

# THE WORD OF TRUTH

OTIS Q. SELLERS, Editor JUNE, JULY, AUG. 1947

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## *THE EDITOR TO HIS FRIENDS*

That which the Editor has to say to the friends of this ministry is considered by him to be of such importance that it is being placed on the first page of this issue of THE WORD OF TRUTH. To state it briefly first of all, it is this: Due to what I believe is the most positive leading of the Lord, I have decided to bring to a close my ministry in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and locate in Los Angeles, California. There I will serve as minister of the Word of God to the *Los Angeles Bible Fellowship*. This move will make no change in *The Word of Truth Ministry* except a change in address. The magazine will continue as it has in the past except I will be able to issue it every two months and confidently hope I can soon make it a monthly. The radio ministry will continue in Chicago and Grand Rapids.

Having stated it briefly, I now wish to give every detail that is pertinent to this announcement so that every friend of this witness may rejoice with me in the gracious leading of the Lord in my ministry.

This all began last November (1946). The growth of *The Word of Truth Ministry* had been such that we could no longer properly care for it. I had determined to enlarge the work and to secure the help needed to perform it. A few weeks before I had extended a tentative invitation to a young man to prayerfully consider joining me in this work, inasmuch as he already desired to devote his life to the ministry of the rightly-divided Word. The prospect that he might join me led me to begin a review of the work I was doing and hoped to do to see if I could not better redeem the time and accomplish the greatest possible good. I was doing this while on a trip between Grand Rapids and Chicago for I had determined in advance to spend the four hours enroute in prayerful thought concerning my ministry. However, each time I set my mind upon a course of thought - whether it was the public ministry of the Word, the printed-page ministry, the radio ministry or the Bible Institute which I have long wanted to start - it seemed to end up in one conclusion - that I should leave Grand Rapids and locate in some large center of population. As this conclusion would come to me, I would

almost automatically put it out of my mind. It was not a welcome nor pleasant idea. We have been in Grand Rapids for almost twelve years. Our roots are deep here. I have the complete unanimity and whole-hearted support of everyone who is a part of *The Gospel Fellowship* where I minister the Word of God. We own our own property on which I have spent much time and effort seeking to beautify and improve. I had always felt I would spend the rest of my life here; therefore, any idea of leaving was unwelcome. However, the conviction persisted until I decided it would be best for me not to resist it but put it to the test to see if it were the Lord's will.

My whole life and ministry is based upon the assumption and conviction that God can and will speak loud and plain enough to make a willing soul hear. Therefore, on the return trip from Chicago I spent the hours enroute in careful and prayerful thought. The conviction grew that it was God's will for me to "get up and get out" of Grand Rapids.

I kept this a secret in my own heart for six weeks in order to fully test it before the Lord. Then at a family conference just before New Year's Day while our daughter was at home from College, I revealed the matter to Mrs. Sellers and Jane. Even though I broke the news as easily as possible, they were somewhat shocked by it. Nevertheless, they felt that the Lord was leading me, and were more than willing to accept His will for me as being His will also for them. Naturally Jane asked, "Where are we going?" and I had to answer that I did not know - that the only leading I had was that my work in Grand Rapids was at an end and that the same God who had led me to see this was able to lead us to our next place of service. We were happy that one matter was clearly settled. We could now turn our attention to the next step.

During January and February we continued instant in prayer seeking guidance concerning our new place of ministry. We selected one city tentatively, but after fully considering it and weighing it before the Lord, there was no leading toward it, so it was eliminated. Following this Chicago was selected as a possible location and carefully considered. It appeared that this was the place, but as there was some doubt and the leading was not clear it was held in abeyance.

In late February and early March we made the trip to Los Angeles for the purpose of special ministry. The response to the ministry brought us great joy, but at no time before our visit or during the meeting there did we ever consider Los Angeles as a possible location. In fact, on the last Sunday there I told those who were present that the Lord had led me to leave Grand Rapids and that our tentative plans were to locate in Chicago. This announcement set some of our friends in Los Angeles to thinking.

We remained in Los Angeles for two days after the meetings closed in order to see some of the surrounding country. On the second day, Mr. C. V. Duff, one of the good friends of this ministry, took us on a motor trip, which lasted about nine hours. I believe that eight of these were spent in him seeking to convince me that Southern California was the place we should locate and center our ministry. At first I refused to give it any consideration whatsoever, but finally made him the promise that I would give Los Angeles prayerful consideration as a possible location for my ministry before any final decision was made concerning Chicago.

