

HWAPP# 2919 9254

1608 W. 6th Ave., Eugene, Ore.
May 31st, 1937

Dear Brother Dugger:

I am surely surprised, and grieved, to find that you have sent a copy of your last letter to me to all the brethren out here, together with the letter you have sent.

Brother Dugger, I have given you my assurance of every effort to co-operate, and to work together in harmony, in love, that we may have peace and unity. But it is going to be very difficult if you, and the other ministers refuse to do the very thing you demand of me.

There is no division out here, Brother Dugger. We have perfect harmony. We are all TOGETHER, and in LOVE. Several have come to me asking what all this strife and division is about they are hearing of thru your letters and your articles in the Advocate---saying they do not know what it is, and did not know there was any strife or division among us until they read of it in the Advocate and from your personal letters. Now I'm pleading with you, dear brother, to see that it is YOU who is stirring up strife, and putting the thought of division into the minds of brethren who never thought of any such thing.

I was absolutely astounded, and deeply grieved yesterday to find out that you sent that letter, giving the idea of division, inferring that I am causing trouble, etc., to a family who left us over a year ago, and went with Stanberry, and then have been attending the Adventist Church for the past several months. It surely is not good, brother Dugger, to trouble such people and carry the idea of trouble and a division to such people. It does not seem to me that this is co-operation, or working for peace or harmony or unity on YOUR part. And, if

you could be here and see and hear the reaction of what you have done, I'm sure you would realize that you had made a great mistake, and repent of it, and begin to CO-OPERATE with, and work IN LOVE and IN HARMONY with the ministers of this organization, instead of persecuting, and endeavoring by such methods to throw suspicion against a fellow-minister, and discredit him in the field where he is working, and where God has bountifully BLESSED his efforts with a harvest of souls.

This family I speak of came 55 miles to Eugene to see me yesterday. And, while your letter had done damage, the Lord is able to overrule, Brother Dugger, and the Word says "all things work together for GOOD to them that love God," and so the result was that this family has come back with us, after I explained there was no lack of harmony, but merely a misunderstanding, and did my best to cover up the damage, and with tears in their eyes, they said they would come back into the church, and we again gave them the right hand of fellowship.

Again, I have had a letter from one of our newest converts---an isolated member---and this dear sister was all upset by articles in the Bible Advocate, and a letter from the Salem office, warning her against accepting the holydays. I had never preached the holydays in her hearing, nor even gone into it with her in any way with even a private Bible study. But now she writes me it seems that I believe in these days, and the Church does not, and she says it appears our Church is all divided, and she is so upset she is about to give up and go back. Her letter is pitiful. She is having a hard struggle, and I led her to have great confidence in our Church, and she came in feeling it was the one true Church that has come on down from the time of Christ. Brother Dugger, I have brought MANY---more than you realize---into the Church with this feeling of confidence in, and loyalty to, our Church organization. Yet these people are TROUBLED by others who accuse me of not being in harmony. I wrote this sister a letter trying to get the issue of the holydays out of her mind, so it would not trouble her---and it was not me, but YOU, thru your articles in the Advocate, and those in the Salem

office, who TROUBLED her on this question---for I have never "TROUBLED" anyone on this question, nor on any other, and have always handled such things in love and with enough wisdom and caution that no trouble would come, no harm to the organization, no division of any kind.

Brother Dugger, SEVEN Church of God ministers have come to Oregon to labor since I first came into the truth, during the past ten years. And why is it, EVERY ONE of them has fought me and opposed me? I have preached a sermon on divine healing, only to have another Church of God minister get up and follow with a sermon claiming healing is of the devil. I have preached on LOVE and our need of MORE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, only to have another Church of God minister follow with a sermon tearing mine to pieces, and saying we have all the Holy Spirit we need. Another Church of God minister misrepresented things a few years ago, when you were editing the Advocate at Stanberry, so that my articles no longer were acceptable in the Advocate. I still have correspondence over your own signature on this, and this minister later came to me and confessed what he had done, and asked me to forgive him. Three others came here, and by underhanded and deceitful methods tried to discredit me behind my back, and to poison the minds of brethren toward me. They succeeded for a time in turning ~~several~~ ^{some} leading brethren against me, at least partially, and in bringing about a general feeling of opposition against me among ministers all over the country, by letters they wrote. They accused me of not being "loyal" to the organization, of not being "WITH" the organization, of "dragging the standard in the dust." Yet it finally came out that all three of these men were living in adultery themselves and living a life of hypocrisy. Another has fought me continually for the past 18 months or so, and is still bitterly at it, trying to stir up strife and oppose every thing I do. The first six of these men, as I understand it, are now all out of the Church altogether, and altogether out of the ministry---completely overthrown by the Lord. The seventh is not finding his work blessed of the Lord, and cannot until he gets bitterness and ~~kick~~ hatred, and jealousy out of his heart. One by

