

What is...

THE

HERALD

OF

TRUTH?

Sermon Preached by A. C. Grider

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At The

PRESTON HIGHWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

4620 PRESTON HIGHWAY

LOUISVILLE, KY.

WHAT IS THE HERALD OF TRUTH?

by A. C. GRIDER

When man fell through disobedience, in the garden of Eden, he began to be in need of a saviour. God promised him a saviour, in Gen. 3:15. The promise of a saviour was renewed and enlarged upon many times during the Patriarchal and Jewish Dispensations. And when we look into the New Testament, we see an early reference to the Saviour. God declares, in Matt. 1:21, that the son of the virgin would "save his people from their sins". Jesus declared that he came "to seek and to save that which was lost". Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners".

Now this salvation of the sinner is brought about by two things: The plan of salvation and the church of the Lord. I would like to emphasize that the plan of salvation and the church are inseparably connected in the salvation of the sinner. When one obeys the conditions announced in the plan of salvation he is added to the church by the Lord. He is translated into the kingdom of God's dear son. Col. 1:13.

Matt. 28:19-20 records the great commission. And it is noted that the Saviour commanded the apostles to "go, and teach all nations". But, they were told NOT TO GO IMMEDIATELY, but to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49. This power came on the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2. This was the day the church was established upon the earth. So, these apostles, and those who would believe on the Lord through their word, were to go, AS MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, to preach the gospel.

God, in his wisdom, saw fit to have these Christians gather together in communities, or congregations, to preach the gospel. That these congregations might en-

gage in concerted action, God ordained that each congregation should have leadership. So, he ordained that elders be appointed in every church. Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5. That elders were to be appointed in every church is proof positive that God intended for them to exercise their office ONLY in the congregation where they were appointed. But we are not left to guess about it. God told us plainly that the work of elders was restricted to the congregation where they reside. Paul told the Ephesian elders to feed the flock "over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers". Acts 20:28. And the Apostle Peter declared that elders should take the oversight of "the flock which is among you". 1 Pet. 5:1.

Under this simple arrangement of elders overseeing the flock among them, the gospel was preached, in a few short years, to the then known world. Col. 1:23. Since this was God's plan, and, since God's plan was working so well, it seems incredible that man should dare, or even desire to change it. But man DID desire, and DID dare, and man did CHANGE this simple plan of congregational operation, under local elders, to a CENTRALIZED arrangement, wherein elders arose to exercise power over people NOT OF their own local congregation. Paul had predicted this in Act 20:30. Thus there was a change both in operation and in organization. This brought about a complete apostasy and the formation of a religious organization unknown to the New Testament. This new religious organization is known as the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church stands today as a monument to man's presumption in changing God's LOCAL ARRANGEMENT, for preaching the gospel, to man's CENTRALIZED ARRANGEMENT. And as long as there is a Catholic on this earth, there will be testimony of man's sin against God.

Finally there was a plea to restore New Testament

Christianity. "Back to Jerusalem", they said. "Let's get back to the beginning; back to the Bible," was the cry. And back to the Bible they came. But, alas, man quickly decided again that the simple congregational arrangement God had prescribed was too slow. They again clamored for a CENTRALIZED AGENCY to "expedite" the work of preaching the gospel. And, once again, they began to COMBINE congregations. Once again there was complete apostasy. And, once again, there came into being a religious organization unknown to the New Testament. This new organization, as you know, was the Christian Church. Thus, the Christian Church stands today as a monument to man's presumption in changing from God's plan of congregational activity to man's CENTRALIZED activity or UNIVERSAL CHURCH ACTION. As long as there is a member of the Christian Church on earth, there will be testimony of man's sin against God in rejecting his plan.

If God's people had stayed with God's arrangement of congregational activity, there would have been no Catholic Church. If God's people had stayed with God's arrangement of congregational activity, there would have been no Christian Church. And, today, if God's people will stay with God's plan of local congregational activity, there will be no new religious sect born. But, just as surely as man's departure from God's plan resulted in the formation of the Catholic Church; and just as surely as man's departure from God's plan resulted in the formation of the Christian Church; just that sure, man's departure NOW from God's plan will result in the formation of a religious sect wholly unknown to the Word of God.

