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# GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS  
"GENERAL CONFERENCE"  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CABLE ADDRESS  
"ADVENTIST" WASHINGTON

July 30, 1942

Prof. M. L. Andreasen  
SEMINARY

Dear Brother Andreasen:

Just a line to say that the brethren still want you to write the reply to the Shepherd's Rod, and they believe you are the man who is best qualified to do this work.

The committee has voted today to authorize you to make a trip to the headquarters of the Shepherd's Rod movement in Texas at such time as you are able to arrange for an absence from the Seminary, and spend as much time there as you think is wise. The Seminary will also, no doubt, wish to arrange for you to make some contacts with various large centers while you are out that way.

We believe that your idea of going out and "bearding the lion in his den" is a very excellent one, and we are just glad to cooperate with you in this matter and in any other way that we can in order to make your work an outstanding success.

The brethren are asking the Seminary to release you to join the group that will go to South America this winter to conduct a series of Evangelistic Councils throughout that division. We trust that it will be possible for you to accept this invitation as the brethren there are very anxious for you to come, and we know that you will be able to render them the maximum amount of strong help in their work.

Sincerely your brother,



WHB w



## The Universal Publishing Ass'n.

Publishers of Present Truth Series in the Interest of  
The Seventh-Day Adventist Denomination

TELEPHONE 9958F2

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS

September 15, 1942

Elder M. L. Andreasen  
c/o Theological Seminary  
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Dear Elder Andreason:

This will make grateful acknowledgment of your August 11 letter, forwarded from Waco, Texas.

It is indeed gratifying to know that your desire is to be accurate, when quoting anything purporting to come from The Shepherd's Rod Seventh-day Adventist movement. Your letter is being sent to the author of the Shepherd's Rod publications for attention.

You will be glad to know that one does not have to give up, or even modify, any doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist church, which was established by the Bible and writings of Sister White, in order to believe the message contained in the publications of the Rod. It is true, however, that there is additional light on some of these same doctrines (Early Writings, p. 277), and that the message of the Rod is none other than the "message to the church of the Laodiceans," which the Lord tells us is a "startling denunciation."--Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 252.

May the Lord bless you in your research work, Elder Andreasen, and may the spirit of the noble Bereans possess you as you make an unbiased investigation of the message about which you have requested official data, is my prayer.

Sincerely your brother to walk  
in all the light,

*E. T. Wilson*  
E. T. Wilson JH

ETW:mm



BOOKS, TRACTS  
THE SYMBOLIC CODE

## The Universal Publishing Ass'n.

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The Seventh-Day Adventist Denomination

TELEPHONE 9958F2

September 16, 1942

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS

Elder M. L. Andreasen  
c/o Theological Seminary  
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Dear Elder Andreasen:

Your communication of August 11, addressed to Elder E. T. Wilson, has been referred to me for attention.

Though we should be glad, Elder Andreasen, to accede to your request for a statement of the principle doctrines taught in The Shepherd's Rod, yet at present we are so extremely busy as to make impossible our favoring you with more than a complete set of our free literature. It, however, will afford you with the information which you desire, and at the same time will give you a much broader perspective on what the Rod teaches.

Volumes 1 and 2 will cost you \$1.75. If you wish to procure a copy of each, just let us know, and we shall be glad to fill your order.

Our earnest prayer is that your labors may be such that He in Whose hands are the issues of life, may be able to guide and richly bless you.

Sincerely yours for  
the wisdom of Gamal-  
iel (Acts 5:35-39),

*W. T. Houteff*  
W. T. Houteff

VTH:mmm

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN M.L. ANDREASEN AND V.T. HOUTEFF  
December 15, 1942

M.L. Andreasen called at about one o'clock to see Mr. Houteff to ask certain questions concerning the belief of the Shepherd's Rod people. The interview lasted about three hours, for the most part of which Elder F.D. Wells, President of the Texas Conference, also was present.

M.L. Andreasen: My name is M.L. Andreasen, from Washington, D.C., a teacher in the Theological Seminary. I asked the privilege of the General Conference Committee to visit with you to ask certain questions concerning your work. If I should ask questions you do not wish to answer, be perfectly free not to do so.

V.T. Houteff: We have nothing secret here of any kind. You may ask any questions you please, and I shall do the best I can to answer them.

M.L. Andreasen: You have written two volumes called, I believe, "The Shepherd's Rod." These were written some years ago. It often happens that a man modifies or changes his view, and may wish he had not written what he has. I want to know if your views are still those published in these volumes, or if you have changed your position since they were written?