one God has overthrown these men. They are all gone but one, but the Lord has left me here, and continued to bless and prosper my work with a harvest of ~~many~~ souls for which I feel humble and very, very grateful. It is not that God loves me any more than them---it is just that He cannot bless a spirit of strife, and hatred, and jealousy, in ANY man. Every one of these men caused strife and division. If there is a single soul converted by any of them---a single member converted and brought INTO the organization by any of them, I do not know who it is. Yet they all accused me of being against the organization, of being a ~~cause~~ cause of strife and division---the very strife and division THEY caused.

Now, Brother Dugger, as I wrote you before, I cannot understand WHY other ministers should hate me, fight me, try by deceitful methods to turn brethren against me, accuse of falsely, refuse to work with me, and then represent to others that it is I who ~~is~~ is not "WITH" the organization. It is not I ~~who~~ who is trying to play politics. It is not I who desires to ~~run~~ run and rule. It is not I who has ambition for position and power in the organization. And it is not I who, in fact, is disloyal to God's organization, causing division, sowing the seeds of strife and discord among brethren. That is one of the things God HATES, Brother Dugger, even tho those who do it pretend it is another, and by deceitful methods and by insinuations point the finger of accusation directly or indirectly to this other. God knows our hearts, Brother Dugger, and HE knows who the REAL instigators of division really are, and who is TRULY loyal, and who DISLOYAL.

The REAL issue is what is to be our basis of UNITY---whether we must put our trust in MEN, and believe and preach what MEN tell us, as decided by a VOTE, and whether the doors are to be CLOSED to any further light. It is summed up in what you said to me last Fall at Camp meeting, when you asked me not to look for any further light in the Scripture. Now, dear brother, YOU ARE IN ERROR in this, and unless you will see it and repent of it, God stands bound by His Word

to overthrow you. We are commanded to GROW in knowledge, and if we REJECT knowledge, God says He will reject us. The Bible way for peace and harmony and unity is LOVE, not suppressing TRUTH by controlling a VOTE. I'm speaking with utmost candor and frankness.

Now I am speaking pretty plainly. As I have said, I do not believe in deceit or hypocrisy, or pretending, or playing worldly politics in God's Church. I tell you frankly and plainly just how I feel. I want you to know and understand that I LOVE YOU, and I mean that with all my heart---I'm sure I would never write you like this if I did not. I can see you have been making a mistake, and I do not, candidly, love some things I have seen done, and I plead with you, in JESUS' NAME, to see and acknowledge it to HIM, to repent of it, ask forgiveness, and turn from such methods. But I do love you, and I am not trying to dictate to you, or to speak disrespectfully to one in a superior position in the Church. Paul stood Peter to his face, when Paul saw Peter was making a mistake. We are all only human clay, and we all make mistakes. God knows I've made my share, and I have always been ready and willing to acknowledge and confess them, even publicly if need be, as brethren in Oregon know, and to try to overcome them. I am too full of natural faults myself to feel I can afford to throw any stones, and I do not intend this as such. In your zeal for church unity, influenced perhaps by a feeling of responsibility thru your position in the Church, you may have ignorantly done these things. If so, I know God will forgive you, and I want to forgive anything that has been wrongly aimed to injure me, and to love you---and I want you to love me, and not to hate me or work against me. The only point between us is that I want to be led of the Holy Spirit to open my understanding to advancing light and truth, as I realize I do not know it all yet, and want to grow in knowledge as the Scripture commands; and you seem to be afraid of this policy. You have tried to retain unity by controlling doctrine, which means deciding FOR the ministers what is truth and error, instead of permitting the Holy Spirit to do this. I believe that is a shifting sand foundation that will sooner or later wreck the Church unless

it is discarded. The Bible teaches that LOVE is the basis for harmony and unity, not seeing eye-to-eye, and preaching and believing what MEN command, decided by a vote subject to being influenced and controlled. And LOVE is defined in I Cor. 13 as having TOLERANCE and PATIENCE with the brother that does not see eye to eye with you. It says that tho we have ALL KNOWLEDGE (doctrine), and have not LOVE, we are nothing. We see now darkly, partially. Let us have love and tolerance with those who do not see as we do. THAT is the Bible basis for unity.

