



ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΗΣ
Mr. Kenneth S. Dowdy
ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ

Jerusalem, Dec. 28, 94

Dear Sir

I read your letter to the Editor of the " Christian Activist" concerning my interview the same magazine and sincerely I was surprised by it. You talk as someone who knows the situation very well, who knows that everything here is perfect and that my accusations were not or cannot be substantiated. I would be very glad and I would immediately and publicly retract my accusations against the Patriarch if you or any body else could prove, not necessarily to me, that any one of them, my accusations, is false. Of course you, as any sensible man, would say that these accusations against a Patriarch and especially the Patriarch of Jerusalem cannot be true, cannot even be anywhere near the truth. Unfortunately for me, for you and for all the Christian world, I am afraid, they were put very mildly and do not reveal all the truth, for understandable considerations. Furthermore, if you are interested for the truth and would like to find out or to prove my accusations false, I would like to invite you to do so and I promise that if you will be able to do so I will cover your expenses for your trip to the Holy Land, in full.

Something else that I would like to ask you is this: Did you bother to ask who this Bishop Nikiphoros is? Because if you would, you would know that the Bishop is a member of the Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and as a member of the Synod, not a disgruntled individual, considers himself responsible to protest, and if not proven wrong, to fight even with his life, if he must, for what he believes is right. You would learn that Bishop Nikiphoros is fighting for almost 7 years now and will fight for another 70, if he can, for what he believes is the truth, regardless the consequences of this fight.

Did you contact Mr. Frank Schaeffer to ask him if he can substantiate what he is printing in the Magazine? If you would, I am sure he would tell you that indeed he could do so, and not only that but a lot more, because he, as well as thousands of other pilgrims of the Holy Land, has seen, what ever could be seen, what I mean with my accusations. .

However, I would like to thank you for two things. One is your interest for the well being of the Church, and I could not agree with you more that indeed we should not spread around slander and false witness especially not behind the back of everyone. I would like to assure you I did not do it behind the Patriarch's back and indeed as you probably have noticed, the interview brings my signature. Besides that I did protest first to the Patriarch and the Synod, and I can prove that to you.

Second, I would like to thank you because I hope that you gave the opportunity to other people who know about the situation to write to the magazine and tell about their experiences from their visit to the Holy Land. We will see.

Believing that you had good intentions, I do not have any hard feelings against you and as I said farther up I do thank you for the opportunity.

Wishing you all the best and a Happy New Year, I remain,

With love in Christ

Bishop Nikiphoros