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Write any other information that might be helpful on the back of this sheet.

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To be filled at the office.

EDWARD S. BALLENGER, EDITOR  
4138 MULBERRY STREET  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

3210 Prospect Ave.

# THE GATHERING CALL

A Magazine Set For The Defense Of The Faith  
Once Delivered Unto The Saints

BOX 566, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

December 1, 1955

Mrs. Litta B. Campbell  
Kemper Campbell Ranch  
Victorville, California

Dear Madame:

I have your note of the 30th inst., in which you advise me to vacate these premises within 31 days.

I had somewhat of a chat with your uncle Ed about the matter, and he said that the main reason for the order was that he was expecting Elder W. H. Olson, of Washington, D.C. to come to Riverside, and live in the house and edit The Gathering Call.

Now, I know for a certainty that your uncle is mistaken about the minister coming to Calif. Elder Olson told me very plainly that the only way he could edit the paper would be from Washington, and that he was so tied up there at Washington that it was impossible for him to leave there for any length of time.

We all know how deaf your uncle is, and how hard it is for him to hear what is said, and get it straight. Elder Olson made the remark to me that he had tried to make it plain to your uncle but that he still spoke as though he expected him to come out here to live. He also said that he didn't know what to do about it. I promised to try and make your uncle understand later, which I did that night after receiving your note.

He was very displeased about it all, so I asked him what difference it made, really, whether Elder Olson edited the paper from Washington or California. He replied that he thought it ought to be done here in his house, at least as long as he was living. I got my next *cue* from that. I said, well, let me help you with it as long as you are living, and after that, it doesn't make much difference where it is edited from, does it? He said, No, I suppose that's true. I then told him I would be glad to get a job elsewhere, and just stay on here in the house, and work in my spare time on the *paper* the literature orders, and correspondence. There is quite a backlog of it here that needs to be caught up with. The office work has naturally suffered some neglect since the move, and house repairing got started. He said that that would be allright. I told him I could stay as long as he wanted me to, on that basis, or I could move at any time he wanted me to. He said that would be fine. I think he agreed to it with quite some relief, as he was suddenly worried about the paper.

Now, I think your uncle made a good choice in Elder Olson. He couldn't have picked a better man for the job. Elder Olson is the evangelist type, and doesn't quite go along with the spirit of harshness and bitterness that has been reflected in the paper in the past. Elder Olson talked at length of his plans for it. He wants to change its editorial policies considerably. He wants to

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give the thing a more charitable approach; a more positive message. He wants to develop the thing far beyond what it is now. And, this is important, he wants to do this regardless of whether there is any funds forthcoming from your uncle's will, or not. He and I, and many others believe it has a future potential.

I am aware of the fact that your uncle stipulated that there be \$5,000.00 given for the operation of The Gathering Call. But, Olson told me that he would still want to develop the thing if there wasn't a penny forthcoming for that purpose. We believe in the future of the thing.

Now, your uncle Ed told me, and I gathered as much, even before he told me, that most of the relatives would just as soon see the thing fold up, because they feel that it has been only a financial drain on him, and has accomplished little or nothing. And, in its present state, that is more or less true.

I am also aware that your uncle Ed has allotted \$500.00 to me in his will, but I am not particular about getting that. I am aware that the way the will reads, that I will receive it only if I am still in the employ of The Gathering Call. I am willing to waive my part. I don't mean to seem ungrateful, but I didn't come to Calif. just to get a slice of the old fellow's will. I came purely and simply for the purpose of helping with the paper because I was interested in it. If I were to get that money at \$50 per month for ten months, we could easily spend it for groceries and little extras, and at the end of ten months we would never realize we had it, hardly. And, come Income Tax time, we would be in a higher bracket with nothing to pay it.

The only thing I am interested in is keeping the paper alive until such time as it is turned over to its next editor.

Now, Oswald suggested that I write you in regard to the arrangement I discussed with your uncle. If it is allright with all concerned, I would like to remain here for the time being, and work elsewhere and work this in during my spare time. There is a lot of literature orders here, and correspondence to be answered for your uncle. He has received the letters, and the money enclosed, and turned them over to me to fill the orders, or answer them. There is a lot of that to be done here. I am willing to do it under the arrangement that was agreed upon with your uncle. I don't expect any remuneration whatever, in money. I would only expect to live in the quarters I now occupy. That is consideration enough with me, and technically, at least, I am no longer on the payroll of The Gathering Call.