Now, I am charging that the centralized arrangement among churches of Christ today, known as the Herald of Truth, is exactly and precisely the SAME KIND of arrangement that resulted in the formation

of both the Catholic and the Christian Churches. It is this Herald of Truth arrangement we would like to discuss today. While I do not anticipate any disagreement whatsoever with what I shall say, by any member of this congregation, I do beg of you to listen carefully to what I shall say, and weigh prayerfully the things spoken, so that you may rescue your friends and neighbors who have been taken in by the publicity resulting from the Herald of Truth.

Before I come directly to a discussion of the Herald of Truth, there are some general observations I wish to make. First, it is with reluctance that we charge our brethren with deliberate deception in their promotion of the many institutions now troubling the church. And, for years after the inauguration of these efforts to combine churches, we refrained from doing so. However we have found it so increasingly difficult to come up with any other explanation for the actions of these brethren, we are forced to the conclusion that their defense of same is not altogether on the level. For instance, and before you judge me too hastily, let me direct your attention to a matter:

Several months ago, I wrote an article, entitled: I WAS TAUGHT. The article concerned the benevolent work of the church. It was widely circulated and read. It has since been reproduced in a little book, CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST. I shall read you the statements I made:

1. "One year after I obeyed the gospel (1929) James A. Allen said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'Every local congregation was all-sufficient in every avenue of charity and benevolence'".
2. "One year after I obeyed the gospel (1929) H. M. Phillips said, 'I believe the CHURCH is the only ORGANIZATION that should and can do it'. He was speaking of benevolent work. His statement is in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE."

3. "Two years after I obeyed the Gospel (1930) A. B. Barrett said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'There were no brotherhood colleges, church papers, church orphanages, old folks homes, and SUCH LIKE among Apostolic churches'".
4. "Three years after I obeyed the gospel (1931) F. B. Srygley said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'Benevolence was done in the early church without any organization except the local church'".
5. "Four years after I obeyed the gospel (1932) W. Claud Hall said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'There was not another organization formed to take care of this work'. He was speaking of benevolent work".
6. "Four years after I obeyed the gospel (1932) H. Leo Boles said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'Churches cannot cooperate and please God, when they form new organizations through which to work. No organization is needed'".
7. "Five years after I obeyed the gospel (1933) George Pepperdine said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'If a separate organization to own and operate a children's home is not unscriptural, then I do not understand why it would be unscriptural for the same board of directors to operate a missionary society'".
8. "Six years after I obeyed the gospel (1934) W. E. Brightwell said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 'Church debts, INSTITUTIONS, and cooperative enterprises will as surely enslave and destroy us as it has enslaved and destroyed others'."

Now these are the statements I made, months ago, relative to the benevolent work of the church. Thus I proved conclusively that I believed, away back in the early thirties, what I believe now. And I proved conclusively that the GOSPEL ADVOCATE taught then exactly what I teach now. And, what has been the reaction of the opposition? They have made no attempt whatsoever to set aside my arguments. Unless and

until they make an attempt to show that these statements were NOT MADE, or that I have MISUNDERSTOOD them, or until they admit that the Gospel Advocate has changed its position on the matter, I shall be forced to attribute their charge that I am teaching something new to downright dishonesty.

Presently, I want to refer to some other statements which have appeared in the Gospel Advocate relative to the questions that are involved in the Herald of Truth arrangement. I shall NOT refer to the Gospel Advocate to prove that it is RIGHT or NOT to have the Herald of Truth. I did not refer to the Gospel Advocate to prove that it was right or not right to have the churches build and maintain benevolent organizations. I cited them on benevolence, and I shall cite them on missionary work, to prove that I am teaching NOW what I have ALWAYS taught on the matters, and that it is the Gospel Advocate that has changed its position. So, when I refer to the Gospel Advocate, in a few minutes, it will not be to prove that it is wrong to have the Herald of Truth, but it will be to prove that the Gospel Advocate USED to teach that it was wrong to have it. The Bible used to teach it was wrong and it STILL DOES!

But I would like to note, along that line, that there is a financial tie-up between the Gospel Advocate and the various organizations which have sprung up among churches of Christ. A financial connection which makes it impossible for the Gospel Advocate to "advocate the gospel". There is hardly a week goes by but that some "concern" runs a full page ad in the Advocate, paying there's no telling how much money for it. It may be a congregation, embarked on a begging campaign. It may be a college that receives money from churches. It may be an orphan home which receives money not only from churches but from every other source in the world. It may be a publishing Company.

