

HWAPP # 7629 5/24

1608 West 6th Ave.,

Eugene, Oregon, Nov. 1st, 1936

Dear Brother Dugger:

Just received your letter of the 27th of October, and I will confess, Brother Dugger that I am surprised and hurt at what it plainly implies.

As I have written you, I have never had any co-operation from any Church of God minister in this state. I have had bitter opposition, often to the point of hatred. I have been misrepresented. One who wrote misrepresenting letters to you about me later came to me and acknowledged it and asked me to forgive him, but he is not with our church now. These have shown a wrong spirit, and all have come and gone, but the Lord has seen fit in His mercy to leave me here. There is absolutely NOTHING in the way of results to point to here from the work of any one of them, for this, Brother Dugger, is the LORD'S work, not a organization's work, and can succeed only with God's blessing and help. It is HIM who gives the increase. He has blessed my work.

Now I have never in any manner shape nor form worked to cause any strife or division. I have always worked zealously and untiringly, in spite of misrepresentation and opposition for PEACE, and for HARMONY, and for UNITY among the brethren here. Other ministers, accusing me of tearing down, have themselves torn down and caused splits and divisions. It was other MINISTERS who caused the split in Oregon now lined up respectively with Salem and Stanberry, and you will find none of those lined up with Stanberry have any real grievance against me, and most of them, in spite of the division, are very friendly to me, and what lack of friendliness there is is due solely to the fact I am with Salem and the prejudices arising therefrom, with which you are well acquainted.

I have been accused, and wrongly and falsely accused, BY OTHER MINISTERS, of trying to start an independent work and movement. But before God, Brother Dugger, that is not true, and I have never had any such thoughts, ambitions, or plans in any way. I know best what is in my mind. It is Almighty God who called me to His work. It is HIM I am serving. I want to submit myself into His hands to be used as HE sees fit. I lined up with our organization because I felt it was the right one, that had God's blessing and approval, and because it was where He wanted me, and because it is THE organization, and the only one, that has the true Bible name, Bible organization, and Bible doctrine. I have never so much as entertained a THOUGHT of any different organization, or any separate work, and now, if I should be thrown out of the Salem organization, frankly I have no idea what I would do. I would NOT try to build up any separate organization. But I know I should continue to yield myself to the Lord to be used of Him as He should then direct, and I have utter faith in Him that He would continue to use me to His honor and glory, as long as I am willing.

It is not I, but other ministers, who have become jealous of me and the results the LORD has granted thru my labors, that has torn down, and caused divisions in this state. If there is ever any division here I am quite sure I shall not be the cause of it, but I do not doubt from past experience that other ministers who do cause it will attempt to place the blame upon me. I organized a church at Salem over three years ago, and they had a church building to meet in, with average attendance of around 35, and three ministers there to keep together and build up that work. They managed to split it up and tear it down in two or three months. We formerly had a church in Harrisburg. It has disbanded and there has not been one there for some time. I have been looking after the churches at Eugene, Jefferson,

and Oregon City, and they have not been split up, but are growing, and are all together in unity and harmony. If there is any lack of harmony, I am quite sure it comes from others outside these churches, and in the jurisdiction of other ministers.

Your letter indicated that it has been represented to you, and that you believe, that I am causing division and lack of harmony. It indicates I do not have the full confidence and approval of the church. That hurts, for if you knew the truth you would not feel that way, and the church would co-operate with me more fully than it has. Brother Dugger, I have not wanted to say it, but we might as well be frank. I have always felt, strongly felt, an undercurrent of opposition, lack of trust, toward me, on the part of the others in the church. I have sensed and felt a spirit of holding me off, not trusting me, feeling I must be held down, for I might work in opposition to the Church. This, if it exists, and I hope it does not and that I have been wrong, is not based on truth and is hurting, not helping the church. (friends etc)

Now in regard to these annual feast days, Brother Dugger, I told you when you were here that we were all together on it at the two churches, Jefferson and Eugene. I told you we were in perfect harmony, that there was no division, and would be none unless Brother Severson caused it. You remember that you replied that if we were together and in harmony on it, and it had caused no division, that it could do no harm, and that you'd ask Brother Severson to keep still about it. I told you that I did NOT contemplate trying to carry this matter outside these local churches of which I act as pastor, EXCEPT THRU THE TWELVE. I told you I was working on an exposition of this question to submit to yourself AND THE TWELVE, trusting that when this matter was presented in its true light they would see this truth, and it would be made BY THE TWELVE, church doctrine for the entire church. That is what I referred to in my letter, that you ask for an explanation of. That is the proper way to take up such a matter in the church, at least outside those local churches of which I am elder and pastor. That is my plan, as I explained it to you when you were here. I assured you that I felt you would agree with me and accept this light, too, and merely asked you to withhold judgment until you had received and read what I proposed to present. I have worked some on this paper, but it is not yet completed.

