

HWAPP # 2754 *Gay*

1608 W. Sixth Ave., Eugene, Ore.

11-12-1936

Dear Brother Dugger:

Am just leaving on a 170 mile trip, to hold meetings all this week at a Community Church near Goble, and about 45 miles north of Portland. I think I wrote you about it last week. Hope to organize a new Sabbath School of eight or more members--all new members--this week. I cannot leave, however, without first writing you briefly about the correspondence which Brother Spires showed me just two or three days ago--his letter to you and your reply, in regard to Brother Severson.

Brother Spires wrote without consulting me in any way, and I am really sorry he wrote as he did. It is true that Brother Severson has recently been opposing me a little more openly than is for the good of the work, or for his own good, but I'm sure this can be worked out with him all right. Brother Dugger, I do not want you to pull Brother Severson away from Oregon on this account. And I want you to understand that I am in no manner whatsoever connected with any move to try to get him out of Oregon. It is perfectly all right with me for him to stay here. I know he had his wife had made up their minds to stay here. Sister Severson, I have heard from round-about sources, especially wants to remain in Oregon. If Brother Severson can otherwise serve the Lord and the work as well here--or, in other words, unless there is OTHER reason, besides any personal opposition to me or anything that concerns me, for moving him from here, I would rather see him stay. Of course, on the other hand, the thing I think ought to be done is whatever is best for the work as a whole. In other words, I feel he should be or go, just the same as myself and every one of us, wherever he can be of most service.

The truth is that such recent little bursts of temper or opposition as Brother Severson has shown are only injuring himself. It might do harm to the work, if some of our newer members heard it, but the Lord protected us from that, and I think the only ones who heard the things he said that would have sounded wrong were older members well established. I think time itself will work out some of these things, and at the right time perhaps I can go to Brother Severson and smooth things out with him so all will be peace and harmony. He is very angry because we keep all the holy days. But we are united on that, both at Eugene Church and at Jefferson, and when brethren really SEE the truth, I know I need not fear that anyone can upset them on it. I'm confident it will not be long until the brethren all over the country--the Church as a whole--will unitedly see this truth. Anyway, we are all united and in perfect harmony here.

Now this letter is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. I especially do not want Brother Spires to know that I have written as I have, and have not backed him up in his rather drastic letter. The facts are, I think, that he feels a little sorry he was so hasty in writing it. So far as organizing a new organization, you need have no fears whatsoever. There have been many rumors that I am trying to build a personal organization a round myself. That is absolutely untrue, and I'm sure you know it. I entertain absolutely NO ideas whatever of an independent work, or any other organization save our organization. And I know I'm enough in control of the situation here that if any such move as Brother Spires mentioned should be started, --well, it just wouldn't get to first base. I do wish Brother Severson were more friendly to me. I love Brother Severson. But I am afraid that in some manner he has let a jealousy toward me creep into his heart in the past year or so, and it has greatly impaired his usefulness. If he could only see it, it is himself that is being injured. I will do all I can to win his friendship, that all may be in peace and harmony.

As you say, if the shepherds strive, the flock will be scattered.

One thing I do want to say, however, Brother Dugger, is that in the future, before any other ministers are sent to labor in Oregon, I feel I should first be counselled with, and that no other ministers should be sent here who are not friendly to me, and willing to co-operate with me. I have never had anything but opposition from every minister who has ever labored in Oregon. I'm sure it is not of my own making, for I have striven constantly for peace and harmony, altho I have been falsely blamed at times for some of the sins of others. I have heard that Elder Zoller is planning to come to Oregon right-away. I think this matter was brought up once before, and as I believe I stated then, I feel that this move would be a mistake. I have met Brother Zoller, and like him, but do not feel he is the man to fit in here.

One thing I do want to say, however, about Brother Severson. The other ministers who have opposed me here have nearly all done it by deceit, and pretense, and underhanded work, but Brother Severson has never done anything of that nature. I think he is a little jealous, and he honestly opposes me on these holy days, but his opposition is all out in the open and above board. He has been honest. The others were not. That is why I am not in any way desirous of trying to have anything to do in any way with having him moved from here. I have had so much dishonest opposition that, frankly, I feel the interests of the work are better served with the kind of opposition I may meet with from Brother Severson than the kind that would be sure to come if he left. I suppose we must always have opposition. But I feel that perhaps things can be ironed out with Brother Severson. I have no feeling whatever against him, and would much rather win him as a solid friend and co-worker. I do feel, for his own good, that his feeling toward me should be removed, for if he could only see it, the Lord cannot bless him or his efforts as long as such a feeling is in his heart toward ANY man. If he were bringing in new converts twice as fast as my work is, and raising up new churches, and being prospered in the work here I would rejoice. I only want to see souls saved, and the TRUTH of the Good News of the Kingdom, and the last Warning Message proclaimed AS A WITNESS to the multitudes---and it makes no difference whom God uses in accomplishing it. It is all for HIS glory, not ours. Pray with me for Brother Severson. I am praying for him, not trying to oppose or fight him. I want to win him, so we will be close friends, but will have to use tact. To go to him just now would probably only start an argument.

Please protect my confidence in this. Please do not even send a copy of it to Brother Haerber. I do not think Brother Spires sent a copy of his letter to Otto, so he knows nothing of it, and it had better just be covered and not spread further.

We are getting in subscriptions, slowly but gradually, for the broadcast over KEX, Portland. Was very fortunate in getting the very last 30-minute period before the rate doubles---just after dark thru the coming three months. Have between \$25 and \$30 a month subscribed so far---but must have \$110. The Lord is able to move upon the right ones who are able to do it, and I hope we will be able to start in about two more weeks. Most of the subscriptions are only for a dollar a month. If enough subscribe that amount, it will put us over.

With love,

P.S. One exception---I have been told that Brother Severson has gone to a number of our Eugene members, privately, asking them to pay their tithes to him. He has opposed my tithes being paid to me. Our members did not think this fair, and have simply come to me and told me of it. I receive nothing from Salem, and consequently all Eugene Church tithes are turned over to me. This is not true, however, of Jefferson Church. However, better say nothing to Bro. Severson about this, as it would only stir things up worse.