

June 17, 1956

To the members of the church of Christ at Strathmoor:

Dear Brethren:

For some time there has been an atmosphere of tension building up among members of this congregation. This fact has caused the elders no little concern and we now feel the need of reassuring the congregation that the elders have the welfare of ALL of the members at heart.

Your responsibility to your elders is this, and we quote Hebrews 13:17, "Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give an account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you."

In order to work in full fellowship and harmony with our Brethren it is vital that everyone understands and respects our position of authority in the congregation, and abides by our decisions. Failure on your part to abide by the decisions of the elders constitutes a departure from the principle outlined in the foregoing Scripture and exposes you to whatever Scriptural discipline is necessary to correct the situation created by your disobedience.

We are informing this congregation that irreparable damage has already been done by disagreement and loose talk among brethren. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ must go forward in unity and peace and love. It is our sincere hope and prayer that you may find it in your hearts to work together for the common good of the congregation and the glory of God.

Several matters of importance are awaiting the elders' decisions; hence the following statement of our position regarding certain items:

1. We have met with various members of the congregation and have discussed their problems.
2. We have met with Brother and Sister Beaman and have discussed their problems
3. We have concluded that it is in the best interest of the congregation to:
  - (a) Retain Brother Beaman as minister.
  - (b) Proceed with negotiations for financing the new auditorium.
  - (c) Continue negotiations with the contractors and the architect to obtain a fair price for erecting the new building.
  - (d) Write a letter of explanation, before July 1st, to all persons who have expressed a willingness to support the Building Program through personal loans.
  - (e) Continue our efforts to establish our nine point "Forward Program" which has been neglected because of the period of unrest through which we have just passed.

In all probability, many of you do not know that we even have

a planned program, so we feel that the following brief outline will help you understand the scope of the work we have before us:

1. The Bible School Program. (Including mid-week classes.)
2. The Personal Work Program.
3. The Christian Education Program.
4. The Building Program.
5. The Missionary Program. (Local and Foreign.)
6. The Recreational Program.
7. The Fellowship Program.
8. The Benevolence Program.
9. The Financial Program.

The congregation of the church of Christ at Strathmoor possesses the talent to develop this program and enlarge the borders of the Kingdom.

We express our humble appreciation for the spirit of cooperation manifested by those who are now assigned to the various tasks of carrying on the Lord's Work in an organized manner:

Our Assistant Bible School Director, his secretary, his helpers, the teachers.

Our minister for his personal work, his supervision of the Personal Work Program and his untiring efforts to preach the Gospel and bring souls to Christ.

Our committee members for the many hours they have spent preparing programs, working on legal documents and methods for financing our Building Program.

Our officers and members who are responsible for the depositing and disbursing of Church Funds.

Our members, in general, who in many ways have shown a willingness to work for the Lord.

It is the feeling of the elders that no one intentionally wishes to hinder the work of the Lord, and it is our sincere prayer, that by the Grace of God, we go forward from this time on.

"So put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander. Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord." (1 Peter 2:1-3)

"Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20)

In concluding this letter we feel that many of our differences have been settled and that by an earnest consideration of our Christian obligations the rest of them will be settled.

We, the elders, have confidence in the inherent desire of our fellow Christians to be of one mind and one heart in carrying out the Will of our Heavenly Father. Need we say more?

Yours in Christian love,

*Short Prayer By  
Bro. Ezzell  
Closing Prayer By  
Bro. Benson*

*Don Saising  
Roy Ezzell  
Lynne Kikkiofel*