When it became known that I was considering Los Angeles, a multitude of circumstances arose that led me to believe that this might be the place where the Lord desired me to center my efforts. Friend after friend wrote to urge this move upon me, offering their help in making it possible. Greatest and most impressive circumstance of all was that in Los Angeles there were so many others that had the same vision of service that I have had for years, the most important feature of which is a small school where men could be taught the Word of God rightly divided, then sent forth as teachers of it.

After much waiting upon the Lord, I decided that the only way I could come to a true decision was to make another trip to Los Angeles. By so doing I could confer with all who were interested and make an "on the spot" exploration of the whole matter, in the hope that this would bring further light. In accord with this, the following letter was mailed to all readers of *The Word of Truth* in Southern California:

Dear Friend:

This letter is being sent to all readers of THE WORD OF TRUTH in Southern California. As many of you already know, I feel led of the Lord to bring to a close my ministry with THE GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP in Grand Rapids, where I, have been for twelve years, and locate in some larger city. I had tentatively decided on Chicago, but due to the insistent pleas of friends in Los Angeles, I promised to withhold making any final decision in the matter until I had fully considered Southern California as a possible location for THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY and a place of public testimony. This has been prayerfully done with the result that Los Angeles is now under such serious consideration that I have decided to make a trip there in order to confer with friends and make an on-the-spot exploration of the whole matter.

I do not wish to raise any false hopes among my friends who have been urging me for years to locate in California, and my visit is not to be construed as indicating that it is a settled matter. All I desire is to do the will of the Lord, and I believe that this visit will be helpful in coming to a decision.

I will be in Los Angeles for about five days, but there will be no meetings held except on SUNDAY, MAY 25. Three meetings will be held that day in the Auditorium at 245 South Lucas Street, at 10:45 a. m., 3:00 p. m. and 7:30 p. m. This is five blocks west of Figueroa, between Beverly Boulevard and Third Street. The morning and evening services will be devoted to messages from the Word of God. The afternoon service at 3:00 will be a special meeting to which all are invited who may be interested in my locating in Southern California. I would urge you to be present at the afternoon service when this whole matter will be presented and fully discussed by the friends of this ministry.

My vision for a full ministry of the Word of God can be summed up under five points:

1. A central testimony devoted to a full Bible teaching ministry with regular Sunday and mid-week services. This will not be another "church", but a fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus holding forth a faithful witness to the Word of God. This will provide a place in which all may gather who desire to participate in a Bible-teaching ministry.

2. A chain of Bible classes in every location where a few interested people can be gathered together for a regular meeting. These classes will be taught by faithful men who desire to teach others. I hope for a fellowship of teachers who will meet regularly for study, instruction and mutual help.

3. A unique Bible Institute where men will be taught the Word and trained to teach others the Word. This school will stress quality and not quantity. It will never boast of a large student body, and it will exist for the purpose of giving individual, practical instruction to men who desire to become teachers of the Word.

4. A greatly enlarged printed-page ministry with full equipment for publishing literature that will exalt the rightly-divided Word.

5. An enlarged radio ministry, beginning with that already established, then seeking by this means to open up other cities for the truth of the Scriptures.

These five points set forth briefly the vision I have for future ministry. Such a ministry can best be realized in some large city. I feel inclined toward Los Angeles because there are so many eager hearts and hands there who want to devote their time and talents to this ministry. I trust you will pray that God will grant us special wisdom at this time.

I will be pleased if you are present on Sunday, May 25, so that we will have the benefit of your counsel and encouragement.

Yours in Truth,'

OTIS Q. SELLERS.

