

EDWARD S. BALLENGER, EDITOR
~~1100 MULBERRY STREET~~
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

3210 Prospect Ave.

THE GATHERING CALL

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

January 7, 1956

~~PO BOX 500~~, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Elder Archie B. Craig
P.O. Box 2370
Denver, Colorado

Dear Elder and friend:

Yours of the 4th inst., at hand, for which I thank you. Yes, it is true, Elder Ballenger passed away, Dec. 3rd, and was buried the 6th, here in Olivewood Cemetary beside his wife, and brother Albion Ballenger and wife.

It was Elder Ballenger's fond hope that his publishing work should go on unabated after he was gone. To that end, he appointed in his Will the new editor, and a trust committee of five persons to manage the future of the thing. He also left some money to subsidize the thing for a while.

Elder Ballenger was very old (past 91), and very tired, and very sick. His rest was well earned. We miss him, of course, but the Lord's will be done. He was a grand old man in many ways, however, he had his share of little human faults the same as I and anyone else.

I don't know that my plans for the future depend on the "Call." I don't really know whether I am still to be connected with it after the forthcoming issue or not. There is to be a meeting of the board, soon. Things are rather unsettled right now. I don't even know that I want to be associated with it further, even if I am wanted by the board. I am rather unsettled in my own mind about things relative to this work.

Ballenger was the butt of a lot of criticism in this work. His outspoken method of criticism was offensive to the finer sensibilities of a lot of people. I sometimes think that the best way to fight error is with a positive message of truth. However, there is a certain virtue about calling a "Spade" a "Spade," and heresy by its right name. If all the people of Christendom had always taken the position that it wasn't nice to point out the mistakes and false teachings of others, we never would have had a Martin Luther or a Reformation. Perhaps it should have a more charitable approach. However, that will be up to the governing board, now.

I certainly do want to use whatever talent the Lord may have given me to His name's honor and glory, and to the edification of His church. I am here to do as the Lord leads, and as the Lord directs. I am dedicated to His kingdom, and His church.

I am far more interested in the work of The Church of God, than I am in this phase. I owe a great deal to the Church of God for leading me into the truths concerning the millennial kingdom of Christ, and the truths of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14, etc. I just feel like the Lord has led me into a fuller knowledge of His truth. Oh yes, I had the Sabbath before, and certain other truths, but as I told Elder Olson when he was here, there are other denominations who teach the truth concerning the millennial kingdom, and there are other denominations who teach the truth concerning the Sabbath, but now where else will you find that two-fold combination