

HWAPP # 3090 5/24

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 to guzzle ministers and whip us into line so we will

not preach this truth. I received a letter from Eld. Dugger, telling me that NOT ONE present was in favor of the days, and asking for assurances from me on three points, 1st, that I do not make division on the question, and give those who do NOT believe in the days the same loving fellowship they will give those who do; 2nd, that I "shake hands" with all the other ministers in agreeing to KEEP SILENT on points we do not see in harmony with the Church; and 3rd, that I stand with them in co-operation for unity and love, and am not in sympathy with any effort such as that begun by yourself, to divide our ranks. I gave him my unqualified assurance on the first---and reminded him it was the stand I have taken all along, and that I hoped the others who reject this truth would be willing to take the same stand. I ignored the second, but in my letter told him plainly that I am not muzzled, and do not and never will look to MEN for what I must believe, nor take orders from men as to what I may preach---BUT, I assured him I never had, and never will use even a truth for a wrong purpose, or to cause any division between God's true Children. The first part of the third I gave him full assurance of, and then stated that if the latter part meant I was to judge your motives and condemn you, that I could not do that. I merely stated I had not had any part in your paper. That I had not at any time done anything I could be criticised for. And he well knows this is true. The brethren in Oregon, especially at Jefferson and Eugene Churches, where about 80% of the state membership are, are solid in favor of the holydays.

We had the most wonderful Pentecost meeting at Brother Conns. It has been a long time since we have had so spiritual and splendid a meeting. The Lord surely was present with the Holy Spirit, and blessed us all. I think every member was there, except two. The Jefferson Church, 35 strong, also had a wonderful meeting---every member present. These meetings surely

manifested a different spirit than that which I understand was shown at Detroit. Yes, the Lord was WITH us. Praise His name!

As I told Bro. Dugger, I have never made a hobby of the holidays, or an issue of them that might in any manner cause damage to God's cause, and do not intend to now. Under the circumstances, as long as they do not throw me out, I will not feel at liberty to contribute anything direct, or over my signature, on the subject for your paper, BUT, you are most certainly welcome to use any of the material in that manuscript I sent you---that is the arguments, etc.,---it is not copywrited,---altho it would be better for you to re-write it in your own words, since they are familiar with that manuscript, and I do not wish to bring any unnecessary condemnation down on my head. I do want to co-operate with the Church just as far as they will let me---but I cannot reject truth, nor agree not to preach it. I can use wisdom and discretion in how and when and where I preach it, and do want with all my heart to be guided in this by the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of LOVE, not of strife and contention. I have never given the Church just cause for suspicion or criticism, and do not want to. I probably will not feel, now, that I should carry this issue militantly any further. My work is in Oregon. Oregon is solid for this truth already. I have no occasion to carry it as an issue further, for at this time it would only stir up strife and do more harm than good to the WHOLE truth, and God's people and Church. Rather, I feel now, in view of their action, my course should be to continue actively to try to get this truth before more and more of the ministers, especially of the twelve. I feel sure we will have Elders Kiesz, Barnes, Freeman, yourself and myself lined up on the side of truth, and I feel sure others will follow, and gradually we will win strength in this way, until the few "die-hards" will HAVE to surrender to the truth, and it will be voted,

if votes we must have, that the Church as a whole accept this truth, by another year. I feel we can now make faster and smoother progress that way. Let all ministers who are open to truth study this and come to accept, as they will, this light. The decision at Detroit leaves them free to do this. I am confident those who are unwilling to accept truth are in the minority. Some, otherwise willing, are dominated, of course, and weak enough to be whipped into line. We must marshal up more strength on our side among the ministers, and then these, when the whip is no longer applied, will also line up with the truth.

To do anything else now, further than what already has been started thru your paper, would only cause strife, for Dugger and those with him would see that it did. We must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. If they had deliberately rejected truth, and forbidden us to accept it, believe it, or keep these days, then I should have plunged immediately into the most driving campaign I am capable of, in a national way, to fight for the truth and the overthrow of those who tried to exercise such dictatorial powers against it. But since they did not do that, for reasons I well understand, we should let it quiet down so far as the lay members are concerned, just so we do not lose ground already gained. At least I feel this should be my position. I cannot speak for you. And also I am conditioning all this on the supposition that Bro. Dugger will accept my assurances as satisfactory, for I do not believe he can do otherwise. I do not believe, either, he will want anyone to see the letter I sent him, or try to use it or parts of it against me. As long as I commit no overt acts, there is not much he can do. If, under the circumstances, he asks for my license and credentials, then all Oregon will stand with me, and it will be a different story. I don't think he will chance this. I heard Barnes was coming to Ore., and now I hear Alexander is. Hope you can plan to