\*\*\*\*"Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend," is the witness of the Spirit of God through Solomon. I found this to be true when I arrived in Los Angeles on Friday, May 23, and began to confer with the friends who were deeply interested in this move. Mr. Duff met me at the train and the first five hours were spent with him. Next came several hours with Elroy Robinson and then the same with him and Hershey Julien together. Following this I met with about twenty friends before whom the whole matter was carefully reviewed and discussed. But after twelve hours of consideration, I was not yet convinced it was the Lord's will for me to locate in Los Angeles. In all of this I was deeply exercised. A mistake at this time would have been tragic. I reviewed the whole matter prayerfully. Was this something I desired to do? Was it some move I wanted to make? Or, was this the leading of the Lord? As I reviewed the matter, I could honestly say before God that I had never desired or wanted to go to Los Angeles. Friends had urged me to locate there ever since my first visit in 1942 but I had never even considered it. Even after I decided to leave Grand Rapids, my personal desire was to go East, to that part of the U.S.A. which I have come to love above all other parts. In fact, my plans to make a change were first revealed to brethren in the East in the hope that something would develop out of it. However, nothing did, so I had turned my mind toward Chicago, but not toward California. Therefore, I knew I was clear of any personal or selfish desires in the matter.

I reveal these things because all over the United States are millions of people whose greatest desire is to get to California. They would joyfully grasp any opportunity, which would make it possible for them to locate there. If any should think that I am among this number, they are mistaken. I could have located there at any time since 1942 and would probably have bettered myself economically by so doing. But I never once considered it until circumstances demanded that I test it to see if it were the Lord's will. Nothing mattered to me but the Lord's will, and after my first day, it was not yet clear.

On the second day, Saturday, the personal conferences continued throughout the day and well into the night. There was at all times complete unity of spirit among us, although at all times frankness of speech prevailed. If I decided upon Los Angeles, I would be working with many others and complete understanding was essential.

At this point, I would express my thanks to all who labored with me in helping to come to a decision concerning the Lord's will. Among those in Los Angeles, I would mention particularly C. V. Duff, Elroy Robinson, Hershey Julien and William Lindsey. From a distance came Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith who traveled the 200 miles from Fresno in order to give counsel and encouragement and be present at the Sunday services. Mr. and Mrs. E. Leonard Julien, parents of my fellow-laborer, Hershey Julien came down from Riverdale (near Fresno) to be present. Our good friend Mrs. Letha Painter came in from Victorville. Colonel and Mrs. Arthur von Deesten went to great trouble in order to be there. He expected to finish his army service the following week, but did all in his power to speed matters so he could be in Los Angeles the Sunday I was there. And the very presence of our young friends, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shacklett, was an inspiration.

It would be impossible for me to set forth the deep exercise of heart and mind I passed through in all of this. I knew that the Lord was pouring me from vessel to vessel, and was deeply impressed by the fact that He was working in my life in such a way that whatever decision I finally arrived at, I would know it was His will. I feared nothing but being out of His will. All the stupendous problems connected with the move were given no consideration. I desired to solve none of these. They could be considered and solved only after I knew that this move was His will. I was fully conscious of all the sorrow I would bring upon myself if the desires of the flesh in any manner entered into the making of my decision. I felt great joy that the Lord was dealing so positively with me; nevertheless, after the first two days there was no definite conviction of the Lord's leading.

For a time this seemed to indicate to me that it was not the will of the Lord for me to locate in Los Angeles. I felt this quite strongly and went before the Lord in prayer, making request of Him to give clear leading of His will if I were to turn elsewhere. The opportunities in the Chicago area for my ministry were equal to those in Los Angeles. I was as willing to go one place as the other. All I cared though was to do the Lord's will.

The Sunday morning service brought me great joy as the friends of this ministry gathered to hear the Word of God, but the Lord's will for me was no clearer at the close. At the afternoon service, I reviewed the whole matter before the people, then opened up the meeting for expressions from those assembled. It was a meeting I will never forget. There was true Christian sympathy and unanimity. Everyone present desired me to locate in Los Angeles, but each one desired most of all that the Lord's will should be done. But at the close of this meeting, which continued for two hours, there was still no clear leading, so I felt it best to prepare the minds of my friends for an adverse decision. I asked them to accept as the Lord's will for me my decision in case it should be "NO", and to stand behind my ministry wherever the Lord should lead me, just as they had planned to do if I located in California.

After the close of the afternoon service I spent a half-hour conversing with various friends, receiving from them numerous assurances of their prayers in my behalf. Then as I began to leave the building to join Colonel and Mrs. von Deesten who were waiting to take me to dinner, the most definite assurance and conviction came to me that Los Angeles was the place and that it was the Lord's will for me to locate there. From that moment it was a settled matter with me. I told no one of it, but at the beginning of the evening service, I announced my decision.