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or it may be something else. But hardly a week goes by but that some of them run a full page ad in the Gospel Advocate. Even in this year of 1960, the Gospel Advocate has had full page ads from several colleges, from several churches, from the Herald of Truth, from publishing companies, and from various other things. Therefore the Gospel Advocate must support whatever these things want to support. And these things must support whatever the Gospel Advocate wants to support. In effect, therefore, they have formed what amounts to an "unholy alliance" which prevents, to the extent of its power, the truth from being presented on these matters.

One other general observation, and then we will come quickly to our subject of the hour. And that is, the needs of these enterprises are exaggerated and falsified. Now, I say that advisedly and I want to emphasize it by underlining the word FALSIFIED. The needs of these enterprises are exaggerated and falsified. I call attention to a full page ad in the Gospel Advocate of date March 24, 1955. The ad, by Tennessee Orphan Home, for which they probably paid the Gospel Advocate a large sum of money, stated that they were "holding up some past due bills". On this basis, they appealed to churches everywhere to send them money. Note that March 24, 1955 is about the MIDDLE of a fiscal year that would end October 31, 1955. It so happens that I have a financial report of Tennessee Orphan Home for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1955. This financial report shows that the "Home" received a total of \$121,073.80 that year. It lists expenses thus: "Total care of children" \$56,254.66. "Upkeep of plant and Equipment" \$29,261.59. "Administrative Expense" \$15,279.34. "Cost of Fixed Assets" \$3,444.77. Then, and this is the item I want you to see, "AMOUNT RECEIVED OVER COST OF OPERATION" \$16,833.44. Now, get it, brethren, for the fiscal year ending October 31,

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1955, Tennessee Orphan Home says it received over and above the cost of operation (and that included every item of overhead the administration wanted to include) the sum of \$16,833.44. Thus, this human institution, while receiving over \$1400 per month ABOVE TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES, runs a full page ad in the Gospel Advocate and says they are having to hold up past due bills. So, I repeat, their needs are exaggerated and FALSIFIED. They are simply NOT TELLING THE TRUTH in these appeals.

Now, as I suggested, let me call attention to some statements in the Gospel Advocate concerning an arrangement such as the Herald of Truth. If somebody objects that I am referring too much to the Gospel Advocate, let it be noted that I was brought up under the solid scriptural teaching of the "Old Reliable" and I deplore its departure from the truth. But I state again that I am not citing these statements to prove that it is wrong to have an arrangement such as the Herald of Truth. I am citing these statements to prove that the Gospel Advocate USED to teach that it was wrong to have it.

On August 18, 1928, the very year and the very month in which I obeyed the gospel, F. W. Smith said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, "Each congregation attended to its own affairs in the raising and disbursing of its funds in all phases of religious obligations."

On March 13, 1930, A. B. Barrett said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, "Every church of Christ is thus divinely constituted so as to function independently of all other like congregations. **There is no New Testament authority for combining two or more such congregations for any purpose whatsoever.** If any such combination is accomplished, it is wholly without the plane of New Testament teaching, hence unscriptural and sinful." Thus the Gospel Advocate taught, in 1930, that it was unscriptural and sinful to combine two or

more congregations for any purpose.

On May 14, 1931, F. B. Srygley said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, "Sometime after the apostles died (it even began to work in their day) men became dissatisfied with this simple organization and began to desire to do some great work. These simple organizations soon began to bind themselves together through their elderships." This is EXACTLY what "simple organizations" are doing in the Herald of Truth arrangement.

On May 14, 1931, For E. Wallace said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, "On the same principle, if the elders of one congregation solicit funds of other congregations for general distribution, then the elders of one congregation usurp the functions of the congregations whose funds they receive and disburse." Wallace further said, in the same article, "But for one church to solicit funds from other churches for general distribution in other fields or places, thus becoming the treasury of other churches, is quite a different question. **Such procedure makes a sort of SOCIETY out of the elders of a local church, and for such there is no scriptural precedent or example.**"

On December 3, 1931, F. B. Srygley said, in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, "These elders had no authority to take charge of the missionary money or any other money or means of any church except the one over which they were 'overseers'. Each church was complete within itself." And Srygley said, in the same article, "Churches should never be tied together, even in as good a work as preaching the gospel to the heathens. Elders of one church should not try to get hold of the money that has been contributed by others to direct for them in foreign fields or other places. **No missionary society should be started by elders of a church or by any individual.**" Thus Srygley taught that elders of a church would comprise a missionary society if they

got hold of the missionary money of other churches. This is exactly what the elders of Abilene are **DOING**. And a **MISSIONARY SOCIETY** for churches of Christ is exactly what they have thus **BECOME**.