In the middle ages, the papacy commanded all ministers to preach and all people to believe, whatever was voted on by the college of cardinals, dominated by the pope. If they did not, they were declared out of harmony, and AGAINST the organization, branded anathema, and MARTYRED. Are we going to follow Rome's basis for unity, Brother Dugger?

Peter and John went into the Temple preaching JESUS---a new truth the ORGANIZATION of the Scribes and Pharisees had not accepted. These men THREATENED them, in order to FORCE THEM TO BE SILENT on this new TRUTH. Do you believe Peter and John should have obeyed these men? They said they must OBEY GOD rather than men. What should we say today, Brother Dugger? Those who fought those two men WERE FIGHTING GOD, not Peter and John. They came to their end, tho they were in power and Peter and John just two humble servants of the Lord who loved His truth, but these humble men were blessed and prospered OF THE LORD. No, it is THE HOLY SPIRIT who is to guide us into TRUTH, not the vote of MEN.

And when you try to fight TRUTH, Brother Dugger, YOU ARE FIGHTING GOD! And I plead with you to cease this fighting spirit, and stop using it to give brethren there is a division which does not actually exist at all, for if you do not, you will CAUSE division.

Here in Oregon this using LOVE as the basis of unity has been tried and put to the test. AND WE ARE ALL TOGETHER HERE in love and unity. There is no state

in the union where there is a better spirit, better unity, more love, and less strife.

So let me repeat, YOU HAVE NO GROUNDS WHATEVER FOR ACCUSING ME OF CAUSING STRIFE. The brethren all know this, and they know that not one semblance of division has ever been caused by me, and not one member separated from the church because of any dissention caused by me. Every one of these other ministers who have accused me have caused trouble, and done nothing FOR the Church, except to pretend they were loyal with their MOUTHS. But the Lord has used me to BUILD UP the Church, to convert sinners and save souls, to bring many INTO the organization, and I have so taught and instructed them that they are loyal to the organization. Your only grounds for accusation against me are your FEARS for what you imagine MIGHT happen, or a division that does not exist outside of your own mind. It is NOT disloyalty to the organization, nor a lack of loyalty, for a minister to want to go by GOD'S WORD, to be LED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT according to the Scripture, and to LOVE the organization enough that he does not want to have part in any act or principle which might prove the undoing of the organization. Until I have committed some overt ACT, and actually done something that is disloyal, and actually caused some division, do you not think it best to stop this campaign against me?

Now Brother Dugger, whether you see with me or not as to what is the Bible BASIS for unity, still I expect to go along WITH the organization in LOVE, and to make every effort to work WITH you in full harmony, as long as you permit me to remain with you. I have voluntarily REFRAINED from making any issue of the Holydays since you have stirred this matter up. I am refraining, voluntarily, now, from preaching this outside the churches where I am pastor and where we are already solidly in favor of them, and keeping them, and where it is not causing any strife or division. I have assured you I will never preach ANYTHING in such a way as to give you grounds for alarm, or to cause strife or division or injure the

Church. I have also told you frankly I will never put my mouth into a man-controlled muzzle. I reserve the right and privilege of being led of the Holy Spirit. Now until I ABUSE this privilege, and actually commit some overt act against the organization, and actually cause some strife or division, do you not think, as I have said, that it is better to withdraw this campaign against me, and to let me work with you in love, and for you to do the same with me?

I understand either Elder Barnes or Elder Alexander is coming to Oregon. I have planned the biggest evangelizing campaign yet held in Oregon, with the big tent which is being pitched now in Eugene. If you send one of these men here, I shall try to work with them in love and co-operation. I already know and love Bro. Alexander, as you know, and from what I've heard of Bro. Barnes I'm sure I would feel the same toward him. I shall be glad to invite either of them to join me in this campaign and work with me in it, if they wish. The campaign here will start in a week or two, and carry right thru until Camp Meeting which is to be held in EUGENE this year, August 20th to 29th.

Now, Brother Dugger, as I wrote you before, it is NOT up to me, and it is NOT a matter of whether I will cease causing division, for I have never caused any---it is a matter of whether I am WANTED in the organization, and whether you will permit me to work with you in love and co-operation.

Yours in utmost love,

P.S. Tuesday. Your letter written for Bro. Adams to sign and mail to me from Salem, W. Va., together with your signed pledge received this morning. I have already given full assurance of my co-operation. I did not know Eld. Dodd had started any "MOVEMENT" so naturally have not encouraged anyone to join something I do not understand to exist. I am not siding with ANYBODY against the Church.