As I now review all of this, one outstanding fact brings me great joy. This decision was made and announced publicly before I asked for a single thing or before a single promise was made to me. Salary, moving expenses, etc., were not in the picture. Therefore, this move is based solely upon my conviction that it is the will of God for me, and not because of any promises held out to me.

Thus the second step in the Lord's leading was concluded. It was now plain that I was to leave Grand Rapids and go to Los Angeles.

At this point it seems wise to set forth the ministry we hope to accomplish there. First of all will be:

### **THE LOS ANGELES BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

This will be a fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ holding forth a faithful testimony to the Word of God. We desire this to be a central testimony devoted to a full Bible teaching ministry. There will be regular Sunday morning and evening meetings, also a mid-week meeting. Quarterly conferences are also planned which will begin on Saturday night and continue through three services on Sunday. We believe these will bring many who live at a distance, offering them the opportunity for fellowship. Another regular feature of the work will be a meeting every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. Of course, these plans are only tentative and they are set forth only for the purpose of giving our readers an idea of the ministry of this Fellowship. Next will be:

## **THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY**

This is not new, as it forms the printed-page and radio ministry, which I have conducted for the past eleven years. There will be no major changes in this except the address. However, it will be greatly enlarged and developed, and I trust, conducted as we have always wanted to do it but could not because of lack of help. We can now assure our readers that there will be a magazine every two months, and as soon as it is feasible THE WORD OF TRUTH will become a monthly.

Insignificant as to its beginning but most important and nearest to my heart will be:

## **THE PACIFIC BIBLE INSTITUTE**

In May 1944 I wrote in THE WORD OF TRUTH:

The next and greatest task that lies before those who believe in and stand for the rightly-divided Word is to provide some sort of a school for the work of training men for the work of faithfully and fully proclaiming the Word of God. The need for this is being made plain in many ways. First of all by the numerous small Bible-study fellowships that are springing up over the country. Some of these are earnestly desiring a teacher who can lead and help them in their studies of the Word of God. Then, there are men who would like to devote their lives to. this work, but who need some special training for this peculiar ministry. The task is a major one and far beyond my abilities and capacities, but it is not impossible.

In the three years that have passed since I wrote this, the need for a school has been intensified. In many cities small groups of believers have come to see the importance of Truth in the sight of God and have asked me to recommend or send someone to them who would lead them in their studies in the Word of God. At the present time we could use at least seven men in as many cities but they are not available. Again and again during the past decade young men who knew the Lord and who had been impressed with the importance of Truth have desired to be trained in the Word and in the teaching ministry. As we were in no position to help them, they were not able to follow out their desires.. Some of them tried to find help in the established Bible schools and seminaries, only to be disappointed.

Now the vision of a small school is very near to being a reality. We can now offer practical and personal instruction to consecrated young men who desire to spend their lives dispensing the Word of God.

I can imagine that by this time my friends are wondering how all this work can be done by one man who already has more than he can do. But it is no longer necessary for me to work alone. This fact brings me the greatest possible joy. The Lord has raised up capable helpers for every department of the work. I would like to introduce to you those who will be associated with me in this ministry. First, let me introduce:

## **MR. ELROY B. ROBINSON**

To know Elroy is to know a man who seeks only the things of Jesus Christ. If you did know him, these are the personal facts you would soon discover. He is thirty-four years of age and unmarried. After graduation from high school in Fresno, California, he entered Fresno State College where he studied for four years graduating with an A. B. degree. After a period of teaching science in the Fresno public schools, he spent one year at Wheaton college on a fellowship, coaching the cross country team and track. At this time he held several track records. He made his first record in the

West Coast relays at Fresno in 1937, establishing a new American record of 2 minutes 9.7 seconds in the 1000 yard. Later at Randall's Island in New York he established a new world record in the half mile at 1 minute 49.6 seconds. His mother, a wonderful Christian woman of strong convictions, believed he was wasting his time trying to run faster than any other man. She would quote to him Psalm 147:11, "He delighteth not in the strength of the horse; he taketh not pleasure in the legs of man." The demands that running made upon his time and strength led him to abandon it in order to devote his best efforts to the Lord. He labored for two years with the Navigators, a Christian Service Men's organization.

