



## **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], Augsburg 1879. This was done in the article "The use made of the Great Testimony in the New Apostolic Church" on page 5, footnote 18, published by us here (nak.org). In that article we stated our position regarding the thesis that "The Testimony of the Apostles" was a fake.

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 observed that Chief Apostle Bischoff is not the author, but appears as editor. Accordingly, the preface is written in a neutral tone. Before this procedure is stigmatized, a scholarly approach should try to clarify its mental background. We consider the following question legitimate: Was the Chief Apostle under the impression that writings that were inspired by the Spirit of God in the work of the Lord were not the property of certain individuals, but of the church?

## General observations concerning the problem of plagiarism

In the course of their sifting through historical materials it has become obvious to the members of the Work Group "History of the NAC" that apart from the book "The Completion" there are more works where close textual correspondences can be observed.

The possibility cannot be denied that more cases of "plagiarism" will be found. The Work Group "History of the NAC" would follow up serious references they receive.

Which works that can be classed as plagiarism are known to us?

Apart from the book "The Completion" the following publications and the originals they draw from are known to us:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| - Geschichte der Neuapostolischen Kirche<br>(History of the New Apostolic Church)<br>(G. Rockenfelder, no place, 1960, 1988) | Louisa Anne Hewett,<br>The Story of the Lord's Work.<br>(Glasgow 1899)<br>used in the German translation:<br>Die Entstehung des Werkes Gottes<br>in unserer Zeit.<br>(3rd edition 1904) |
| - Unser Glaube und unsere Hoffnung<br>(K. Weinmann, 1969)  | Dr. J. Flegel,<br>Ein Zeugnis der apostolischen<br>Gemeinden an die Christen in<br>dieser Stadt<br>(Breslau, o.J.)  |
| - Einen andern Grund kann niemand legen<br>(K. Weinmann, 1973)   | Wo ist die Eine, heilige, katholische<br>und apostolische Kirche?<br>(Berlin, 2nd edition 1896)   |

For these works, too, we hold to the principle that a final assessment can only be given after analysing the sources. Neither apologetics nor accusation are appropriate.