “For quite some time now I have been considering the idea of making a statement concerning the ‘message’ of Chief Apostle Bischoff.” It is with these words that Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber begins his statement, which can be accessed as of today on the home page of the New Apostolic Church International. On various previous occasions he had publicly announced that he would once again address this subject matter during his time in active ministry as Chief Apostle. A new publication known as “Our Family-Special Edition”, which is published by the Bischoff publishers, will explore this topic in detail at the beginning of June.

» [Statement concerning the Message of Chief Apostle Bischoff](#)

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My years, which means that a sufficient amount of time has passed in order to allow for a sober analysis. This also appears important to me because I sense intensely whenever the subject of the ‘message’ comes up. There are some who advocate that the subject should simply be abandoned, while others call for explanations and clarifications. It is not my intent to cause uneasiness for those who associate personal experiences with the ‘message’, but rather to try to deal with the subject of the ‘message’ in an objective manner. I can see this as a personal duty in view of my kinship with the Bischoff family. The fact that I am only submitting the statement at the end of the year of office is simply due to time constraints. How the Chief Apostle Heiger Schneider has taken over a considerable amount of my work, I can hardly see how there is to be reconciled with the matter.

Now to the actual issue: the statement of Chief Apostle Bischoff that is described as the ‘message’ can be found:

“The Lord will come again during my lifetime.
I am the last, and there is no one after me.”

These two sentences are the core content of the statement announced in the Christmas Day divine service in Geneva in 1952. This divine service is considered to be the actual origin of the proclamation of the ‘message’. Chief Apostle Bischoff attributed the ‘message’ to a divine revelation he had received. He never disclosed exactly when and under what circumstances he had received it. The precise wording of that which was revealed to him is not known either.

To begin with, the ‘message’ is of a very personal character. It is a broad question that Chief Apostle Bischoff raised himself: Is it now time for him to expect the return of Christ only