In February, 1943, he entered the army and served three full years. While in France serving as a Staff Sergeant in the Replacement System, he was conducting Bible classes each night for the men who were passing through on their way to join a regiment at the front. It was while doing this that he met Herbert Baudistel, of whom I will have more to say later. After his discharge from the army he opened a testimony to the rightly-divided Word **in** Los Angeles, devoting his entire time to this and special studies at the University of Southern California toward his Master's degree. He will be associated with the work in Los Angeles in all its departments, even to being a student in the Institute as he is anxious to greatly increase his knowledge of the Word.

Next, I would introduce to you:

### **MR. HERBERT H. BAUDISTEL, JR.**

If you could spend a day with Herb, these are the things you would find out about him if you asked a few questions. He is twenty-four years of age, single, and lives in Irvington, New Jersey. After graduation from high school he entered Newark College of Engineering, studying there for three years until the war interrupted his course. Entering the army in June 1943, he trained at Camp Fannin in Texas where he remained as Training Instructor with the 67th Battalion, 14th Regiment until he went overseas to Europe in October 1944. There he served as Platoon Sergeant in the Seventh Armored Division, seeing active service. After his discharge from the army, he spent the summer of 1945 with Mr. Robinson in Los Angeles, returning in the fall to resume his studies in engineering. He graduated in May 1947 with an M. E. degree.

Early in life the Spirit of God began a work in Herb's life which in due time brought him to the realization of his need of a Savior and of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of that need. While at Camp Fannin, Herb contracted pneumonia, which caused him to spend considerable time in the hospital. This time was spent in-reading and studying the Word. As it will in every case where men diligently read the Word of God, numerous questions, difficulties and problems arose. Some of these were answered by a fundamentalist pastor in Texas, but the great majority of them remained. He made a list of these and constantly hoped that someone would come along who would be able to answer them.

While in a replacement depot in France, he heard another soldier announcing a Bible class. This soldier was Elroy Robinson, and Herb went to the class with his Bible and long list of questions. *Being* a complete dispensationalist and having a good knowledge of the Scriptural teaching of man's nature and destiny, Elroy had the answer to almost every question on Herb's list. From nine at night until three in the morning these two soldiers sat with open Bibles in a chapel tent in France. The next morning Herb moved on toward the front, but this began a friendship based upon the Truth that has constantly developed since that time. Herb spent four months with Elroy in Los Angeles in 1946 before entering College for his final year of study. Now, these two friends will be together again in the work of *The Word of Truth Ministry*.

Next, I would have you meet:

## **MR. HERSHEY JULIEN**

The true ministry of the Word of God (not the ministry of religion) is proving to be an attraction to young men of high abilities and qualifications. This fact gives promise of a strong testimony to the rightly divided Word in the years to come. Among these young men, Hershey Julien is an outstanding example. We have been friends since 1936 when he began to correspond with me about the Truth while a sophomore in college. After his graduation from the Riverdale California high school, he entered Stanford University in 1935. There he majored in Economics as he planned to go into the banking business. Upon his graduation in 1939 he received his A. B. degree, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Field Artillery Reserve. After this he spent one year in Oklahoma working in property management and real estate sales. During this year he gave much time to the study of the Bible and to the teaching of a class of high school boys. This study and teaching convinced him that he wanted to spend his life as a student and teacher of the Word rather than in the field of finance. At this time he met Margaret Borden who also wanted to spend her life in connection with the ministry of the Word.

In the fall of 1940 he volunteered for one-year active duty with the army and hoped that when this was complete he could begin to study for the teaching ministry. The war intervened and he remained in active service for five years. His army record reveals his abilities. He entered military service as 2nd Lieutenant at Camp Roberts, California, in February 1941; promoted to 1st Lieutenant in February, 1942, and Captain in September, 1942; completed Battery Officers course and Officers advanced course at Field Artillery School, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and General Staff course at Command and General Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas; sailed to France with the 70th Infantry Division in January 1945; fought on the western front with the Seventh Army, and then with his division participated in the occupation of Germany; awarded Bronze Star Medal for "meritorious service in connection with operations against the enemy;" promoted to Major while on terminal leave. After his discharge from the army he studied at Princeton Theological Seminary for one year. During this time he had fellowship with *The Bible Fellowship of Philadelphia* and taught in their Sunday morning meetings a number of times. During the last year he has studied at the University of Southern California and has taught regularly at the Sunday morning meetings of the *Los Angeles Bible Testimony*. Mr. Julien is married, has two fine children, and now lives in Los Angeles. I expect to find a real fellow laborer in Hershey in the work of *The Pacific Bible Institute*.

