

Mission Interests Committee
Partridge, Kansas
August 4, 1955

Harvey Graber
Goshen, Indiana

Dear Harvey,

I have your letter of July 20 at hand, and read and reread it with interest. I feel there still must be some misunderstanding, and perhaps some disagreement on several of the issues at stake.

regarding the publishing of Witnessing on a monthly basis, I am sorry I didn't mention it in the other letter. I had expected it to be taken up at the next meeting, but here was my thinking on it before, and still is. If the material is available, and the mailing list justifies it, I would favor it, and I expressed myself such to Daniel and Harry in conversations and letters. They had also felt the same, and both had definitely attached the If.

So I was a bit surprised that it was sent to the printers that way, and I was over at Newton last week on a committee meeting regarding the new MUC relief building that is being built there. I stopped at Mennonite Press to pay the last bill. They were working on #5 and there would have been time to change it, but I didn't. They sent me a sample copy of it this week and I feel it is a pretty good issue.

By the way, I had Epp quote prices on printing a pamphlet comparable to Missionary Bulletin, and his prices were somewhat under Herald Press. He thought it would run about \$120.00 for the first 2000 and about one cent each for any additional. More on this at the meeting.

Well here it is Sunday and this letter not finished. This is a nice cool day after a nice shower of rain last night. There were a number of strangers in our church to-day, from Iowa, Ohio, Pa. & Va. There was an Amish Bishop, 47 years old, that committed suicide in Lancaster Co. last week. He was a near neighbor to the one family that was in church to-day.

It seems to me that there are several phases of the publication of this document that you have failed to recognize. You stated that you could have rolled over, after the '53 meeting because of the document proposal, and that all but A.A.W. voted in favor. Later after the '54 meeting you said you failed to see the common sense reason for turning down the program of expansion. Whether it was in your plans all along and only revealed from time to time, or whether the idea came up later, I don't know, maybe you do, that the document should be published through Witnessing in five or so issues and sent to the large list, and the format be changed to Gospel Herald type. This as I see it is the main cause of the delay, and not the Document in itself. I have found only two or three persons that would favor sending Witnessing to the universal list for an extended time.

That Daniel Beachy didn't know that the first installment was not being published until he received the Mar.-April issue, must be some mistake. I quote from a letter written on March 7 to D.H.B. "This publication deal is the most weighty matter it seems to me.

I had thought when I got the minutes of the publication meeting that I would see one of you in Ark. sooner than I did, and started no action sooner. When Harry said Harvey was planning to put the first installment in the next issue, we both wondered if he was not rushing it a little. The first day at home I had a letter from Henry, also expressing a not too favorable reaction, so I wrote to Harvey asking him to hold off with that part of the deal, until the committee had acted, according to the decision at the Chicago meeting. So I will enclose a motion on this matter. It, of course, will need a second. If you cannot conscientiously second it, send it on without, or maybe better send it back. Much as I hate to write up a motion against your decision, I cannot wholeheartedly approve of it. If however the rest of the committee thinks otherwise, I will yield. But it seems to me that we would be falling right in line with Manai's method of sending and keep on sending, whether wanted or not, which I thought was one of the reasons for starting a new publication. Wouldn't it attach a brand to Witnessing, and leave such a bad taste to the very ones we most want to reach? I feel it would have the very effect we are working against, or rather spurn on a split. You may now ask what would I then suggest as an alternative, to which I would say I have no definite one. I would however favor sending it out in booklet form, or maybe in installments by itself, not in any periodical. It is not my intention to offend ~~any of~~ you or any one else that helped plan at the pub. meeting, but I have thought long and prayed over it and my thinking remains thus." end of quote.

Just what you had in mind with your statement of tampering with decisions I don't know. I can say I have a clear conscience of any such tampering and I have no intentions to ever fall that low. I admit that I was negligent at times in promptly answering letters, which in part is due to not receiving prompt answers on questions and issues from other committee members, and other brethren, including you, the editor.

Concerning your statement about following one line consistently with publishing a little or a little more, may I ask this question: When your little boy needs a laxative, do you give him the recommended dose of Castoria, or do you pour the whole bottle full down his throat? Is it then inconsistent to give him a little and not a lot?

I want to enclose a few names for you to check your list with. Also I will enclose your July and August allowance.

If palms carry we want to be with you at the fellowship next week. (like that title)

"Let brotherly love continue."

Sincerely,


Marion Wagner

cc: Daniel Beachy