

Box 111, Eugene, Oregon,  
April 26, 1937

Dear Brother Dodd:

Your letter of the 21st came today, and I was hurt and shocked to read the enclosed copy of letter from Eld. Dugger to Eld. McMicken, and the copy of the resolution being sent to the 12 and the 7<sup>6</sup>. I haven't been able to shake it from my mind all day. It does hurt to be so rudely disallusioned, and to find your faith in men entirely shattered. Of course, in a way, I realized how things were, but not so fully. I did not realize we had a Dictator---a veritable Mussolini.

I have realized from the first that I would never dare place myself at the mercy of the few men at the head of our organization, by looking to the headquarters treasury for the means of keeping myself and family alive. My work here has been a pure FAITH work, trusting God alone, and while He has permitted us to be sorely tried and tested at times, yet He has never failed us and has always taken care of us. The result is I have never been dependent upon the treasury. Somehow I knew that if I ever was, off would go my head unless I put it under the yoke and did as a few men told me, whether according to God's Word or not. And yet, I did not fully realize how true this was until I read this letter today. Thank God, and praise His Holy name, He has placed us, here, in a position where we are not obliged to bow to the will of men who reject God's Word, and who appear to be endeavoring to establish a hierarchy and a popish dictatorship. We are FREE! Free to continue as GOD leads, and we shall continue to do that, TRUSTING HIM and not men, until the end.

Thirty days ago I came to a place where my faith was truly tested. The money was not coming in as subscribed for the radio fund, and I was receiving only about a third enough to pay the radio bill. My tithe received had dropped off considerably, and I was faced with the necessity of going off the air. We have had been on the net-work about five months, and I had never so much as mentioned the need of



money over the air. But, foreseeing the situation a month or two earlier, I had begun sending out a mimeographed copy of a radio sermon once each month to all who would request them, getting a mailing list of the most interested listeners. Then when the crisis came, a month ago, I took about five minutes in my broadcast to explain the situation frankly to our listeners. I put it up to them, that unless they would respond we would be off the air. I told them I would not beg for money over the air---I was just making this plain statement of the situation this once, and leaving the fate of the broadcast in their hands. The next day the mail began coming, and ever since I have received twice as much mail as formerly, and the most wonderful letters---many writing it would be a great tragedy for the Radio Church of God to be forced off the air. Some sent 10¢. One sent \$10, and two or three \$5, and a good many sent in one or two dollars. Half or more of the letters ever since have contained money, and I now have subscriptions pledging monthly offerings from our new listeners that have made up what we had lost, so we are assured, at least for the present of staying on. The response overjoyed me, for it proves our work here can stand on its own feet, and I am sure now that in another six months our present listeners will not only finance our present work, but add a more powerful Seattle station to the net-work. It assures us that our radio work will continue to grow till we have a Coast net-work, and then---COAST TO COAST! That sounds like a pipe-dream, and indeed so it would be if I did not know that the Lord will bring it about. It will cost into the thousands each broadcast---but all the earth and all the gold and silver is the Lord's, and He can cause enough of it to be put to that use in His own due time. In fact, I may say that, confidentially, thru our local station, plans are already being negotiated whereby the owner of our local station believes it may be possible to place the Radio Church of God on a powerful Coast-to-Coast net work in the near future, including some of the most popular and powerful stations, several of 50,000 watts, and one of 500,000 watts (WLW). This seems like a dream, but it may work out. Our local station has just moved into en-



tirely new quarters---the newest and finest studios in this part of the country, and the most modern and finest sending tower, capable of transmitting 50,000 watts. We have only had 100 watts. The station has applied for 1,000 watts, and expects to have it in a week or two. And it expects to be in on a new Coast-to-Coast net-work coming up which probably will be greater than NBC or CBS. I am not at liberty to disclose plans further than this, but the local station owner hinted that we may find the way open to have thirty minutes a week on that net-work.