On November 3, 1932, H. Leo Boles said, in the **GOSPEL ADVOCATE**, "There is no **example** in the New Testament of two or more churches joining together their funds for support of the gospel." And Boles further said, in the same article, "**A challenge is here issued to anyone to find a New Testament example of two or more churches uniting their funds and supporting the preaching of the gospel.**"

Finally, on January 11, 1934, F. B. Srygley said, in the **GOSPEL ADVOCATE**, "**If two or more churches put it into the hands of a board, though the board may be made up of the elders of one of the churches, we have a very nice beginning for a missionary society to try to take charge of the churches.**" (Emphasis in all quotations mine, ACG).

Such, my brethren, is the kind of teaching I was brought up on. From the **BIBLE** I was taught that such an arrangement as the Herald of Truth is wrong. But from the Gospel Advocate too, I was taught that such was unscriptural and sinful. What will the opposition do regarding this? They will **IGNORE** these statements. They will continue to insist that the Gospel Advocate is still teaching as it has always taught. And they will declare that A. C. Grider has departed from former teaching. But their charges will have a hollow ring unless and until they can show that the foregoing statements were not made, or that I have misunderstood them, or that Grider's teaching now is different to the teaching of the Bible or to the former teaching of the Gospel Advocate.

But, moving along as rapidly as possible, I now direct your attention to the blackboard. Observe, if

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you will that I have three words up here in the upper left hand corner of the board. I have the words "Inde-

Independent	Preach
Equal	Edify
Autonomous	Relieve
Send a Preacher	
Send TO a Preacher	
Church Help Another Church IN NEED	

pendent", "Equal", and "Autonomous". I simply mean to indicate that every congregation on earth is **independent** of every other congregation. I mean to indicate that each congregation is absolutely **equal** to every other congregation. And each congregation is **autonomous**. Nobody argues otherwise. Even the most ardent advocate of the Herald of Truth will admit that all congregations are independent, equal, and autonomous. These things are so readily admitted that I am not going to elaborate on them. I am just going to state, again, that all congregations of the church of Christ are independent, and they are equal, and they are autonomous. I am going to show you, in a moment, when I refer to the next diagram, that, in the Herald of Truth arrangement, the independence is destroyed, the equality is destroyed, and the autonomy is destroyed.

But I note, also on the board, that it is the obligation of congregations, any of them, all of them, to preach the gospel, to edify the saints, and to relieve the needs of the saints. But everybody knows that, and admits that. So I will not elaborate on that either.

Then I note, here at the bottom, that it is scriptural for churches to send preachers to preach. We have examples of churches sending preachers. And we have examples of churches sending **TO** preachers in the

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field. I will turn to the scriptures in a moment and read it to you. Then we have examples of churches sending to needy churches. Thus, if a congregation is independent of all other congregations, of it is equal to all other congregations, if it is autonomous, if it is preaching the gospel, if it is edifying the saints, if it is relieving the needs of the saints, if it is sending a preacher, if it is sending to a preacher, and if it is helping another church that is in need, then it is scriptural. But if these things are violated, the thing is NOT scriptural.

In I Cor. 9:14, the Apostle Paul said, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." That is, one who preaches the gospel has a right to be paid for his work. In 2 Cor, 11:8, the Apostle declared, "I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service." Thus it is scriptural to take wages of churches for preaching. Then in Phil. 2:25 and also in 4:15, 18, Paul reminded the Philippian brethren that they had sent once and again to his necessity. In 2:25, he said, "Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants." That is, he brought your gifts to me. Over in the 4th chapter and verse 15, "Now ye Philippians know also, that is the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only." And then, in verse 18, he said, "But I have all and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing unto God." So, we have an example of a church sending to a preacher. And then, in Acts 11:30, we read, "Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul." Thus, the writer describes a case where one

church helped another church take care of its own work when it found itself unable to do so alone. Now, these are things you can read in the Bible. That churches are independent, equal, and autonomous, you can read in the Bible. That they preached, that they edified, that they relieved the needs of saints, you can read in the Bible. That they sent a preacher, that they sent to a preacher, that they helped other churches when they were in need, you can read in the Bible.