V.T. Houteff: I do not work that way. My views now are what they were then. There may indeed be certain modifications, or perhaps additions; for we are constantly receiving greater light; but there is no change in the doctrines. The two volumes to which you refer are our belief at the present time.

M.L. Andreasen: Do you claim that these books were written under inspiration?

V.T. Houteff: I believe I had definite guidance in writing them. The words are not inspired, but the ideas are.

M.L. Andreasen: Do you claim to be a prophet or a messenger, or to have any definite revelations?

V.T. Houteff: I make no claim to be either a prophet or a messenger.

M.L. Andreasen: There are those who claim and consider you a prophet?

V.T. Houteff: I am not responsible for what others call me. I like to be called just Brother Houteff.

M.L. Andreasen: Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?

V.T. Houteff: Yes, I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I believe the truth the same as you do, both the Bible and the Testimonies.

M.L. Andreasen: What points, if any, are there in which you differ from the Adventist Denominational belief?

V.T. Houteff: There are two points. The question of the Six Seals and the Trumpets. I believe that both of these lines of prophecy take in the whole time from creation to the end of the world, and do not merely cover the New Testament period.

M.L. Andreasen: How about your position in regard to the setting up of the kingdom before the Lord comes?

V.T. Houteff: In this matter we also differ somewhat from the denominational belief. We believe that the kingdom of the Lord is set up here on the earth before He comes. The Shepherd's Rod people have been raised up to bring a message to the church that will cause a separation of the wheat and the chaff in the church. As a result of this work the hundred and forty-four thousand will be developed. These hundred and forty-four thousand are the first fruits. The second fruits are those who are converted after the hundred and forty-four thousand come out and finish the work in the loud cry.

M.L. Andreasen: You say you are a Seventh-day Adventist. Are you a member of the church?

V.T. Houteff: I am not a member of the church. I was put out.

M.L. Andreasen: You believe in tithe paying. Do the Shepherd's Rod people pay tithe to their own organization?

V.T. Houteff: Yes, they pay tithe.

M.L. Andreasen: Are your books open for inspection?

V.T. Houteff: They are. We have no secrets here.

M.L. Andreasen: If I asked for a financial statement could I get one?

V.T. Houteff: You could. I shall see to it that you get one.

M.L. Andreasen: Are you doing any missionary work in foreign lands?

V.T. Houteff: We have men there, but they are not paid missionaries.

M.L. Andreasen: Are the ministers you have in this country paid from the tithe?

V.T. Houteff: Yes, but they do not receive the wages your ministers do.

M.L. Andreasen: You have quite a few families living here on Mt. Carmel. Are they paid for the labor they perform?

V.T. Houteff: Yes, we pay the adult laborers from 14 to 17 cents per hour.

M.L. Andreasen: Is this paid in United States money?

V.T. Houteff: We have our own money which we call "trade" money, and which can be used only in buying from our store here. Should any desire to buy things down town, they may be allowed United States currency for that purpose. Not much of this is done, however.

M.L. Andreasen: Do the workers generally make enough to support themselves and their families?

V.T. Houteff: That depends on how much they work. This can generally be done.

M.L. Andreasen: Do the children work also?

V.T. Houteff: They do.

M.L. Andreasen: I have noted in one of your booklets a picture of Zechariah's vision of the two olive trees. In that vision there are two pipes running from the trees to the reservoir. I understand you claim that one of these pipes is Mrs. White and that you are the other. Is this true?

V.T. Houteff: It is not true. I make no such claim. There are not only two pipes, but five more, seven in all. If the two pipes of which you speak are prophets, so must the others be. The idea is absurd.

M.L. Andreasen: I notice that in one of your illustrations you have the beast with names of blasphemy upon the head. You have the different denominations mentioned, and among them the Laodicean, or Adventist church. You have also the name of Mrs. White, together with Miller and other reformers, noted on the chart. Do you consider that Wm. Miller and Mrs. White are part of this beast "full of names of blasphemy?"

V.T. Houteff: You will note that these names are outside the drawing proper, and hence are not to be considered as being part of these "names of blasphemy." They were the founders of the First-day Adventist and Seventh-day Adventist churches respectively. These churches belong to the beast, but not the names of the leaders.

M.L. Andreasen: Are there any other points in which you consider yourself at variance with the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist church?

V.T. Houteff: I do not think of any other.

INTERVIEW CONTINUED - December 16.  
(Mr. Wells not being present)

M.L. Andreasen: Are you agreed with the denomination upon the question of the Atonement and Salvation in Christ?

V.T. Houteff: I know of no difference.

M.L. Andreasen: Are you carrying on school work here on the grounds?

V.T. Houteff: We are. We have the ordinary grades, and also an academy.