The Portland stations are literally cluttering up the air with religious broadcasts. But the people seem to feel that our program is DIFFERENT, in a class by itself, better and superior in every way as a radio production, and the only one they ever heard where they could hear the straight Bible Truth proclaimed straight from the shoulder and without mincing words. They have never heard this kind of preaching. Of course, I am using discretion, and not giving them the strongest meat at first---but I am giving them a lot stronger meat than the others, or than they have been getting in their own churches, and the people are beginning to open their eyes. I have been going after this "going-to-heaven" theory lately, especially the thousand year period. I have hundreds of Adventists listening, and this millennium question has just been coming up in their quarterly, and I have literally riddled their Sabbath-School lessons to pieces for them, and it is causing consternation in their ranks. I am loudly offering \$25 cash for ONE TEXT in the Bible that says we shall spend the thousand years in heaven---or that anyone now living can EVER go to heaven. One by one I have been taking the S.D.A. proof texts, such as II Thes. 2:8, John 14:1-3, and Jer. 4:23-27, and smashing them harder than I ever before smashed anything over the air. I have devoted practically one entire sermon to each of those three texts. Many Adventists are seeing the light. Some write me sarcastic letters, but these broadcasts are making it hard for them, and they WILL tune in and listen, no matter how mad they may get. They ministers and Sabbath School teachers do not know how to handle it. Word comes to me of how it is coming up in their Sabbath school classes, and the teachers are unable to answer these broadcasts.



Yet I am trying to present an altogether constructive message, not a destructive one. Little by little, I keep working in the PRINCIPLE of the Commandments. I will bring this in little by little, gradually, so as not to cause people to quit listening, but by keeping it up, in time I will have thousands seeing the truth---provided they are willing. Of course, in the final analysis, few are willing. Well, we are trying to make our radio broadcast the best religious broadcast on the coast, or on the air anyplace, asking God to bless and inspire us to that end for His glory, and He is blessing this work in a wonderful way. We now have around 75,000 people in our audience every Sunday morning, which is a wonderful audience for this sparsely-settled country.

But enough of that. The radio work is very close to my heart. And I say these things by way of encouragement and to show you that we are not dependent upon men, and the Lord has made it possible for us to continue on with the TRUTH in spite of men.

Ed Severson has returned. Have not seen him nor heard from or about him since he arrived last week, but I know he's on the war-path. Yes, as you say, I must be careful. They not only will be after me NEXT---they have been after me a long time, but have not yet just quite figured out how to handle me, BECAUSE I am not dependent on them financially, and because the overwhelming majority of all Oregon brethren believe in these holydays, and are going to remain as firm as I am in them. I did not know, when I last wrote you, how the Jefferson church would turn if Dugger applied to pressure on this, but they have assured me that they will stand firm on the TRUTH, and if they cut off my allowance in any way, all tithes and all financial support will be immediately withdrawn from Salem, W. Va., and even the Jerusalem fund pledges canceled. Some of our heaviest tithe-payers are there. In fact, virtually ALL the tithe-payers of the state will stand firm with us. If a split comes, and I see it is now inevitable, the few who will leave us and go with Dugger, Severson and McMicken are either non-tithers or not heavy ones. Also the spiritual ones will



stand firm with us in the truth. However, I see the Devil will use every cunning device at his command to break us up, and we must be careful, and remember that LOVE is first above all.

The one thing I am really afraid of is the custody of the big tent. I have planned a big campaign for Eugene for the summer, leading up to Camp Meeting, and holding Camp meeting here. The brethren of the state are solidly lined up for this plan. I have written Otto Haeber, Coast overseer, at Los Angeles, two or three times but he has not yet answered. I find he has written to the district deacons, in charge of the moveable church property, such as the tent, and I know they have written him to let me have the tent. But Sister Haeber is Eld. Dugger's first cousin, and so far Otto has shown that he is strictly an organization man. By that I mean that so far his stand has been whatever Eld. Dugger says. He has never gone into the feast days, but last I heard his mind was open. How Otto will go when he sees where the brethren out here stand, I do not know. But while he has in the past year been rather against Eld. Severson, and I know they have had a few personal tiffs, and both Otto and Dugger ordered Severson out of the territory, yet in this new line-up I do not know how he will swing. As overseer, he may refuse to let me have the tent. If he does, there can be no camp meeting this fall. I do hope and pray we can handle matters smoothly enough that they will not deny me the use of the tent, for I feel that souls will be saved in that campaign this summer, and we NEED this coming Camp Meeting, and it would be a great blow to the Lord's work, and cost us souls for eternity to have these plans defeated. Therefore, I am going slow for the present, and keeping silent on the holidays, except locally. So far Dugger has not openly come out against me. Secretly he is as much against me as you, and he fears me---why, I never knew, for I certainly have had no designs in any direction that need cause him fear if his heart is right with the Lord. But he has so far not felt it wise to show his opposition to me openly. Now six months ago, he was opposing Severson's remaining in Oregon. Then Severson was appealing over his head to the 12



