



Statement concerning allegations of plagiarism on the Internet

On the specific charge:

At present the allegation of plagiarism has been made and is being discussed with reference to the book "The Completion", edited by Chief Apostle Bischoff in 1935.

First of all, it is to be recorded that initially it was the Work Group "History of the NAC" that publicized the closeness of this text to a book by W.R. Caird and J.E.G. Lutz, entitled "The Words of Christ about the Completion of the Ways of God with His Church, the People of Israel and all Mankind and Creation" [English title translated from the German title "Die Vollendung der Wege Gottes mit seiner Kirche, dem Volk Israel und der gesamten Schöpfung" (1976)]. This is also mentioned in the

The use made of the Great
note 18, published by us here
the thesis that "The Testimony

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Zurich. On behalf of Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber, the leader of the New Apostolic Church, the Work Group “History of the NAC” has been looking into some concrete allegations of plagiarism which have been raised against the Church on various internet forums. Their position explains that from today’s perspective, the book entitled “The Completion” does indeed constitute a case of plagiarism.

At the same time, the Church Work Group also makes it clear that they were the first to point out the resemblance between this book and a work published by W.R. Caird and J.E.G. Lutz entitled “Christ’s words on the completion of God’s ways with His church, the people of Israel, and the whole of mankind and the creation” [English title translated from the German] (Augsburg 1879).

The two-page position goes on to say that, from today’s perspective, there is indeed a clear case of plagiarism with respect to the book “The Completion.” It also points out that the then Chief Apostle Johann Gottfried Bischoff was merely the book’s publisher, not its author. On this the Work Group “History of the NAC” states that the thinking behind Chief Apostle Bischoff’s actions would have to be objectively analysed before anyone might take a disparaging view of the matter. In this context they are examining the relevant question as to whether the Chief Apostle felt that works inspired by the Spirit of God in the Lord’s work were the property of the Church rather than that of any particular individual.

Please read the [position of the Work Group “History of the New Apostolic Church”](#).

19 April 2007

On the specific charge:
As present the allegation of plagiarism has been made and is being discussed with reference to the book “The Completion”, edited by Chief Apostle Bischoff in 1925.
First of all, it is to be recalled that initially it was the Work Group “History of the NAC” that published the statement of this text in a book by W.R. Caird and J.E.G. Lutz, entitled “The Words of Christ about the Completion of the Way of God with the Church, the People of Israel and all Mankind and Creation” (English title translated from the German, Augsburg 1879). This was done in the article “The age made of the Church” published in the New Apostolic Church on page 9, Volume 15, published by us here (nac.org). In that article we stated our position regarding the issue that “The Testimony of the Apostles” was a book.
Concerning the book “The Completion” it is to be stated that judged by today’s standards, this is a case of plagiarism. It must be assumed that Chief Apostle Bischoff is not the author, but appears as editor. Accordingly, the problem is written in a neutral tone. Before the procedure is progressed, a verdict is expressed about it in order to ensure background. We consider the following question legitimate: Was the Chief Apostle under the impression that nothing had been inspired by the Spirit of God in the work of the Lord, were not the property of certain individuals, but of the church?