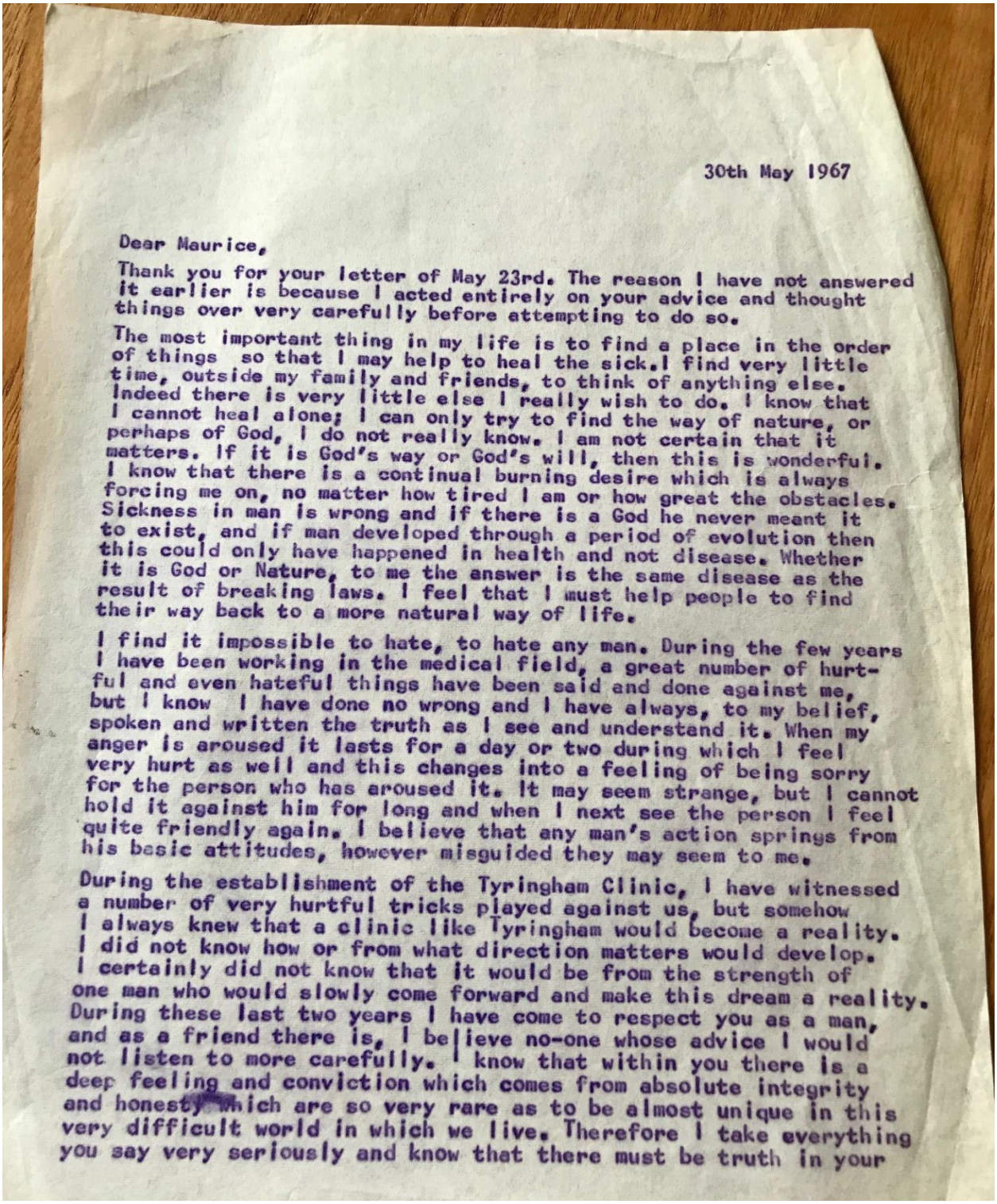
Letter from Sidney Rose-Neil to Sir Maurice Laing, 30th May 1967



30th May 1967

Dear Maurice,

Thank you for your letter of May 23rd. The reason I have not answered it earlier is because I acted entirely on your advice and thought things over very carefully before attempting to do so.

The most important thing in my life is to find a place in the order of things so that I may help to heal the sick. I find very little time, outside my family and friends, to think of anything else. Indeed there is very little else I really wish to do. I know that I cannot heal alone; I can only try to find the way of nature, or perhaps of God, I do not really know. I am not certain that it matters. If it is God's way or God's will, then this is wonderful. I know that there is a continual burning desire which is always forcing me on, no matter how tired I am or how great the obstacles. Sickness in man is wrong and if there is a God he never meant it to exist, and if man developed through a period of evolution then this could only have happened in health and not disease. Whether it is God or Nature, to me the answer is the same disease as the result of breaking laws. I feel that I must help people to find their way back to a more natural way of life.

I find it impossible to hate, to hate any man. During the few years I have been working in the medical field, a great number of hurtful and even hateful things have been said and done against me, but I know I have done no wrong and I have always, to my belief, spoken and written the truth as I see and understand it. When my anger is aroused it lasts for a day or two during which I feel very hurt as well and this changes into a feeling of being sorry for the person who has aroused it. It may seem strange, but I cannot hold it against him for long and when I next see the person I feel quite friendly again. I believe that any man's action springs from his basic attitudes, however misguided they may seem to me.