for permission to stay here. Now, however, with the sudden turn of events since your paper came out, I think Dugger has SENT Severson here, with INSTRUCTIONS.

The current Advocate is subtly aimed entirely at me. They ran my radio sermon as the lead article. But they also ran a big article AGAINST the holydays, and another NOT written by Severson, (who did write it?) on the wine question. All the California brethren, I understand, use wine at the Lord's Supper. When I came to Eugene, some of them who had moved here explained to me why. I went into the question in the Bible and became convinced they were right. The majority at Eugene Church feel wine is proper and grape-juice very improper for the Lord's Supper. However, we have never made a point of contention over it, serving BOTH, for one to three or four each time insist on grape-juice. When he was at our home on this last trip out, my wife unwittingly ~~blurted~~ blurted out in Eld/ Dugger's presence that we use wine at the Lord's Supper. He did not say much, then. But he has been "gunning" for me on it ever since. Now the Harrisburg, Jefferson and Ore. City brethren here all use grape-juice, and most of them no doubt have a prejudice against wine that might be hard to overcome. I have never so much as mentioned wine to them. I have not argued for it at all. Yet Dugger well knows what a prejudice some will have against it, and it is a weapon in his hands stirring up their prejudices. I imagine, reading between the lines, since this article is under Severson's signature, that Severson is instructed to try to turn the brethren here against me on this issue. The devil will leave no stone unturned. Well, I do not believe the devil will succeed. This article brings up a question I never thought of---the assertion that the word "wine" is translated out of several different Greek and Heb. words, having different meanings. I will confess I never thought to look that up, but am satisfied I have looked up and proved every other point. Yet if this is true, it may change the entire position, and if so I am ready and willing instantly to change my personal view on it, for all I want is THE TRUTH, and to do the Lord's will. That is a point I shall examine at once.

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I am sending you, under separate cover, the complete exposition of the Feast Days I have written. I have decided that I MUST have more copies of this. I had about decided to mimeograph it, condensing it as far as possible, cutting it to about half the present length, and putting it on the large 14-inch sheets, single spaced, so it will not run over about ten pages.

Are you intending to continue your paper, as a regular monthly paper on this question? If so, perhaps it would be better to just have this printed there, for it will take quite a little time and extra expense for me to mimeograph this, and I do not see how I can do it---but have just decided it HAS to be done.

On the other hand, it would not due for you to print it YET, or at least in such a way as to connect my name with it. I want to hold things smoothly here at least until after the 12 meet at Pentecost time, and I want to get possession of that tent before the big explosion occurs. In the meantime, feel free to draw on my material freely, but do not connect it with my name until I let you know---which will not be much longer.

They can come out openly against me, and throw me out instantly now, if they choose, for I have already passed out your paper to two or three prominent brethren here, and openly endorsed it before both Eugene and Jefferson churches---Oregon City too, for that matter. And Severson probably will find it out at Harrisburg or Jefferson, if he's looking for trouble and I know he is. According to this resolution, that lets me out right now. Well, I shall be as careful as possible, and just trust the Lord for the rest. I wrote a very strong letter to Eld. Dugger, but have not sent it---YET. I do not want to be hasty. I want to use wisdom, and will have the courage to do whatever is right, but want to do it in the right way at the right time. We must line up as many as we can. How do you suggest we proceed? A split is inevitable now. I am convinced the Lord has overthrown these men, unless



they repent, which they probably will not. If Dugger KNEW how many are lined up in favor of the holydays, I think he would modify his stand at once, and drop the issue. My letter might have caused him to do that. But if the Lord Himself is now using this means of purging Eld. Dugger from the work, I do not want to stand in God's way. If I could rescue Eld. Dugger I would do anything to do it, but to have him switch his position for political reasons would not change his heart, and it will be better to keep hands off and let God deal with him. I have found that best---and God DOES always deal with such men in such cases. I believe Dugger has thought he was very strong, but perhaps the Lord is now showing him how weak he is. I hate to see such a thing happen. I hate to see a man have to take chastening from the Lord but sometimes it is best. I have had to take it, and now, since I have submitted to it and been willing, I am glad God has chastened me. Let us pray for Eld. Dugger and leave him in the Lord's hands.