This account would not be complete without introducing one more young man who, when he heard I was going to California, determined to go along. I want all my friends to know:

## **MR. GERALD BRANDSMA**

Better known to all of us as Jerry, he is 27 years of age, single, and has lived all his life in Grand Rapids. I met him when I first came to Grand Rapids in 1936 to begin my ministry, and we worked together on the printing press in those days when we did our own printing. Jerry's father, a city policeman, was killed by a bank robber a year after Jerry was born. When he graduated from high school in 1938 he went to work at once in order to support his mother. He entered the army in 1942, and served three years in the Army Air Force. He went to England as a TgSgt. and completed thirty missions in the E.T.O. beginning with D-day. He was awarded the Air Medal and three oak leaf clusters. After his discharge from the army he entered Grand Rapids Junior College and took a two year course in business administration. His desire is to know the Word and be able to teach it while making his living at his chosen profession. He wants to be a part of this new work and is making the move in order to study with us.



## OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS

In order to make the move to California, two buildings were urgently needed. A meeting place of sufficient size and equipment was needed for *The Los Angeles Bible Fellowship*. This presented no great difficulty as a fully equipped hall in a good location was available to us at a favorable rental. This solved that problem, and we tentatively decided to rent this hall.

Our next need was a building where we could house all the activities of *The Word of Truth Ministry* and *The Pacific Bible Institute*. This seemed like an almost insurmountable difficulty. It was necessary that this building be purchased so that our address would be permanent in view of all the printed forms we use, also in view of the fact that we would need to make alterations to meet the needs of our work. This building had to be near transportation, and in a commercial zone. As this was a vital necessity, and, as we were convinced that the Lord had led us to California, we felt that He would lead us to the right building and make it possible for us to secure it. However, our faith must have been too small as we thought the search for a place would require months.

After the Sunday on which the decision was made, I had only two days more to spend in California. We decided to spend this time looking at available properties so as to have a better conception of what we were up against, and thus know how to pray and plan more intelligently. On Monday, Mr. Duff, Colonel von Deesten, and I spent the entire day visiting numerous places. None of these fitted our needs. Some were right in every detail except the zoning. Others would suit our needs but the price was outrageously high. On Tuesday morning we went forth again to search for a place. The first place we looked at was ideal from every standpoint, but the price of \$40,000.00 was so far out of our reach that we felt somewhat discouraged. However, this place was different from all the rest. It had been at one time a large residence but had been remodeled for use as a music school. By very little further remodeling we could create an auditorium large enough to take care of the needs of the *Los Angeles Bible Fellowship* for a meeting place. Since the *Fellowship* could rent from *The Word of Truth Ministry*, then the two separate works would be helping each other. I felt so strongly led to this place that I asked Mr. Duff and Colonel van Deesten what they thought of offering \$25,000.00 for the place, and if by some strange circumstance we obtained it, we would take this as an indication that it was the Lord's will for us to have it. They agreed without hesitation.

And, just at this point, it became necessary to exercise the sheer audacity and recklessness that men of faith are called upon to display. The first step in such a venture is to put up some earnest money to show the offer is made in good faith. I had enough money for this step (\$300.00) and no more. The real estate agent did not at first want to consider the offer but finally agreed to approach the owner. None of us felt we would secure it at this figure and we spent the afternoon looking for another place. On the next day at noon I started for home.

We did not know it then, but discovered afterward, that the owner was in need of money. By the time I arrived home there was a long-distance call informing me that she would sell at our price if she could have \$2,000.00 cash within two days. I did not have this, but knew I could borrow it on my note so within two days the money was in Los Angeles. The escrow agreement also called for an additional deposit of \$1,700.00 which I borrowed. These loans are only for a period of ninety days, but they give us a positive claim upon the property until August 15. So to sum it up, I have used \$300.00 of my own money and have borrowed \$3,700.00 more for ninety days. The property cost \$25,000.00 and a first mortgage loan of \$14,500 has already been secured. This means that I must now secure \$10,200.00 by August 15 or lose what I have placed in the escrow. I tell these facts because I have nothing to hide, and also to demonstrate that I believe in the ministry that I am performing. And if any should say at this time that I have done these things because some wealthy person has promised to stand behind me, they do not speak the truth. I have assumed these risks because I felt led of the Lord and the only ones standing behind me are the hundreds of devoted

friends I have made through the years I have performed this ministry.

