

HWAPP# 2963 *gdd*

*5 Commissions
So far intend
Bright cross had
our prayer*

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

Conducted by

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Box 111, Eugene

July 6th, 1937.

Dear Brother Dodd:

Just today received back the manuscript on the Holydays, which apparently had lain over in the local express office for more than a month. It had been soaked on water and is in bad shape, but this seems to have happened in transit or the local office here, as your letter inside was in the same condition. Nevertheless it is still readable.

Well, Brother Dodd, I am more than heartsick over the way matters are ~~shaping~~ in the church at large. It is hard to have to completely lose faith in men you had learned to love, and felt you could trust. However, my eyes are now fully open, and I know we do have a man in executive power who is abusing that power as a pope or a Mussolini, and that by dishonest, underhanded, and deceitful hypocritical methods. Even tho it hurts, we must face facts, and something ought to be done, for the sake of the church at large, and the hundreds of good, earnest, honest brethren who love the Lord and want to serve Him. I have felt it would be far more pleasant, personally, to just drop out of the Salem organization, for our work here stands squarely on its own feet and will continue to grow and prosper as long as we permit the Lord to bless it, regardless of men or opposition. However, some have made me see that it is only a few leaders who have gone wrong, and for the sake of hundreds of good earnest, willing children of God in the ranks, we must remain in and do all we can to save the Church and purge it of these evils.

The question is, WHAT CAN I DO? Alone, of course, nothing. I do not know much about who is who, or the exact situation in the east and middle-west. It seems to me the only remedy is two things: 1st, ~~eliminate~~ the office of general overseer, which is not a Bible office, especially as at present exercised. With this, so constitute the board of seven, if there is a way, so that one man cannot dominate it and chop off ministers' salaries at his own whim, and use the treasury as a whip to keep ministers in line as his puppets and thus to control the organization. Second, to throw out the present doctrinal basis for unity, "all speaking the same thing," and that what Dugger is able to force thru by the power he wields, and substitute the BIBLE basis for unity, LOVE, which means charity and tolerance for the other brother who does not ~~agree~~ see every little minor point the same way we do. Let the 40 points remain as the only doctrinal basis, and leave ministers FREE beyond that. I have never gone contrary to the 40 points. Their criticism of you and me is going on BEYOND them in new light. The Church must not be bound and gagged with a shut-door policy against advancing in light and truth. If these two changes can be affected, I believe we can have peace. The question is, HOW CAN WE ATTAIN THEM? It seems to me the way is to line up all the ministers we can on this program, and if we can line up a majority, put it thru at some meeting. You know the situation. What do you suggest?

Now it may be that Dugger still controls the MAJORITY of the ministers, in numbers, but it looks to me like the LEADERS, in real power, ability, and influence, are with us, with men like Barnes, Kiesz, Freeman, and yourself. Many here have begun to urge upon me that I could help most by getting out over the country, meeting the brethren of the various churches, and speaking before them. So far I have never felt called to any work outside of Oregon, further than the conviction that our radio work is to expand, I hope, to a coast-to-coast broadcast. But if it is the Lord's will, I want to ~~to~~ yield to it, if He opens the way.