During the establishment of the Tyringham Clinic, I have witnessed a number of very hurtful tricks played against us, but somehow I always knew that a clinic like Tyringham would become a reality. I did not know how or from what direction matters would develop. I certainly did not know that it would be from the strength of one man who would slowly come forward and make this dream a reality. During these last two years I have come to respect you as a man, and as a friend there is, I believe no-one whose advice I would not listen to more carefully. I know that within you there is a deep feeling and conviction which comes from absolute integrity and honesty which are so very rare as to be almost unique in this very difficult world in which we live. Therefore I take everything you say very seriously and know that there must be truth in your

Letter from Sidney Rose-Neil to Sir Maurice Laing, 30th May 1967

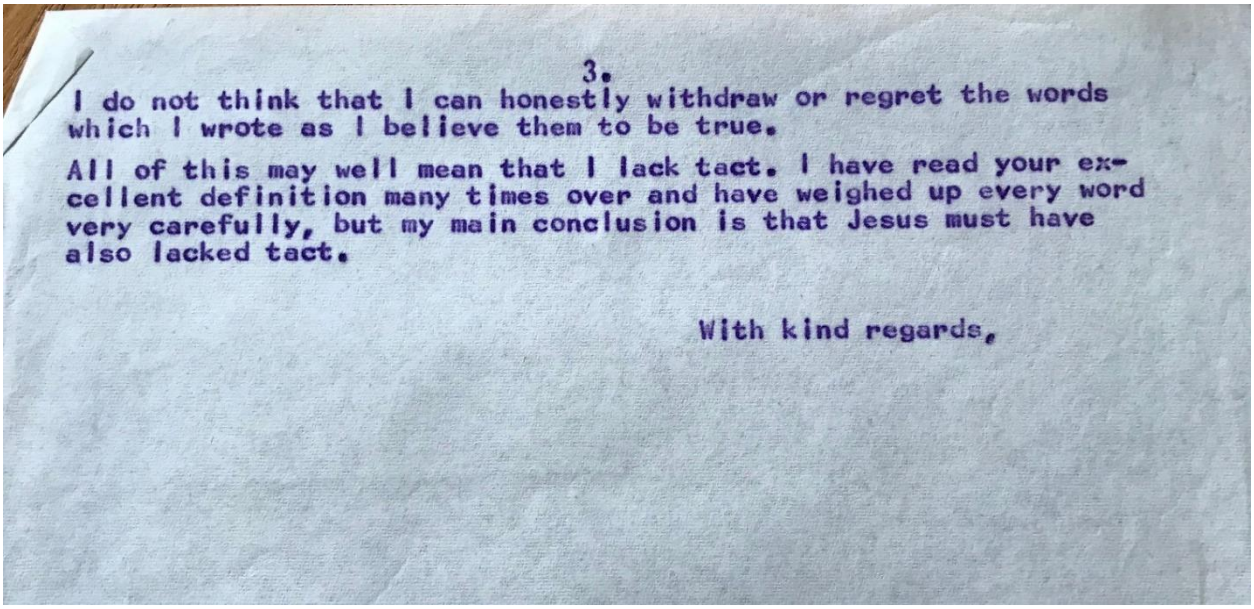
words.

I know that I cannot work in isolation and therefore it is important that we have the help of others, and here I mean the help of the organised non-orthodox groups. I know that I have upset some people by the things which I have said and done over the years, but when I look back, I do not feel that I could have acted differently. I said and did the things which I believed in because I could do nothing else. To my mind they were true and had to be said. I know that saying things can isolate one. It is easy to say nothing, to do little, to conceal one's beliefs and hope that matters will change or that someone else will do them. But I cannot do this, and if I see something which I feel is wrong or unjust I have to act and speak out. Very often I know that I am doing far greater damage to myself especially when what is involved does not concern me directly, but even then I feel that it does concern me as I am a part of humanity. This does not mean that I can act against every injustice in the world for this would be impossible. But in my own movement, where my voice may mean something, it is different, and so I have to speak up and stand by my words. I cannot be silent because it is easier for me, or because the powers-that-be in the naturopathic world want to keep the status quo.

I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is essential that we make friends with the various medical bodies, both orthodox and non-orthodox. In my view, Tyringham has built up a great deal of goodwill around itself in a very short space of time, and that it is spreading at a far faster rate that we would have believed a few months ago. I think that our sincerity came over in the "Times" article recently and it is possible that the "Observer" did not publish their piece because it was sympathetically writen, which might not have been the editor's intention when it was commissioned. The producer of "Horizon" who was here today filming for the B.B.C. was completely on our side. We have also built up a great deal of goodwill amongst practitioners who are sending us patients and who have also sent their good wishes.

My letter to the Nature Cure Clinic was honest and sincere. It took many months before I wrote it and, in fact refused to do so, but after prolonged pressure from Mr. Peck (the clinic chairman) I did put my ideas into words. I read it over to him before sending it and he agreed with my views entirely. It was very encouraging to see Mr. Peck at recent meetings where he has begun to assert himself and he has become a tower of strength at the clinic and is turning into an outspoken man. My letter was written out of regard for the clinic and its future. I would like to see it as a modern example of naturopathic medicine of which the naturopathic movement can be proud. It should be a place for doctors to practise and cure the sick, and I see it as being uniquely placed for the training of doctors in the art of naturopathy, in effect a post-graduate school for them. This could be the clinic's greatest contribution to naturopathy. I am willing to help it in any way I can, in the full knowledge that it may eventually work against the interests of the non-doctor naturopath. The only thing which really matters is that we find the best way to do the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.

Letter from Sidney Rose-Neil to Sir Maurice Laing, 30th May 1967



I do not think that I can honestly withdraw or regret the words which I wrote as I believe them to be true.

All of this may well mean that I lack tact. I have read your excellent definition many times over and have weighed up every word very carefully, but my main conclusion is that Jesus must have also lacked tact.

With kind regards,