### AN URGENT APPEAL

Again and again those who believe in the truth of God's Word rightly-divided have declared that something should be done to provide training for those young men who desire to devote their lives to the teaching of the Word of God. The fields have been white unto harvest, but the laborers have been few. It has been tragic to know of young men who desired to spend their lives as teachers of the Word but could secure no training for this peculiar ministry. We have been led of the Lord to try to fill this pressing need.

When we enter into possession of the building in Los Angeles, we will have a permanent home and complete facilities for *The Word of Truth Ministry* such as an office, book rooms and mailing rooms. We will also have a home for the *Pacific Bible Institute* with space for housing and teaching about ten students. As this property is in a commercial zone we can build upon every inch of the lot. We hope in the near future to have full equipment to do all our printing and a small building on the rear of the lot to house it. This building is NOT to belong to *The Los Angeles Bible Fellowship*. It is to be the property of *The Word of Truth Ministry* and will be held by me as a sacred trust for the purposes of conducting this ministry and the Bible Institute.

In the years I have carried on this ministry many appeals have gone forth for help. My friends have constantly said, "Tell us your needs; if we can help you we will; if we cannot, we won't." In view of this I have never hesitated to set forth our needs. Financing the work of the Lord is as much a part of it as anything else. In response to every appeal some have given and some have not. Those who gave made the ministry possible.

Now I am making the most urgent and important appeal for material help that I have ever made. The need has never been greater - the task has never held greater challenge. Talented young men of real ability are anxious to give their lives to teaching the Word of God. I am placing in jeopardy everything I own in order that this work might be established. In view of this can any believer in the rightly-divided Word ignore this appeal for help? I am going to ask everyone who has ever been helped in any manner by my ministry to have a share in this work. I want you to respond as liberally as possible, even though your contribution may be only one dollar. If I have ever been of any help to you in your desire to know the Word of God, then I want you in return to help me at this time.

I have never before made an appeal as strong as this. I doubt if I will ever do so again. I feel it is necessary to awaken God's people to this task. There is so much spiritual laxity on every hand. This appeal will reach our friends in the summer months when they are more lax than usual. Many will not want to consider this until the cool months of fall. Some are willing to do anything for the Lord but give a little money. Others will not send a small gift, promising themselves they will send a big one later on. All these factors will be at work to defeat us. Satan will use all of them. Please do not put this aside and forget it. Do not fail to respond because the amount you can give is small. We are not looking to men, but to the Lord. Nevertheless, we know that God will supply our needs through His people. In view of the spiritual lethargy of so many of God's people, and in view of their slowness to respond to the leading of the Spirit, I have had to speak with great intensity concerning this need. I now commit it to you for your prayerful consideration. .

## IN CONCLUSION

You now have the whole story before you to the best of my ability to report it. I have tried to carry each friend of this ministry along with me as I have retraced the leadings of the Spirit in this matter. Of course, I could never set forth on paper or even by word of mouth the deep exercise of heart and mind, the sleepless nights, or the hours of prayer. Yes, I feel I should mention the tears that were shed before this decision was reached. Even now in view of the complex task of moving and the heavy burdens we are forced to carry I can honestly say with Paul that we are troubled, but not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.

Our property in Grand Rapids is now for sale. We expect to dispose of it quickly. We have been so happy here that it hurts to give it up; nevertheless, the Lord has led us out and we have no choice.

No words of mine can adequately express my deep appreciation of the friends who form *The Gospel Fellowship* of Grand Rapids, the *Chicago Bible Fellowship* and the *Rockford Bible Fellowship*. They are in full sympathy with the move we are making, and are standing loyally behind us with their prayers and material support. We will no longer be able to minister the Word to them regularly as we have done for the past thirteen years, but they will never be separated from our prayers, thoughts and ministry. The magazine will come to each one of them, and the radio ministry will continue to be heard each week in Grand Rapids and Chicago. Furthermore, we plan to return each year for special ministry among them.

