

Elder Ronald Wisbey, President
Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
5427 Twin Knolls Road
Columbia, MD 21045

February 15, 1993

Dear Elder Wisbey,

I am very thankful for the sound spiritual leadership you have provided the Columbia Union, and proud of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the miraculous accomplishments made throughout our history. We have seen the God of Heaven pour out his blessings on our people in special ways; and I believe it could only be God's blessing that has allowed a relatively small church to accomplish so much in the areas of evangelism, pastoral ministry, education, and medicine. We as Seventh-day Adventists have a most sacred and serious work to do as Christians heralding the soon coming of Jesus Christ and proclaiming to the world the Three Angels Messages. We have always based our beliefs and practices on solid scriptural foundations and should continue to do so.

There is something however, that is bothering many of us. It is causing an ever growing concern among Seventh-day Adventist Church members, and we wanted to come to you believing it to be the proper chain of action. As you may, or may not know, our hospitals are committing an act that is abhorrent to both God and Christians, and when added together with the other agencies performing this act, amounts to an atrocity of apocalyptic magnitude for millions and millions of humans. That heinous act is abortion. I can certainly understand why, when 90% of the abortions performed are for convenience, the world likes to keep this procedure legal. In this age of sexual promiscuity, abortion provides an easy out for people who do not want to assume personal responsibility for their actions. True there are abortions in cases of rape and incest, and yet they are a small percentage of the abortions performed. I would venture to say that most individuals are not opposed to abortions that save the life of the mother, and that is a smaller number yet.

More and more Seventh-day Adventists are discovering that our own hospitals perform this disgraceful procedure, and are saddened, confused, and outraged that we who profess the truth are involved in the abortion business. Recently, I have become aware of how many other churches, Protestant and Catholic, who courageously stand against the killing of unborn children, know full well the extent and involvement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church hospitals in the abortion business. The Seventh-day Adventist Church should not be in the abortion business. Discussing the requirements of God's

law, and particularly the Fourth Commandment, becomes hypocritical when we ourselves kill unborn children. It makes the Word of God of no effect from our lips.

I understand that meetings are going on regarding the issue of abortion, and our Church is formulating a statement concerning this issue. I have heard that the statement would be opposed to abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or the health of the mother. This is currently the law of the land and we can see that it has done nothing to reduce the number of abortions. The phrase "health of the mother" is so general that people now use this to obtain abortions for any reason. I think it is an important fact to note that in the late 1960's hospitals found loopholes in unmeasured terms and generally worded statements, such as the one above, to accommodate the many women desiring abortion. A psychological clause for suicidal women was abused to the point that it became the standard means for obtaining an abortion. It came as no surprise then that there was an increase in women seeking abortions who claimed to be "suicidal". Therefore, if our Church makes a general statement alluding to unmeasured standards such as the "health" of the mother, we have taken no stand different from the pro-abortion groups and current abortion legislation. This is unacceptable to myself and the increasing number of Seventh-day Adventist Church members becoming informed on the issue of abortion as it applies to Seventh-day Adventist hospitals and our Church as a whole.

I am not writing this letter to petition the Seventh-day Adventist Church to lobby the government to change the abortion laws. I am writing this letter to voice the opinion of many members, that Seventh-day Adventist hospitals should have a policy of performing no abortions except to save the life of the mother. If Seventh-day Adventist Church members want to receive an abortion there are more than enough facilities to accommodate them. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, as an official Christian organization should not be in the abortion business since abortion is in direct opposition to the Holy Scriptures and the Three Angels Messages.

I understand the fact that there is much money involved for the doctors and institutions performing abortions, but for Christians this is nothing more than "filthy lucre", and can do no more than incur the wrath of God in judgement. It is now time for our hospitals to turn away from this practice and take a stand for the lives of unborn children, and do what is morally right by getting out of the abortion business.

Again I thank you for your leadership and pray that God will assist you in your awesome responsibilities as the Church moves forward in these trying times. I thank you for the

opportunity to be heard and know that you will consider my appeal. I realize the issue may not be resolved immediately, and I see this letter as a positive step toward future dialog. Many of us feel strongly about this and will continue our efforts as necessary. In the meantime we look forward to your response.

In Christian Fellowship,

[REDACTED] member: Waldorf Seventh-day Adventist Church

[REDACTED]
And concerned Seventh-day Adventists:

"We have moved into a gray world where we change our labels by intent. If a doctor wants to kill off alpha (being sure to use the most deadly technique) then alpha becomes an 'abortus.' If he wants to preserve it, it is an 'immature' or 'premature.' In late abortions, if he wants it to die, the operation is labeled a 'hysterotomy'; if he wants it to live, it becomes a 'Caesarean section.'"

Aborting America, Bernard N. Nathanson, M.D. with Richard N. Ostling, page 276.

cc: Al Watson, Pastor of the Waldorf Seventh-day Adventist Church