Now briefly about the situation in Oregon. Several weeks ago, soon after the Detroit meeting, Dugger sent me a letter saying I had not answered his letter (altho he received the answer at Detroit, and it was just strong enough he pretended not to have received it) and generally designed to put me in a wrong light if shown to others. Then I learned that he sent a copy of it to every member in Oregon whose name and address he had, together with another general letter from him to them, designed to put me in a wrong light and injure my prestige with the brethren here. At the same time he started Wm. Alexander on the way to Oregon, and at the same time he wrote out a statement for me to sign agreeing to REMAIN SILENT on all POINTS ~~the~~ he and the other ministers do not see with me on---in other words, except as Dugger gives consent. This statement, together with a letter to me assuring me my signature to it would put me back in a right light before the brethren and ministers, was sent to Adams at Salem, for Adams to sign pretending it had come from him, and was then sent on to me by Adams by registered mail, return receipt demanded. He figured this was all so timed that, when I refused to sign it, he would then send another letter to the brethren here telling them how heavy his heart was, and how he grieved (?) that DEAR Brother Armstrong had proven he was not in harmony, and was unwilling to labor with the other ministers in love toward peace and unity---and inasmuch as the Scripture says to MARK such men as cause division among us, it was his very sad and painful duty to mark me, and declare my place vacant. He would then inform them that Alexander was now in Oregon and was in charge here, and they should look to him as their minister from now on. But it did not work out as he planned. Immediately I mimeographed his statement, with three questions I asked all the brethren here to sign, asking their advice and counsel as to whether they wanted me to sign a statement GAGGING and MUZZLING me, to agree not to preach any of the truths of the Bible except such as other MEN told me to preach. I asked them 1st, whether they wanted me to sign it, 2nd, whether they knew of any division I had ever caused, or whether I had caused anything to warrant my being cast out, and 3rd, whether they wanted the doors of the Church CLOSED to advancing light and truth. I got it quickly to all the brethren except some isolated ones, and they all UNANIMOUSLY signed NO to all three questions. So then I wrote both Adams and Dugger and told them how the brethren here are all together in perfect harmony and UNITY, and how they, in UNITY advised me. Also that I was sending in a two-months' statement or report, and the brethren were waiting to see whether it would be honored or not. Dugger replied, evading the issue, passing the buck to Alexander, and telling me he was in charge here. Dugger accused me of misrepresenting, but all the brethren know I did not. Well, a telegram arrived the day the big tent was brought to Eugene, telling them to hold it up for Alexander, but it came a few hours too late, and I got the tent and pitched in in Eugene. The campaign here was on when Alexander arrived.

I greeted Alexander with all the love and good nature I could, and asked him to preach for me the next night in the big tent. He had been here several days before he came to see me or let me know he was here. He determined to pitch the smaller tent in Harrisburg. So I gave him all the help I possibly could, getting seats, pulpit, etc. all arranged for him, announcing his meeting over the air, etc. BUT, since I am pastor at Eugene and Harrisburg, and Oregon City, I have taken charge and KEPT charge at every meeting.

Now the reaction to Dugger's letter to all the brethren here was just the opposite from what he hoped. It brought a lot of very strong letters back on his head, and some of them were pretty much to the point. I think you got a copy of one or two of them. Many more wanted to write him, but put it off and finally neglected it. The brethren here are absolutely solid and united. Alexander has been preaching on seeing eye-to-eye, and letting the twelve do our thinking for us and tell us what we ~~want~~ must believe. In his sermons he has made insinuations with double meaning, in my directions. The brethren all get all this, and come to me and say, "Well, Brother Armstrong, we can stand a little persecution for the Lord's sake. Give a calf enough rope, and he'll hang himself." That is the reaction, so far.

Last week Otto Haerber wrote me from Los Angeles he was not overseer of this district any more, and consequently no longer in charge of our Camp Meeting, and since Alexander was of the Twelve, he should take charge. But that, since he was sent here by Dugger to undermine the work and cause division, the very thing Dugger tries to accuse me and you of, did not suit the brethren either, so again we acted promptly. I appointed a COMMITTEE to take charge of the Camp Meeting, with two from Eugene church and one from Jefferson. I had this all agreed to with Eugene brethren and Sabbath went to Jefferson to line up the brethren there on it. But Alexander was there, too. So I had to do it right under his eyes. I took the floor the second Sabbath-school was dismissed. I had the two elders and one deacon lined up on the proposition, understanding why this was necessary, but that was all I had time to speak to before the church service. Then at the opening of Church service, I explained the plan for the committee, and who had been appointed on it to them all, and asked for their approval---and got it. Alexander was furious. He said he had written Haerber and authorized him to go ahead and take charge as usual. I replied that would be fine, I knew Otto would be glad to work WITH the committee, and the committee would be glad to have him act as heretofore, but IT WAS CHURCH OF GOD SYSTEM to have things done ORDERLY, and to have a COMMITTEE to be responsible for funds, arrangements, etc., and I knew Elder Alexander would approve. Well, there was nothing else for him to do, but he was too upset to preach, and so I went ahead and preached. Thinks like this hurt me---I hate to do them, but I felt it was necessary. This camp meeting may be very important. It might be necessary to take steps such as at S.D. Camp Meeting where Dugger was refused permission to preach. I felt it a safeguard to have a committee IN CHARGE, and of men who will not hesitate to ACT if necessary. And so perhaps Alexander is beginning to learn how far he is in charge of the work in Oregon. The brethren are with us here, and that is why Dugger has not dared put me out. He has discriminated in my favor, and shown respect to persons, and that is why. I do wish you could be here for Camp Meeting. Try to urge Freeman to come. Oregon is a very crucial territory right now---and solid for the holidays, or virtually so, and Dugger is fighting to split us up here, and we must fight to hold what

