

HWAPP# 3152 GJY

September 6th, 1937

Dear Brother and Sister Kiesz:

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus; I received your good letter just a few days before Camp Meeting, and will now try to give you an answer.

The Devil was present during Camp Meeting---more than ever before. By the second day those from out of state, and our new members, whom we tried to keep in ignorance of the trouble, sensed that something was not right, and began to talk about it. By about the third day they came to realize what it was, although no one told them. It seemed that whatever I preached, the others tore to pieces, and soon everyone sensed that Dugger, Alexander, and Severson were trying to discredit me. Well, it proved a boomerang, and reacted against them instead. We fasted and prayed before Camp Meeting. I have never prayed more, for I knew it would be a test, and I could not keep a good Spirit without much continuous prayer, but the Lord helped me, and I did not answer back, or say anything---just committed it to the Lord, and let Him deal with those who came seeking my hurt. I came home one day shortly after noon, and found a number of good spiritual out-of-state brethren from Washington and California at our home praying very earnestly in tears that God would overrule the wrong spirit on the Camp Grounds, and soften the hearts of those ministers or else overthrow them. I received news of their plans (Dugger, Haerber, Severson, and Alexander) thru another minister who was neutral and yet sat in most of their conferences. Their plans were that I was slated to go during this camp Meeting. But they saw how the brethren were turning, and gave it up. Then they decided to offer me a compromise proposition, under which I would be restricted as to territory and given full freedom to say what I pleased in that territory, but the Lord intervened even there, and they never had a chance to make me such a proposition. News came to me they were going to try to tie up the radio work, and get control of it by forcing all money to come thru their hands, and then they could stop it---but again the Lord overruled, and their plans came to naught. They tried to cut me off entirely from Jefferson and Oregon City, by proposing to send Alexander to Jefferson to live and act as permanent pastor, and Zeller to Oregon City, as he now lives just the other side of Portland. This plan they forced thru by "steam-roller" politics---they got the consent of two of the four officers of Jefferson Church to it, and a half-hearted assent from a third, and then forced it thru by vote at an elder's meeting, but later one of the officers of Jefferson Church told the whole congregation, and also an elder's meeting, that he felt he had made a mistake and wished to withdraw his consent to the change. We had things at Jefferson just where the Stanberry folks were coming back with us---all the desirable ones. They have broken up their meeting. Well, this move I feel I should just leave in the Lord's hands and do and say nothing myself. In the elder's meeting where this was put over, I merely said, before it came to vote, that I felt all the brethren there should be ~~all~~ consulted and have a voice regarding such a change, and if it was the will of the brethren, then I should be

be glad to see such a change made. However, they pressured it thru. I have heard since Camp Meeting, however, that several of the brethren there feel politics were played from wrong motives and an injustice done, and will refuse to attend under these circumstances, and that the Stanberry members will not join in under this new set-up. One of the ~~xxxx~~ officers there told me I would be asked to come and preach there, possibly in a different place. I have decided to keep my hands off entirely, and do and say nothing, and take no part directly or indirectly in it, and if the brethren there ask me to come and preach, I shall go---and otherwise I shall leave the situation alone. God will work it out HIS way, and I do not want to see it worked out any other way. Brother Zoller is a good man, I believe honest and sincere, but perhaps a little easily led and influenced by some of these leaders but it will be nice to have him meet with the Oregon City brethren, and such a move will not in any way turn those brethren against me. Where we have love in our hearts such things do not affect us.

Well, we really had a good Camp Meeting in spite of a very apparent wrong spirit, and lack of spirit on the part of some. It got better toward the close---that is, more spiritual. Besides the minister I named, there were a number of others not so influential in church politics, but good humble spiritual men, such as Dad West, Eld. Larsen from National City, Bro. Thorp, etc. And we did have several good meetings, and a number of times the altar and front seats were filled with brethren crying out to the Lord in tears, especially when some of the lesser ministers were preaching. There were, I think, about six conversions---don't know exactly how many, but there were four I know the last Saturday night.

There were a number of elder's meetings at which I was not present, and I do not know all that took place. It was an ordeal for me, because I'm human and it is hard to keep in a true spirit of love under such circumstances, but continual prayer helped me and prevailed. It is at such times we need the Lord the most, and to be close to Him and filled with His spirit of love and charity, and to keep all malice and bitterness and resentment out of our hearts, and I believe He helped me do that. I was grieved to see the lack of spirit in some, and to see almost all the congregation notice it, and to ~~know~~ see some fellow-ministers slipping and losing out with God, and coming to the place where He cannot bless their work. I pray for them every day. In fact I have been praying much more for them than I have for some of the other ministers like yourself whom I believe to be in a right spirit, for it is them who most need our prayers, not only for their own sake, but for that of the Church as a whole.

Our summer tent campaign ended the Sunday before Camp Meeting with the biggest harvest the Lord ever gave us. We had the largest attendance thruout, too---averaging around 100 a night straight thru, seldom having less than 70 mid-week nights, and often 150 to 250 in the audience Sunday nights. About 30 either came to the altar or accepted the truth, but of course I realize a portion of these will fall away before they become really established. But I think it will result in around 20 actual new members in the local church. We have taken in only a small part of them so far, as I do not feel it wise to give the right hand of fellowship and actually take into membership these we are not yet sure of, or before we know they are thoroughly established on all essential points, and thoroughly yielded and surrendered to the Lord.