Here are some things you CAN'T read in the Bible. And yet, these are things you would HAVE to read in the Bible if the Herald of Truth arrangement is scriptural. You can't read in the Bible where one church ever sent to another church unless the receiving church was in need and unable to do its own work. Not some work it had "assumed" all over the world, but its OWN work. A church that finds itself unable to care for its own has a right to expect help from other congregations. If some kind of calamity should overtake this congregation, and we find ourselves unable to supply the needs of our own members, then we have a scriptural right to receive help from other congregations. Aside from that, there isn't a congregation in the world that has a scriptural right to send this congregation a dime for any purpose whatsoever.

Here is something else that is NOT in the Bible. Where congregations ever pooled their resources under a group of men, even a group of elders, to do a work to which all congregations are equally related. There is nothing like that in the word of God. It isn't in there.

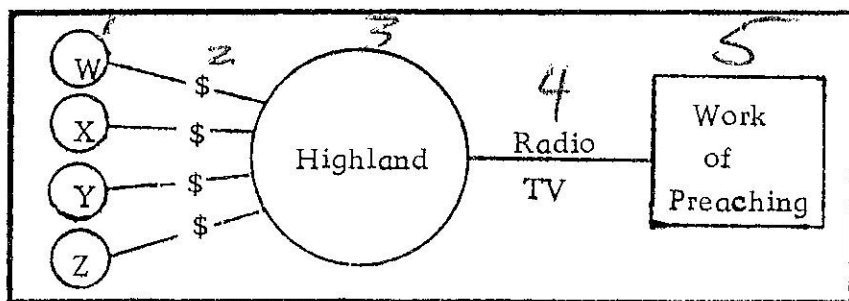
But here is something else that is NOT in the Bible. Where one church ever acted as a "sponsoring church" to receive funds from sister congregations to disburse. If it could be found, I would accept it. But it can't be found.

Again, we have something that is NOT in the Bible. Where a congregation ever did any work of any kind

except through the local congregation with the elders of the congregation oversees it, using its own resources.

And nothing like this is in the Bible. Where churches of Christ ever banded together to do a work such as is being done by the Herald of Truth. Nor can you find in the Bible where one congregation ever solicited other congregations to send it money to do a work to which all the congregations were equally related. You can't find in the Bible where the church universal, or the church as a whole is commanded to do a work together. Now, I have given you seven things that are NOT in the Bible. And yet, all seven of them are characteristic of the Herald of Truth arrangement. But the things I gave you that you CAN find in the Bible are distorted and destroyed by the set-up known as the Herald of Truth.

Now then, let me direct attention to the next diagram and you will see why the things found in the Bible are distorted and destroyed.

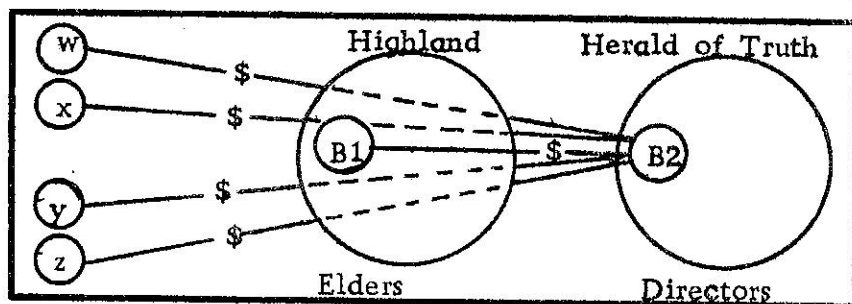


I call attention to the fact that I have four circles, labeled, w, x, y, and z. These circles represent congregations. Then I have the dollars, representing the money that is sent. Then I have a large circle representing the Highland Church in Abilene, Texas, which sponsors the Herald of Truth. After that, we have the radio and television as the means by which the work is being done. Then comes the work of preaching the

gospel. Note now, that we have FIVE things in the diagram. But note, and I want to emphasize it, that it takes ALL FIVE of these things to make up the Herald of Truth. A lot of people don't know that. A lot of people think the Herald of Truth is merely a radio or television program. Thus, when I oppose the Herald of Truth, somebody says, "Grider is opposed to preaching the gospel on television." Not so, my brethren. I have even tried to purchase time on the television stations here to preach the gospel. They won't sell me any time. They won't have any real preaching on television stations here in Louisville. They will even give free time to a dramatic program such as might be put on by Bishop Sheen, or by Billy Graham, or by Highland in Abilene. But they refuse to have any real preaching of the gospel on the station. If you think they will, you go buy the time and I will do the preaching. So, we are not opposed to television preaching. And, obviously, we are not opposed to radio preaching. We are opposing an UNSCRIPTURAL TIE-UP, or an UNSCRIPTURAL ARRANGEMENT which involves "sending churches" and a "receiving church" which is NOT in need, and then the work that is being done.

