

Ratner, Sask.  
Aug. 5, 1937

HWAPP# 3151 204  
Dear Bro. and Sr. in the Lord, Greetings:

Thankfully we received your ever-welcome letter, and I must hasten to reply again. We have really been very busy during the month of July at this place, having preached thirty-eight sermons, besides giving Bible studies, writing letters, and calling on homes. Last Sunday we had a baptising service at which time three were immersed, one the daughter of a family that belongs to the Church of God thru our work here last Fall, that is, the father and mother joined last Fall, and the others that were baptised was a Brother and his wife that have accepted the truth thru the meetings we have just closed here last night. Since the baptising service on Sunday we have also taken a trip way out North, and held a meeting there one night. That was near the end of civilization. They said it was inhabited about four or five miles beyond their place only. Today and tomorrow we shall do some more house to house work, and on Sabbath we shall organize a Sabbath School, and possibly a church also, depending on certain other developments we're looking for. The people are very busy just now harvesting, or we might have had services every night this week. The Lord willing, we shall go to Samburg next week, where we worked among the Ukrainians last year, and I think some of the folks there will be ready to come in with us this time.

August 8, 1937

We are ready to leave here tomorrow morning, the Lord willing, and are doing some corresponding, etc. today. Also I have rested some. The long grind was seemingly hard on me, and I felt pretty weak yesterday. We organized a Sab. School yesterday of about 30 members. We plan on coming back here a few weeks later, and hope we can then also organize a church. We are looking for a few more to step out for the truth.

As far as regards Bro. Digger, I myself personally have held, so far, to the same view, namely that we should all speak the same thing, and which I still wish it could be possible, for it is really hard to work in the various fields when there is not unity as there ought to be. But, as you say, he goes at these things in such a way that we sometimes have to lose confidence in him. As far as I am personally concerned, I have not had the utmost confidence in him for several years, and I have tried to bear all this time, but there eventually seems to be a limit to all things.

I don't know if you have heard about it, but I have sent a resolution recently to the Twelve and Seven, and also a list of about six things that need rectification among the leaders in the Church of God before I can again work confidently and whole-heartedly with them. I do not know just what the outcome will be. So far I have had word from Bro. Digger and Grima, and it suits neither one what I have stirred up. Some folks may have misunderstood me (and you may be included in this), thinking that my present dissatisfaction with the Church officials is because of their stand on the holydays. No, it is not that. It is sin in the camp that bothers me, and I see God's blessings withdrawn more and more. Even if I do believe in keeping the days of unleavened bread, etc., still I do not make an issue about it. I apply Rom. 14:1-10 in this case.

Last winter I took a stand against the assembled Brethren at Salem because they showed respect of persons. They voted Dodd out of harmony, but let you go scot free then, and I told them certain things about you, and how Digger dealt with you, knowing how you stood on some things, and yet they continued to show respect of person? Then there is pro. Grover in Los Angeles who is off on three points of our Constitution, and yet they have not recalled his credential, as far as I know. Is that not showing respect of persons?

Now about you or I either one resigning from the Salem movement, I have thought of doing that often, but I have so far not felt free to do so. I think of the hundreds of Brethren and Sisters, and I must be careful. And ~~but~~ must you. If I was looking to my own self only, I would perhaps have quit some time ago already. And I have received an offer too, but I must try to please God above all. However, the time may come when this will be necessary, but if it does I believe it will be while I am fighting to help get the church cleaned up, t



However, I am at a loss to know just what to do to get things rectified. I am now trying something with the resolution and accusations I sent out to the Brethren, and will have to wait to see what it will accomplish. There has been talk for some time to eliminate the office of General Overseer, and maybe after a while we can do this. I wish the Salem, Stanberry, and Dakota Brethren could all unite and work toward a definite end, but doubt if it can be accomplished.

It is hard to tell how many ministers are back of Bro. Dugger. There are those that admit it is not right what is going on, and then in the business meetings they will vote the way he wants it anyway. Seems he has magnetic powers over so many of them, or else they don't think for themselves.

I would not advise you to organize Oregon separate, according to your plans you outlined to me. There are too many of these separate organizations already, but maybe a plan could be worked out to edify things. And as far as going over the country and speaking before the Brethren is concerned, in your case I would suggest that you do not try it. In the first place, many of the people would no doubt be prejudiced against you because of your belief in the holydays, and in the second place you are not known well enough, as you also stated yourself. I know that in a case like this, even I who know so many of the people might not find it so easy to influence people. But then, sometimes we don't know. Then too, so many of our people have heard so much of the strife in the church, so many times have ministers come to them for such purposes, that they are fairly well educated to watch and not act too quick. I know from experience. One has to be pretty good to accomplish anything along such lines. I do not mean that you are not, but you know what I mean.

You ask about Bro. Alexander. I really think I know him well, having worked together with him considerable, and we bore together joys as well as sorrows, but of the last few months I don't know. So I decline to comment. I may be mistaken in my thots.

Now about your invitation to work with you in Oregon this winter, I appreciate it, but do not fancy the idea of the winter climate of Oregon. You know cold, damp, and slushy weather bears too hard on me. The summer months would be ideal. Then, too, if I would work at all with you, that is, before I would promise to do so, I would want to talk things over with you first, and come to an understanding, so that we could work together harmoniously all the way thru. I would not come in to work with you, and then perhaps work behind your back. I would want an understanding about everything first. I do not suppose there are any doctrinal differences great enough that we could not work together, altho I don't know. I think we are agreed on the fundamentals. There is a thing that I have questioned about you, and I might just as well come out with it now, and not hit around the bush. One thing that bothered me was why you did not report to Salem until you was ~~hard~~ pressed by some of us, and why you wished the Brethren in Oregon not to send their tithes to Salem. Of course I think I have heard the reason, but still I have not been fully satisfied with that. Perhaps we could talk that over some time. The Lord willing, we ought to see you in about two or three months from now, and perhaps we can plan on what we can do in working together in the future. We had in mind of going to California to work there during the winter. Just what movements we will make may depend to some degree also on how things turn out during this coming Oregon Campmeeting, and the resolution I have submitted to the Twelve and Seven. I can perhaps tell you more in my next letter, after you write me how things went at the coming campmeeting.

It may be somewhat different in Oregon about letting Bro. Dugger speak there, than it was in South Dakota, for in South Dakota very very few were for him, but I understand in Oregon a large number are for him. However, I will be pleased to hear of how everything turned out. *Show a christian spirit always.*

You wanted me to write frankly, and I have tried to do so in this letter. I guess the campmeeting there will commence very soon (I forgot the date) and here we are way in northern Saskatchewan, as far as civilization is concerned. We cannot be there, but we are praying. May the Lord bless there in the meetings. Also have a prayer at the campmeeting for us, that God will bless us in the work that we may be fruitful, and that God will also give me physical strength. I seem to be healthier than I was two years ago, but I feel so worn out, and need more strength. Write us as soon as campmeeting is over with, and address us at Vibank, Sask., Canada.  
% Anton Kayner. Yours in service,

*arrange this  
campmeeting*



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