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FOR MANY YEARS'**

*George K. A. Bell's and Willem A.
Visser't Hooft's Common Life-Work in
the Service of the Church Universal –
Mirrored in their Correspondence*

(Part One 1938 – 1949)



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The Anglican Bishop George Kennedy Allan Bell (Chichester) and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Willem A. Visser 't Hooft (Geneva), exchanged hundreds of letters between 1938 and 1958.

The correspondence, reproduced and commented here, mirrors the efforts made across the ecumenical movement to unite the Christian churches and also to come to terms with an age of international crisis and conflict. In these first decades of the World Council it was widely felt that the Church could make a noteworthy contribution to the mitigation of political tensions all over the world.

That's why Bell and Visser't Hooft talked not only to bishops and the clergy but also to the prime ministers and presidents of many countries. They raised their voices in memoranda and published their public letters in important newspapers.

This was the World Council's most successful period.

Gerhard Besier is a theologian, historian and psychologist.

After professorships in Berlin, Heidelberg and Dresden, he now is Director of the Sigmund Neumann Institute for the Research on Freedom, Liberty and Democracy in Berlin / Dresden / Flensburg and teaches at Stanford University.

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