Somebody says, can you prove that it takes all five of these things to comprise the Herald of Truth? Why, I can prove that by YOU. Suppose you cut off the contributing churches. Will you still have the Herald of Truth? Why, of course not. Well, cut off the receiving church, and what happens? The Herald of Truth is dead. Take away the money and the Herald of Truth is destroyed. Remove the radio and television and the Herald of Truth is no more. Cease the preaching and the Herald of Truth is destroyed. So, it is self evident, it takes all five of these things to comprise the Herald of Truth. Therefore, when objection is made to the Herald of Truth, we are NOT objecting to preaching. We are NOT objecting to radio and television stations.

We are NOT objecting to congregations helping other congregations when they are in need. We are objecting to an arrangement which makes a MISSIONARY SOCIETY out of the elders of a local congregation. This is what I emphasized in the third diagram, to which attention is now directed. We still have the contributing



churches, w, x, y, and z. We still have the Highland congregation with her elders. We still have the money flowing. And we still have, though I didn't depict it, the radio and television, and the preaching, such as it is. But, I want you to note an important point. And that is, while the contributions from these churches, ostensibly, go through the Highland congregation, they do not stop in that congregation. The elders of the Highland Church, as elders of it, don't even get possession of the money! It actually passes through the Highland church and winds up in the Herald of Truth budget. It never touches the budget of the Highland church. I will show you, in a minute, exactly how much the Highland church budget is, and also how much the Herald of Truth budget is. Instead of the elders of Highland, as elders, GETTING the money that is contributed to the Herald of Truth, they MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, THEMSELVES, from the Highland Church to the Herald of Truth. So, as elders of Highland, what do they do? Do they operate the Herald of Truth? NO! they CONTRIBUTE TO IT!

Now, after having made a contribution to the Herald of Truth, they move over and assume directorship of the Herald of Truth. They, as directors of the Herald of Truth, receive contributions from w, x, y, and z. But they ALSO receive a contribution from the ELDERS of the Highland Congregation. They spend money for W, X, Y, and Z. But they ALSO spend money for the Highland congregation. They oversee the spending of the money of W, X, Y, and Z. But they ALSO oversee the spending of money for the Highland Congregation. Thus, they sustain the same, the very same, relationship to W, X, Y, and Z as they do to Highland. So, they are acting as a missionary society for W, X, Y, and Z and for Highland as well. As elders of the Highland Church, they contribute to the Herald of Truth. Then, as directors of the Herald of Truth, they spend money for Highland as well as for hundreds of other congregations.

As further proof that a second budget is involved, I direct attention to this diagram:

1959 Budget for Highland	Herald of Truth Budget
\$132,500 per year	Estimate \$1,500,000 a year
\$2,548 weekly	Over \$28,000 per week
Includes 18 "Homes"	
Herald of Truth	\$19,500 yearly for three
Other Missions	Professional Beggars

The budget for Highland in 1959 amounted to \$132,500 or \$2,548 per week. That comes from their own figures, and it is here in the Gospel Advocate and also in the Firm Foundation. Their budget is \$132,500. Now, what did we say about one church helping another church. We showed that it could be done if the receiving church was in need and could not meet its own obligations. Out of this budget they contribute to 18 homes for or-

phans and aged people. Out of this budget they contribute to the Herald of Truth, as we showed. And then they have other missions to which they make contributions. Now the Herald of Truth budget will run, according to their figures, \$1,461,068.32 or \$28,096 per week. If the Herald of Truth is Highland's work, why didn't they put this money with the other money? I insist, they are not operating Herald of Truth, AS ELDERS OF HIGHLAND. They are a board of directors, for churches of Christ, operating the Herald of Truth. Now a congregation that can contribute to 18 homes, the Herald of Truth, and various other missions, is NOT a subject for help from sister congregations. Nor can they help her SCRIPTURALLY.