Our radio work, too, is now beginning to leap ahead as we have hoped and prayed it would for so long. Yesterday we started off on KWJJ, in Portland. This is a much more powerful station than the one we formerly were on, and will give us around 150,000 people in our invisible audience every Sunday. From there I believe the Lord will cause our radio work to expand by hook-up to Seattle, and then on to more and more other points until it becomes a real powerful work. We have to leave here immediately after the morning broadcast over the local net-work, and drive thru to Portland, where we broadcast at 4: P.M. I believe our program went over good yesterday. We have improved our radio program a great deal since last you heard it. We have a mixed quartette every Sunday now, and they have been singing together for almost a year, and are being trained and directed by the most capable music director here, and now are pronounced good enough for the largest stations or any net-work.

I have made a definite counter proposition to the people in Portland for taking over the tabernacle there, and they have replied that it is reasonable and satisfactory to them, and they expect to be able to work it out for us on that basis. We will know in a few weeks, and the Lord's will be done. I'm not sure it is wise for us to attempt such a big work right at this time, or that I will have the physical strength to stand up under such a heavy program, but I have committed it into the Lord's Hands, and if we get the Tabernacle I know He will give me strength, and supply the means. If not, then we will go on trying to serve Him where He puts us, and as He leads. I'm learning more than ever the lesson of really committing our ever act and plan to Him, and letting HIM guide and lead, and I'll tell you that's the real important thing. Let GOD rule, guide, and direct HIS OWN WORK. It's HIS work, not ours.

Now you ask why I was so long reluctant to send in regular reports, and I'm glad you ask me, for it is MISUNDERSTANDINGS that cause most of the trouble. I'll tell you honestly and frankly. Before coming into the Salem Organization, we had our state conference here, and we always had grief with the treasury. It led to jealousy between ministers. We had some very unhappy experiences. Finally Lena and I took a vow ~~back~~ before the Lord that we would never again look to MEN for a salary or our means of livelihood, but alone to HIM, trusting HIM in faith to supply our needs. From that moment the Lord began to bless and prosper our work. I had promised the Lord I would remain free, and unmuzzled by men who had power and control over money and had opportunity to use it as a whip to force others to do and say as they are told. I was simply fearful that if I ever came under the mercy of a few men who controlled finances, and they were in position to stop my work by shutting off my allowance that I might not be able to serve the Lord as I feel He directed. I simply insisted on keeping faith with the Lord on what I had promised Him before we came into the Salem organization. All that time, we were actually getting from about \$35 to perhaps \$55 a month to live on, when we were entitled to over \$90 on allowance. We know we were suspected of getting too much money, but we knew, and the Lord knew we were getting less, instead of more, than the allowance. Finally, after the plan was put in effect whereby local church treasurers could give funds direct to ministers, reporting it to Salem, W. Va., or where members could turn in their tithes to the minister direct, it being reported to Salem, then I could see that

I could send in reports, receive my full allowance, and yet in such manner that I was not actually trusting any men who might control the national treasury, but the Lord as heretofore, for my needs, and also in such a way that these men could never control or STOP our allowance or our work, then I became willing to send in my reports. Also, about this time we had just started on the net-work on the radio, and there was not enough money coming in to keep us going, and so I felt we should begin to receive our full allowance of some \$96 a month so we could put the extra money into the radio work. I have always WANTED to co-operate with the organization in every way, but frankly, Brother Kiesz, I have always been a little suspicious and have never had full confidence in placing myself at the mercy of any one man or a few men. Another thing, I am naturally very slack and negligent in such matters as keeping detailed records and making out regular reports. I never was able to make myself do it during 20 years of business experience. I was always a source of annoyance that way to those I represented, or worked for or with, yet I was always successful in my work, and I guess they always felt they had to tolerate me in my lack of reports because I always did get RESULTS, and after all that is the main thing. I mean, here, reports concerning my work, those called on, prospects, etc.

Beginning about last December, I think it was, I have been sending in full reports of all tithes received to Salem. The radio offerings I have not reported, simply because I have had too much to do and could not keep it all up, and this is financed separately from the Salem treasury, anyway. However, now, even that neglect is eliminated, for I now have a woman in the office every day, one of our newer members, Sister Helen Starkey who came with us about eight months ago---a good spiritual woman who is educated, and has had office and book-keeping experience. The office work got clear beyond me, and so she takes charge of office work now, and keeps all my reports for me, and keeps books. I do not propose, even now, for reasons I am sure you can understand, to account to Salem for the radio funds, for most of this comes from outside our organization anyway---but now anyone who contributes any money to the radio fund can, at any time, see the books, or receive a full and accurate statement of exactly what is received and spent. I want to keep every phase of the work above-board, and above reproach, for the Lord would not prosper it otherwise. It is HIS work, and nothing must be hid. I want to protect it as His work, and never let it come under the mercy of men who might have wrong motives and not be led of the Lord, but on the other hand I expect, now I am able to, to always have full report of everything available, and anyone concerned can see it. The Salem office has never given any help to but on the contrary one of our out-of-state members monthly offering for the radio work sent a two-month's offering to Salem, instructing them to send it to me, telling them it was her pledge for the radio, and they refused to send it to me, telling her it was too badly needed there. This sister came to my wife and told her of it at Camp Meeting. Such things show my reasons for not letting them get control of this work the Lord has made possible and so abundantly blessed. I will co-operate in any way I can, but it is hard when I know they are continually plotting how they can either control or oust me.