This is no plea for my job. I am content to go find another job. I can make more, anyway. I can get in the Carpenter's Union and make \$2.95 per hour, so I would be silly to contend over this job. But, there is one thing about it all that mystifies me. I am well aware that all or some of the members of the Ballenger family have had considerable to say and complaints about my carpenter work, here.

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I have had many fine compliments from people concerning this carpenter work that I have done ~~from~~ for your uncle Ed. Two men are old time contractors, who have commented favorably on my work. I have had three offers of jobs from other people who just happened to be going by, and noticed my work. I declined in favor of your uncle's work. Maybe I made my mistake there. At any rate, my work seems to suit everyone but the Ballenger family. It goes without saying, that there is something fishy somewhere. But, I'm not going to contend about that, either, except to say that I am aware that none of the family except one knew anything about my work. I also know that there has been some petty jealousy involved, and some uncomplimentary talk behind my back, which I am sure stemmed from that jealousy. At least, that is my opinion of it, and I am entitled to my opinion. I don't know all that's at the bottom of it, but its obvious enough in part.

I have always regretted that Oswald got less money from his uncle than me. I was well aware that the arrangement was hardly fair, but I did not know what to do about it. I didn't demand any certain sum from your uncle for my services. He offered it to me voluntarily. What could I do?

I have always tried to serve your uncle conscientiously. I don't say I haven't made mistakes. The person who never made any mistakes never did anything. But, I feel that I usually did the best I could under the circumstances.

To illustrate, one criticism that I got wind of was that I built the houses up too high, that modern houses set lower to the ground. That is true, as far as the modern houses are concerned. But, let me acquaint you with the circumstances involved. The modern houses do not have floors framed with wooden joists, sub-floors, flooring, and the like, anymore. Their floors are paved, and therefore are built flat on the ground. The building Code requires that the foundation wall be at least 18 inches high. The only way that one could get such a house as one of these close to the grade level would be to first excavate for the foundation, so that when the house was finished it would set somewhere near the grade level, but the excavation underneath would leave 18 inches from the base of the joists to the ground. Not only that, but these big old style frame house don't look right quattting flat on the ground. They look out of proportion. Not only that, but your uncle would not have gone to the expense of excavating first, and we were running on short time, anyway. The State was breathing down our necks to get moved. And, last but not least, it would be difficult for the movers to roll a house into an excavation. So, when its all added up fair and square, much of that criticism falls flat. I think my judgment was better that that of the individual who made the criticism. This is only a sample. I could go on thus all night.

As an attorney, should you not know even better than others that there is two sides to every story? I am very sorry over the whole thing, and somewhat hurt and angered as anyone would be.

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I could say "Hear my defence," and go on thus all night, but I am not going to. It wouldn't get me anything, anyway.

I reiterate, I think I did the best I knew how, under the circumstances. And, the easiest job in the world is to stand off and criticise, not knowing the circumstances involved.

Had I been doing the work for myself, I would have done a lot of things differently, too. But, when you are in someone else's employ, you have to do it somewhat as they want it.

I didn't bargain for all of this when I came out here, anyway. I came to help edit the "Call." I got roped into a lot of things after I got here.

Another example of criticism I received, is as follows: Ed and Oswald, and I went up there one Sunday to look through the houses, and Ed said that I should grab a broom and sweep out the house we were in very carefully to keep from grinding the old plaster into the floor. (There had been some patch plastering going on.) Well, the point is, the house was locked, and no one was walking thru the house anyway. It was locked and kept closed until I could finish the one across the street and get to it. I had more urgent problems with the house I was working on. Naturally, when I got through with the one I was working on at the time, and came across to start on the other, one of the first things I would probably have done is to have swept it out. So, you see, that kind of advice isn't worth much to me.

These are only examples to show that I mean, and I think my judgment was allright in every instance mentioned. However, I don't say that I made no mistakes. No one can say that.

The job has taken a long time. Yes, but I have been working alone. One contractor told me that if he were me, he would refuse to work without help, and would demand better materials, and equipment to work with. I didn't feel like being demanding on your uncle. I realized that his money was diminishing, and that he didn't anticipate a lot of the expense that was run into. I went ahead and tried to make the best of the situation.

Before it all started, I tried to get him to put his money into another apartment house, that was all ready to move into. I knew he was too advanced in years to undertake all this. But, he has a mind of his own, and there was little I could do, but go along with his decisions.

Again, I say I am sorry that all this has come about to cause a tense situation and hard feelings toward me. I can truthfully say that I don't know what I have done to merit it. If I do merit it, I wish someone would tell me why. I am closing now, and I offer my best regards.  
Yours very truly,