Now the present organization is gone. It is as good as split now. The TRUE CHURCH OF GOD must continue on, Bro. Dodd. It must continue to stand for the TRUTH. It must rid itself of popism. It must cast out any possibility that a small group of men may gain control and muzzle ministers, and tell ministers what they can and cannot preach. There must, of course, be a fundamental basis of agreement, but past this ministers must be left free, to receive light from God thru the Holy Spirit. We are not to go to MEN to find out what we must believe and preach. I want to see that policy weeded out, and once I am put out from the Dugger-McMicken organization, I shall never again go into another, or continue on in one that does not weed that out. The 12 men is all right, but the idea that they are infallible in determining doctrine, and that they are to tell others what they must believe and preach is not Scriptural. And the Church must stand for NEW LIGHT. I feel that a number of changes could profitably be made in the Constitution. God give us wisdom, humility, faith, and power. The Church is at the crossroads. We must look to Him for wisdom and guidance. How do you feel we should proceed? Who shall I send my other



manuscript to, Kiesz, or Bob Barnes? And by the way, please let me know by return airmail, WHICH Barnes is referred to in Dugger's letter, and what was in the circular, and can you send me a copy? I had not heard of that. I hope it is Rob Barnes having gotten out a circular on the holydays, but of course do not know.

If you think it best for me to condense what is in this manuscript, and mimeograph it, perhaps you had better wire me to that effect at once, for this must be done without a day's delay. If you have some suggestions for changes, you can send a night letter. Please for the present do not mention my connection with you, or association with you in this. The Eugene and Jefferson brethren all want you here for the Camp meeting, and Eld. Freeman too, and I think will raise money to pay part of the expense. Could you let me know about how much this would be? There was, confidentially, quite a little dissatisfaction with Dugger at this last Camp meeting. Many did not like him as well as the year before when they first met him. Many thought he had changed. He said many things that many did not like. It would be better to have entirely NEW BLOOD at the camp meeting this year, except everyone would like to see Eld Kiesz back if we can get him. Keep this confidential, but I feel it vital that we have the strongest men possible here at this Camp Meeting---unless some politicians succeed in breaking it up so there will not be any. There will be, however, unless they find some legal way to gain possession of the two tents and property that goes with them. The brethren are all with us.

With love,

*Robert Armstrong*



HWAPP # 3090 254

Box 111, Eugene, Ore.,  
May 28, 1937

Dear Brother Dodd:

I suppose you have heard the outcome of the Detroit meeting, and perhaps have seen the minutes of the meeting which I have not yet seen.

However, I have heard from both Bro. Freeman a couple times, and from Bro. Kiesz. They, with Eld. Barnes, defended my position, or manuscript, on the holydays in the discussion. Both Bros. Freeman and Barnes resigned from the seven and twelve respectively, but not from the Church. Brother Kiesz is keeping one copy of my manuscript for the present for further study. It seems he was not yet firmly established in this truth, altho he kept the days of unleavened bread, and defended my position in my manuscript at Detroit, and is now studying it further. I am sure he will accept it definitely and finally.

I am afraid the impression will be given out that the 12 unanimously OPPOSED this truth. If so, I hope you will, if the "Faith" comes out again, correct this impression, for two of the twelve and one of the seven defended the holyday position in the meeting, and are not opposed. Several of the twelve were not there at all. It was far from unanimous AGAINST them. Of course you and I both understand, now, how the vote was produced. We must come to realize that TRUTH is not arrived at by VOTE, especially when pressure is brought to bear on that vote.

However, they did finally take a semi-compromise stand, in that they agreed to permit members to believe in and keep these days. They merely are trying touzzle ministers and whip us into line so we will