I would like to call attention to some other things, as time allows. The most serious thing connected with this matter, as I see it, is that it breaks down the "congregational arrangement" and paves the way for anything and everything that anybody and everybody wants to bring in. Did you know that brethren have just about lost sight of the CONGREGATION as a functioning organization? Let me direct attention to the current issue of the Firm Foundation. There are more than 35,000 Christians in India. They are in over 300 congregations. There are over 200 native preachers over there. Thus some of our brethren here have discovered that, without any of our help, there are 35,000 Christians, 300 congregations, and 200 preachers in India. The Firm Foundation states that they accept the New Testament as their only rule of faith and practice. That they teach baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. It declares that the congregations are autonomous with elders and deacons. That they observe the Lord's supper every first day of the week, and that they do not use instrumental music in worship. How did they do it? Why, simply by following the New Testament. But, listen what our brethren are doing,

as soon as they found out they were over there. Remember now, they have 35,000 members, 300 congregations, and 200 preachers. And they are worshipping exactly as the Bible teaches. But what has happened? Our brethren have got one of the preachers over here in Harding College. They are going to let him work on his "Doctor's Degree". Then what? Well, here is what he said, "I am sorry to say there is not a single Bible college in my state to produce truly Christian teachers." They have 300 congregations over there. But nobody can train a truly Christian teacher. He goes on to say, "Therefore it is my intention to establish a Bible college in Kerala, India, to teach young people the word of God and offer them training for Christian work." Instead of letting them alone, while admitting that they are going according to the Bible, they are going to give one a DEGREE and put him in a school. These so-called "Christian Schools" simply do not intend for congregations to serve God in peace.

In the March 3, 1960 Gospel Advocate is a record of where they held a "World Mission Clinic" at Pinellas Park, Florida. And they said, churches interested in setting up such a clinic should write for details. Isn't that something? Write and ask about setting up a world mission clinic.

On the radio this morning, I called attention to this week's issue of the Firm Foundation. As proof that the congregation as a functioning institution is a thing of the past, I would like for you to note the tom-foolery in this one issue:

1. A full page ad from the Medina Children's Home. And they list, in capital letters, the word "Evangelism" as a part of their work. Hence a MISSIONARY SOCIETY.
2. Some preacher said, "I have been selected as a full time missionary". Now he needs a SPONSOR. Then he will raise the money from still another source.

3. Churches are exhorted to send money to Arlington State College to build a Bible Chair. What for? To teach the Bible. This "Bible Chair" business is the greatest bunch of SECTARIAN WORLDINESS that has ever been tacked on to the church.
4. The Nashville Christian Institute says Brother Keeble has been traveling among churches since the early forties raising money for the school. They just must have a school.
5. Camp Blue Haven is in need of staff members. What for? To teach the Bible. That thing was established for evangelizing purposes.
6. The North Central Christian College has a "missions department" to train missionaries. Why? I presume they think the church can't do it.
7. Then there is the "million for the billion" campaign. I wish I had time to reveal some of the SCATTER BRAIN mechanism of that thing.
8. Somebody, preaching for a church in Texas has asked the Highland church to "sponsor" him in Singapore. They said they would. Now they want money to do the job. That will be budget number three for Highland.
9. Then an area-wide gathering for evangelism is held in a certain place. And they say they are going to hold them all over the country.
10. Then there are various other appeals. All in this issue of the Firm Foundation, demonstrating that the congregational arrangement of doing things is almost completely forgotten.

Another solid proof that no scripture can be cited for the Herald of Truth arrangement is seen in the fact that the entire space in a recent issue of the Firm Foundation was given to a defense of the Herald of Truth. But only TWO verses of scripture were cited. They were Mark 16:15-16. Think of it. The entire paper given to a defense of the thing and only two verses

cited, neither of which had anything whatsoever to do with such an arrangement. But, that is not all. A recent issue of the Gospel Advocate was given, all but the Bible School lesson, to a defense of the Herald of Truth. And they didn't do as well as the Firm Foundation they didn't cite a SINGLE verse of scripture. Why didn't they cite scriptures to prove the thing should be supported? Because there were none to cite. Do you want to know what kind of proof they cited? Why, they showed that Billy Graham spent lots of money on radio and television time. And they said the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church and the Catholics spent a lot of money that way. So, if we are to "be like the nations about us," we must spend some that way too.

Listen to this. This is the most arrogant part of the whole thing. You recall that Jesus said, "Go, PREACH the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. and Paul said, "It pleased God by the foolishness of PREACHING to save them that believed." I Cor. 1:21. Thus, God, in His word, connected PREACHING with saving souls. But listen to this, as somebody describes these "semi-dramatic" programs on Herald of Truth, "This is a dynamic and effective way of teaching. With this approach, those who have closed their minds for so long to pulpit PREACHING can actually see as well as hear the meaning of Christianity to man." In other words, those who won't follow the old worn out plan the Lord inaugurated shall have a Ph D. Degree Semi-dramatic plan which WE have devised. But hear some more. This comes from the man who wrote the book, WE BE BRETHREN, in which he advocated church ownership of grocery stores, ranches, etc. He said, "We are caused to realize that our own presentation of the gospel has been somewhat lacking." How's that? Well, preaching such as Jesus ordered is somewhat lacking. We will have to doctor the message. But again. And this one takes the cake.