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep." Psalm 107:23-24. The figures in the passage are sailors, ships, seas, and roaring waves, but the truth applies to all who do business for God, sailing their small ships in an angry world that is no friend of grace. We can witness to the truth set forth in this passage.

And so we will soon begin the next chapter in our great adventure. Elroy Robinson and Hershey Julien are already in Los Angeles. Sometime before the first of September Mrs. Sellers, Jane and I will leave in our car for California. Jane will take a quick look at her new place of residence before returning to MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois, for her senior year. The first week of September, Herb Baudistel will join Jerry Brandsma in Grand Rapids and they will drive together to Los Angeles. By September 15 we hope to be operating all departments of this ministry in our new location. Brethren, pray for us.

## ABUNDANT LABORS

The apostle Paul could say that his labors were more abundant than those of his detractors and critics. I can make no such declaration, but I can truly say that my labors have been so abundant that during the past year I have constantly been overworked. In the year that has elapsed since June 1, 1946, I have driven my car 25,000 miles. All but a few thousand miles of this have been in connection with my ministry. I have also traveled 8,800 miles by train. In the past year I have given 245 public messages, made 48 half-hour radio transcriptions, 108 fifteen minute transcriptions and given 52 "live" half-hour broadcasts. Six magazines have been written and published and two pamphlets. Having no help except that of Mrs. Sellers, I have also had to do the thousand-and-one things that arise in connection with a work such as this. At times it has been a bit discouraging, but I have continued, applying myself to the task about sixteen hours every day and seven days each week. As the work is constantly changing, it never becomes monotonous.

This amount of work has forced us for the past two years to proceed on a policy that ran about like this: Slight everything that could be slighted, do everything that had to be done, neglect everything that could be neglected, answer everything that had to be answered, and regretfully ignore all that could be ignored. Our friends have been treated shabbily, but we had no other choice.

Now at long last we are to have help. The Lord has abundantly answered our prayers and given us more help than we asked for. Because of moving, matters must grow worse for several months, but in the very near future we will be able to take care of every detail of this ministry as it should be cared for. I trust that all our friends will understand the difficulties under which we have labored during the past few years.

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## ***THE TEACHING MINISTRY***

Preaching sermons or giving messages is one thing, and teaching the Word of God is something quite different. As a rule, those who listen to messages or sermons are not students and they do not want or expect to be taught anything. They are performing a religious duty and feel a little better for having "attended church" on a Sunday. The ordeal of listening to the message is a kind of penance, which they perform. Those who gather to hear the Bible expounded are, as a rule, students. They come carrying their Bibles, expecting to be taught, and are quite disappointed if they do not make some progress in the Word as a result of their attendance. Those who go forth to teach the Truth must of necessity be themselves students, thinkers, and searchers for the Truth that God has so liberally placed in His Word. Furthermore, their knowledge of the Bible as a whole must be of such nature that they are able to honestly and sincerely meet all questions that are bound to arise in the minds of people whose thoughts have been turned to the Word of God.

The sole purpose of the *Pacific Bible Institute* will be to equip men as teachers of the Word of God. There will be no "assembly line" methods such as are seen in so many schools today. In fact, we cannot say at the present time just how the Institute will be conducted. There is no pattern for us to follow, and we do not intend to accept those commonly used methods, which never seem to produce either students or teachers. When the school opens it will be six men (of which I am one) studying and working together in relationship to the Word of God. Out of this beginning we believe will come the methods, men, and ministry that will in time make the *Pacific Bible Institute* a school for training teachers of the Word of God.

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## ***RANDOM THOUGHTS***

The next issue of THE WORD OF TRUTH will in all probability be mailed from Los Angeles. There will be some little delay as new arrangements must be made for printing.

We will keep our friends fully informed as to the progress we are making, difficulties we are encountering, and joys we are experiencing. If there is anything you wish to know that we fail to tell, just write for information. We will soon have help in caring for correspondence and your letters will be answered without delay.

In all of this I wish to pay tribute to the one who has been my untiring helper in all I have written, said, or done through twenty five blessed years. No man could possibly do what I have done and am attempting to do without the devoted help and encouragement, which my beloved wife has given to me. Her courage and faith have been a constant inspiration. The Lord willing we will celebrate our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in California on November 1 of this year.

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