M.L. Andreasen: Can a student go from your grade school directly into the public high school? And can they go from your academy into a college? That is, is your school state inspected or recognized as a standard school?

Interview M.L. Andreasen and V.T. Houteff - page 4

V.T. Houteff: Our school does standard work, and students may enter from our grade school to the high school, or from our academy to the college.

M.L. Andreasen: Is there any truth in the reports which I have heard that some of the children here have been punished harshly? Is there any truth in the report that girls have been stripped and lashed until the blood flowed and infection set in; and that others were burned until their fingers blistered?

V.T. Houteff: There is no truth whatever in these reports. They are malicious rumors. I shall be glad to call in the children and have them tell you the truth.

12/17/42  
S.R.  
copy of letter to  
H.T. Houtteff when sending him his  
memorandum of their interview

copy of letter to  
H.T. Houtteff when sending him his  
memorandum of their interview

December 17, 1942

Mr. V.T. Houtteff  
Mt. Carmel  
Waco, Texas

Dear Brother:

The accompanying report is, as you will notice, incomplete. Brother Walls asked certain personal questions which I did not include, first because my report concerns only the questions I asked myself, and secondly, you did not feel that anything personal should be brought in. Hence I have omitted any reference to this. I have also omitted the conversation that ensued when Brother Bingham came over, as again I did not originate the subject, nor has it any bearing upon what I was after.

If there is anything in the memorandum that you feel should be stated differently, I wish you would strike out or change such statements so that it conforms with your understanding of the matter. I believe I have caught the general intent of what you said, but if I have not, be free to change. The report was not taken down stenographically, so all we can do is to write down to the best of our recollection. Feel free therefore to make such changes as you think should be made, and if you then feel free to sign it you may do so under my name.

May I be permitted to say that I was very much interested in your proposition to have me stay and meet with your family. You urged this rather strongly, and Brother Bingham did likewise. I should have been glad to do so had not the people been waiting outside for me to take me to the station. I had appointments in Oklahoma City which had been out for months, so I could not wait. Had I known this the day before when I visited you, I might have arranged to meet with you Tuesday night; but I did not know at that time that you desired such a meeting.

However, I am still interested in your proposition. You rather felt that I neglected an excellent opportunity to do a little missionary work if I did not accept your invitation. You stated that these people are Seventh-day Adventists, and as I doubtless felt they would be lost if they continued in the Shepherd's Rod movement, I should do something to help them. You offered to call them together immediately, and I could talk with them, and then you could later, by yourselves, consider what had been said, and weigh the matter.

Do I understand, Brother Houtteff, that you would give me the privilege of coming back and speaking to your people one or more times, as you think best? I should be most happy to do so. If you really think I can be of some help to them to show the error in which they are enmeshed, I would be glad to come back sometime to do this. I would not come back for a discussion or a debate. You did not mention



Mr. V.T. Houteff - page 2

this at any time, so I suppose you had in mind giving me the privilege of speaking to the people. I repeat, I shall be glad to do this. You kindly offered to give me room and board. I might not feel free to accept this, but I would be glad to pay for my stay there, or even better yet, I would like to work to pay for my meals. That will give me an opportunity to see just how you live, and to talk with your people separately and alone. I repeat, I am not interested in any debate or discussion, but I am interested in your proposition to come and have some meetings with your people undisturbed and unhindered by you or anyone else. If this is your proposition, let me know, and I shall be glad to arrange my work as soon as possible to come back. If this is not your proposition, please let me know what it is. As stated before, you did not mention any discussion or debate, but invited me to speak to your people. This proposition I accept.

In regard to your statement which I understood you to have made that I was dishonest and had come as a spy, I am willing to accept your statement that you did not believe you said this, but that you put an if in it, that if I had come as a spy I would be dishonest. I would call your attention to the fact that upon my coming I immediately gave you my name and my position, and said that I had come to get certain information, to which you said that you had no secrets. I did not go around your grounds. I entered just the one building and talked with you. I do not think I could have done otherwise. I went about my business honestly and above board, using no camouflage whatever. I told you several times that if I asked embarrassing questions you need not answer them. I did not at all appreciate your statement concerning the spies and dishonesty, but I do accept your apology.

My intention in coming was exactly what I stated: I had read your works, and felt that there were so many statements there which I was sure you no longer believed. I wanted a statement from you that you were still of the same opinion, or else a definite statement that you no longer believed what you then wrote. I shall use my best judgment how I will use your published writings, but in all that I do, I trust I shall have grace from God to be perfectly honest and above board in all things.

Sincerely yours,

M.L. Andersson

MA:jb



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THE SYMBOLIC CODE

## The Universal Publishing Ass'n.

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TELEPHONE 9958F2

January 14, 1943.