Somebody said, "Much of our work and equipment used for God is often ineffective because it is out of date and quite ludicrous." What does that mean? It means simple preaching is out of date and ludicrous. People won't listen to preaching anymore. Well, what will we do? Why, we will do like Billy Graham and the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church and the Catholics. We will dress it up **DRAMATICALLY** until they won't recognize it.

But, hear this. Somebody from Hong Kong sent a contribution to Highland. Yes, from Hong Kong came a contribution, the paper informs us. But, right here in the same paper is an appeal for churches to send money to Kong Kong. Churches send money to Hong Kong and Highland reaches over there and takes some of the money.

On the editorial page of the Gospel Advocate, Brother Goodpasture, editor, and elder of the Hillsboro Church said, "The Highland Congregation uses the money we contribute according to our wishes." If you want to see somebody twist, write Brother Goodpasture and ask him how they wish for Highland to spend their money. Then ask him how they spent it. You see, they spend some for radio time, some for television time, some for preachers, some for traveling, some for office help, some for office space and various other things. The truth of the matter is, B. C. Goodpasture doesn't know any more than I do about what is done with the money that is sent from Nashville. If he does, then the thing is in worse shape than I thought it was. If Hillsboro Church, in Nashville, can send money to Highland and then tell them how to spend it, the thing is in really bad shape.

Listen brethren, congregations are supposed to be independent. But the Highland Congregation **DEPENDS** upon the contributing churches for the money. And the contributing churches **DEPEND** upon Highland to

spend the money. They are just as **DEPENDENT** upon one another as a two-week old baby is dependent upon its mother for care. These churches are **NOT** independent. Some congregations can only get up the money and send it. While Highland sits in high places and spends the money. Thus, while churches are supposed to be equal, there is no equality whatsoever in the arrangement. Since a church retains its autonomy only if it converts its own resources into power, the autonomy of the contributing churches is surrendered.

I should like to suggest this, in closing. It is not a question of whether they teach the truth on these programs. I doubt if they will teach any error on the program. As I suggested, in the **REPORTER**, one may even learn how to become a member of the church by watching. Sure, the program will be fascinating. That is why they want you to look at the program and then decide if it is scriptural. Somebody said, in a local church paper this past week, look at the program and then make up your mind. Why didn't he say look at the **BIBLE** and make up your mind? Because he **KNOWS** there is nothing in the Bible to support such a thing as the Herald of Truth. Let me suggest that this is a matter to be decided by **SCRIPTURES**. It is a question of searching the scriptures. If such an arrangement is in the Bible, support it. If it isn't supported by scripture, then stand against it and contend earnestly for the faith once delivered.

Now, the Herald of Truth has come to Louisville. It is a serious matter, my brethren. It is the most serious thing that has challenged the attention of churches of Christ in this city since R. H. Boll began his speculative teaching years ago. Think what happened to the church then. In the Saturday papers there is a group set off to themselves. They call themselves "Churches of Christ". And they say they are preaching "the word". But, they are teaching the wildest sort of speculation.

If this Herald of Truth thing is pushed, and people fall for it, we will have another division. There will be another ad in the paper. These institutional people will call themselves "churches of Christ" too. They won't oppose Premillennialism. They can't afford to. They won't oppose missionary societies. They can't afford to. They won't oppose anything except churches that contend for a "thus saith the Lord" in all matters of faith and practice. I beg of you to think seriously about what I have said. I don't believe anybody in this congregation will entertain any idea of supporting any such arrangement as that. But some other congregations will be shook from center to circumference because they have not been taught on the subject.

It will be only a short time until those supporting the Herald of Truth will start agitating for church support of colleges, for church support of orphan homes, for church support of camps, for church support of Bible chairs. There is no way on earth to support the Herald of Truth and stand in the way of anything anybody wants to bring in. As Guy N. Woods said, "When one starts to do things like this they have already crossed the threshold to apostasy." Let this church stand four-square for New Testament Christianity in organization and operation.