There is absolutely nothing to worry about at all, Brother Dugger, regarding conditions in Oregon. There is, I am sure, no split or division brewing. The Devil has surely done all he could to cause such split and division, but some of us are laboring untiringly to prevent it, and to BUILD, constructively, and ADD to the church daily such as might be SAVED, and God is prevailing and blessing our efforts. We are adding many members every year here. The work is going forward perhaps faster in Oregon than in most of the other states. The Lord is blessing it. It so happens that in this matter Brother Severson has chosen to make an issue of, and start a quarrel over, is one where the past and present position of the church is on his side, but I am equally certain that the TRUTH of the Scriptures is on our side, and that in this he has shown a wrong and trouble-making spirit, whereas there has otherwise been perfect harmony among us. The truth is, Brother Ed has not shown a right spirit, and the Lord cannot bless his efforts in his present spirit, but, as I wrote, I love him and I have nothing against him, and I want to win him as a friend, a brother, and co-worker. There is much I COULD tell you, Brother Dugger, but I do not wish to. Love COVERS, and I prefer to cover some things. That is why I wrote you as I did about him.

I cannot, of course, go into an exposition of the feast days question in this letter, but I am sure I shall be able to show you that these days were NOT part of the law of Moses, that Col. 2:16 is NOT speaking exclusively of the annual days, but of the annual, the monthly, AND THE WEEKLY days. And surely you know, Brother Dugger, that sacrifices were offered ON EVERY SABBATH under the law of Moses. By your argument, then, the Sabbath is done away. But we know it is not. Neither does the doing away with sacrifices abolish the annual days. All I ask is,

Brother Dugger, PLEASE KEEP YOUR MIND OPEN to consider honestly, prayerfully, the facts when I shall present them. I surely hope you do not mean to infer by your letter that the church is CLOSED to receiving any truth it does not now have, or to even CONSIDER a proposition with open and prayerful mind. God spare our church from ever coming to that place! We must WALK IN THE LIGHT, while we have the light, or great DARKNESS will come upon us. If we reject knowledge, Almighty God says He will reject us. We are commanded to GROW in knowledge. If the church stops growing, in knowledge, it will stop growing in spiritual power and usefulness. If we do not receive a LOVE of the TRUTH, as it is revealed and opened to us, God will give us over to believe a lie that we might be damned. This principle is vital, and unless the Church of God keeps open the doors for the reception of TRUTH as God may reveal it from time to time, it will become dead and powerless. We cannot afford to have it so. I say this with only a great burden for OUR CHURCH---OUR ORGANIZATION in my heart, and I want you to understand my true motive.

Now I want to assure you that I am not in any way causing dissention or division over this question, nor has any been caused, unless Brother Severson has directly or indirectly stirred it up. I know he lost his temper before some who had been converted under my ~~me~~ preaching, and threatened to "SHOW ME UP" the next time he preached to Eugene brethren. Many of these are new in the Lord and in the truth, and regardless of who is right or wrong about the feast days--- regardless of who holds with the church position on it---you must admit that is not the right spirit for a Church of God minister to show. That is the spirit that causes division, hard feelings. Yet, as I wrote you, I sincerely do not want any hardship to be worked on Brother Ed, or to have him removed, because of that or because of anything that concerns me. The Lord is able to heal such a breach, and I intend to pray earnestly that He will help me to show a right spirit, and one of love toward Brother Severson that we may be brought into close harmony and love.

And also, as I assured you at Camp meeting on the Sunday afternoon just before you left, I have no intention of taking this matter up in any general way save as I have in our local churches here, EXCEPT THRU THE TWELVE. I assume, of course, that I have this right and privilege, and that their minds will be entirely OPEN for honest, unbiased, and very earnest and prayerful consideration. Surely this policy can cause no harm to the church. Brother Dugger, I am not aspiring to bring the whole church to MY opinion, as you infer. I am not aspiring to be a leader, a dictator, or anything whatever in the church, save just to do what I can in my own place in it in the Lord's service. I have kept my mind open for TRUTH, have been willing to GROW in knowledge and permit the Lord to continue to reveal more truth to me, always being very cautious and careful to PROVE ALL THINGS, trying to avoid being deceived, trying to keep a sound understanding, not going off on tangents and wild hobbies. If God reveals truth to me, and I desire to see others receive it, and to get it on to the twelve and in THAT manner into the church, am I to be branded as self-aspiring, ambitious, dictatorial?

Brother Dugger, it is misunderstandings that usually cause differences and divisions, except where a wrong spirit is shown. I know my own mind, and know I desire to show no wrong spirit, and I feel I know you well enough to feel absolutely certain that you are just as sincere. Let us not permit misinformation, or misunderstandings to serve the devil. I am truly laboring, as much as you, for peace, and for harmony, and for love one for another. I think there is really nothing for us to be concerned about in this situation. The only difficulty is in Brother Ed's attitude, and with the Lord's help this can be softened and complete harmony and love attained. Again, since I have said things personally and frankly concerning him, I am writing you in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE, and therefore speaking freely my mind, and perhaps a little under immediate reaction of having read your letter. I just do not want to see misunderstandings come between us. Let us continue in peace and accord, and love.

With love,

Verbal Squatney