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS

Elder M. L. Andreason  
c/o Theological Seminary  
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Dear Elder Andreason:

Your December 17 letter, addressed to Brother V. T. Houteff, has come to me for attention, and it is a pleasure to make reply, though I wish I could have been present at the interview on December 15.

Your letter of August 11, addressed to me, indicates that the "research work," which you were doing, was for the purpose of securing "exact and authoritative information concerning the Shepherd's Rod Movement." You also make it plain that you do not want to misquote us, etc., which is very commendable on your part.

Furthermore, in this same letter to me, you call for two things. First, the points upon which we differ from the denomination, as to doctrine, and second, a statement of additional light not known by the denomination, and now being rejected by them. You are well acquainted with the disposition made of the August 11 letter.

Coming now to your recent interview with Brother Houteff, the major portion of which time Elder F. D. Wells was present, I could see no particular objections to most of the questions, if they are proper to ask all other religious organizations, but there are some very leading ones which I consider entirely irrelevant, and which you would not think of asking other organizations. For instance, about the class of work done in the school, and whether or not students can enter other higher schools directly from ours, the punishment meted out to students, etc., etc., etc.

These latter questions, Elder Andreason, I consider are far beneath the dignity of a man occupying the position you hold, and I am wondering if they really originated in your mind. I relish these irrelevant questions perhaps about as much as you would if our cases were reversed. As a matter of fact, you would know no more after we answered them than you do now, for the simple reason that you would be compelled to give as much credence to the one who put the questions in your mind, as you would to our answers.

Nothing would give me more joy this morning than to believe you were an honest inquirer for truth, and that your interview

Elder M. L. Andreason--Page 2.

was for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not this message was indeed one from the Lord to His people, and that you would also accept it, should you find it to be true. On the other hand, if you have already decided that it is error, and if you are only trying to find some fault with the messenger, or the management here at Mt. Carmel, then I shall be very sad, for all the "research" work you would do here, would be with so much bias that not only your time but ours also would be wasted. My prayerful hope is that the former motive actuated you in your visit here.

Mt. Carmel's doors are open to visitors, and we have many of them during the year; therefore, you will always be welcome, and we shall be glad to have you speak to our large family. And though we are not in a position to entertain you like the Washington Sanitarium, we shall do our best to make you comfortable should you decide to make us a visit. Kindly let us know in advance of your coming, as we are somewhat crowded, but can always find room for one more.

That you may be guided by Him who is wonderful in counsel, and that all your research work may meet His mind, and that you may always follow the good example of Gamaliel of old, is my prayer.

Sincerely your brother to "Let Heaven Guide,"

  
E. T. Wilson

ETW:eg

P.S. Brother Houteff will answer your questions just as soon as he has an opportunity. He has been extremely busy, otherwise he would have replied before this.

*Copy of VT Houtoff. Call of the Laodiceans  
to M. L. Andreasen*

BOOKS, TRACTS  
THE SYMBOLIC CODE

# The Universal Publishing Ass'n.

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The Seventh-Day Adventist Denomination

TELEPHONE 9958F2

January 25, 1943

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS



Elder M. L. Andreasen  
Care of Theological Seminary  
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Dear Elder Andreasen:

Since all our doctrinal positions are stated in our Directory and Beliefs, a copy of which we are mailing to you, I am returning the "Memorandum" which you sent me.

I sincerely desire to believe that you are honest, Elder Andreasen, and I trust and ever shall that you will not allow anything to cheat you out of the great blessing which will result by heeding "the message to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans," though it be a "startling denunciation."

I hope that you may study the message of the hour in the spirit of Nathaniel for it is come in an endeavor to save "the angel" from being spued out, and that you may see that the message alone points the way of escape from Laodiceanism, and that you may accept it for the sake of the souls of all whom you, as an angel of the church, could and should help to awake to their need of everything and be no longer dreaming that they are rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing.

Sincerely yours brother to  
be "an Israelite indeed,"

*V. T. Houtoff*  
V. T. Houtoff

VTH:mm  
Incl.



**The Universal Publishing Ass'n.**

Publishers of Present Truth Series in the Interest of  
The Seventh-Day Adventist Denomination

November 18, 1942

TELEPHONE 9897

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS

Dear Elder Andreasen:

We are happy to fill your book order, and we trust that it will reach you intact. Inclosed is a receipt for the amount you remitted in your letter.

A-LH:19

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"Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love." 2 John 3.

Sincerely yours for continual  
advancement,

THE CORRESPONDENCE DEPT.

mm  
Incl.

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