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we have. The Lord is opening the way miraculously for a great work here. I believe and preach the truth about the House of Israel---that the U.S. and Great-Britain are the ten tribes. I gather thru the Torch of Israel you also are familiar with this truth. In fact I am printing a book on it. Am in co-operation with the Anglo-Saxon Federation of America, and their head man, Dr. Rand of Detroit, spoke in our church here a few months ago, and I also spondered an address by him before the local business men at a luncheon at our leading hotel. Their Portland office and I are planning to co-operate together in taking over a big permanent tabernacle in Portland. It seats 600 to 1,000 people, and is a splendid building, in the most central possible location of the city for evangelistic purposes---the very heart of the big east side residence section. They want to co-operate with me every way possible. They are not a church or sect, but merely an organization for promoting this Israel truth. They have no really capable radio speaker, and are more than enthusiastic over our radio program, and I think all their many hundreds of members are regular listeners and some beginning to contribute. If plans work out, I plan to start a big city-wide evangelistic campaign in Portland in October or November---provided the Lord continues to open the way. I need another seasoned evangelist, and must have one to do this, and have written John Kiesz urging him to come and join me in it. Claude Ellis, a young man in Eugene church, is coming along in the work splendidly, leads music at church and in the big tent, and preaches some now. We recently made him an elder. He will develop right along in the work. Has had a real genuine spiritual experience with the Lord, a very spiritual and earnest young man of around 26, married with four children. He has a wonderful tenor voice, and is now taking training, which I arranged out of the radio fund. My daughter also is taking training, and is turning out to be one of the leading sopranos in Eugene. She has a very unusual voice, natural talent, and is now getting calls to sing on all kinds of radio and public programs, most of which she must turn down. Our mixed quartette, which now supplies all the radio music, is also trained by the best voice teacher and choir director in Eugene each week, and they have now hit their stride, where they are so beautifully together that they are good enough for a national net-work. Their singing really is a beautiful thing to hear, not a particle amateurish, yet without that overdone training some put into it, but with real expression instead, and perfect smoothness. I think the Anglo-Saxon Federation will get back of our radio program, or make some arrangement to co-operate. This is opening up the biggest opportunity I have ever heard of in the Church of God. Portland is a city of more than 300,000, and we are acknowledged now to have easily the best radio church program on the west Coast, and with that program going on a stronger station (I have just signed for a year with a more powerful station)---and with this big permanent tabernacle, a wonderful work can be done there. I feel we can raise up a church of a few hundred members there in a year's time. Also that the radio work will now go on from station to station until it is Coast to Coast.

Brother Dodd, if we are right with God, and He blesses us, men cannot stop us. Let us pray to keep down all bitterness, just how you feel, and pray for me too, for I do not want any bitterness to creep in, and it is hard to keep it out when men do some of the things recently done. But we must continue to love and pray for them. Now regarding using my manuscript, I feel I had better ask you to hold off for the present, until I can pray over it and think over it further, at least. You are, of course, welcome to use the MATERIAL. But if I consent outright to your using it you know what Dugger would do, and he would call that the overt act I remind him I have never committed. It is hard to know what to do. Will write about it in a few days.