

December 14, 1953

Mission Interests Committee
Goshen, Indiana

Dear Brethren:

God is not the author of confusion but of peace. 1Cor. 14:33

Brother Harvey Graber has proposed a plan to increase the circulation of Witnessing and get it into more homes of our denomination without being offensive. His plan includes the acquiring of as many names of people of all the districts of the Old Order Amish churches as possible at the present and have some of their leading men, ordained if possible, write their view on mission work for our people in our age, and also collect names of families in their congregations that Witnessing could be sent without creating a disturbance. Harvey would write the preliminary address on our view of mission work and publish the articles these other writers from time to time. This a very brief outline of the plan he suggested but it has possibilities. This may seem a little more like R. Maniaci's method to get the bulletin to all the people possible which seems to be so offensive to so many people because of the pointed and so often slanderous articles contained therein. The idea also is to get Witnessing in as many homes as possible where there is a trace of interest so it can be stimulated. At the present time our publication is stimulating and strengthening our own interest very well, but should not Witnessing as well our lives be to go and do in a competent way to evidence of our belief. I would not advocate this method with intentions of using pressing, pointed, critical or accusive literature or by doubtful disputations, but by using literature that is winsome, impressing, tactful and convincing written out of a heart of love. "Make it your practice to receive into full ~~consequence~~ Christian fellowship people who are over scrupulous, but not to criticise their views." Romans 14:1.

(Williams)

Witnessing has served its' purpose very efficiently thus far but do we want to stay in Judea or ~~xxxx~~ make the uttermost ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ parts our goal--yes. If this plan is not clear in your minds, Harvey is willing to expose his plan more fully or answer questions if it would benefit anyone in thinking the procedure through.

In order to make any decisions on this a meeting would have to be called for a full open discussion along with other questions and suggestions that arose during the last meeting after the last session of conference in Kansas, but were dropped because of lack of time, and seemingly a lack of interest, because of the time of the day, departing friends and and relatives, and the Brunk revival that evening. Also some questions and suggestions have originated or come to light since the last meeting. Following are some of the questions and suggestions that have appeared since the last meeting. Should there be a Youth section in Witnessing to meet competition and induce responsibility? Are we ready to publish Witnessing monthly? Should there be a seperate publication board? Would it be advisable for someone outside the committee help plan the next program? Should ~~we appoint~~ someone be appointed to visit the Gulpert project (Benders) etc. and spiritual support and also check to see if their allowance is adequate? There are still some more that can be injected at the next meeting but I will not insert them here.

Now when should this next meeting be? Harvey is available the last week in December so that would probably be the proper time to come together. Unless there are some objections I will issue another notice on the 22 of December after I have heard from you in case it would ~~ix~~ be impossible for someone to attend.

Sincerely Yours,

Daniel H. Beachy Chm. of Com.

Daniel H. Beachy

D.L.M.
A.A.M.
M. W.
Y. M.