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### Basic Position Paper in Administration of Herald of Truth Ministry

Clois Fowler

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M E M O R A N D U M

To:

From: Clois Fowler

Date: June 17, 1975

Subject: Basic Principles in Administration of Herald of Truth  
Ministry

The paper enclosed was written about a month ago with some minor changes made in the content since then. It was written from the material in the Aims and Purposes statement published in 1973.

The enclosures need very little explanation. There is no great crisis that has precipitated mailing this to you. This just seemed an appropriate time to share with staff and agency my views on emphasis and direction of our mutual Herald of Truth endeavors.

If you have any questions or comments, I would be happy to visit or correspond. Though primarily aimed at an "in-house" audience feel free to share with others or quote from it.

BASIC POSITION PAPER IN ADMINISTRATION  
OF HERALD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

The Aims and Purposes statement enclosed is a clear philosophy of the Highland Church, the Highland elders and the Herald of Truth ministry. Obviously this statement does not cover every point of faith--only the scriptures can do that. But to the points mentioned in Aims and Purposes--they are a definitive explanation of those items of faith as understood by the leadership of this church. As administrator of Herald of Truth programs, I am in full agreement with this statement.

Such a declaration as in the paragraph above also draws a line which personally separates me from such concepts as expressed in Mission magazine by Lanny Hunter on Restoration Theology. His article does not represent my convictions, and I believe him to be totally wrong. His philosophy and others who hold similar views will divide and alienate Christians who honestly want to follow the Bible and appreciate similar struggles by Christians 150 years ago. I appreciate the pioneers of the Restoration Movement, and I intend to emphasize the Biblically valid principles which grew out of their struggles.

The central point of issue for us to decide as a ministry is really not one of "who is right" but "what is right." To the extent the restoration leaders--or Lanny Hunter--are in

agreement with the Bible, then we can agree as a ministry. The restoration principles given in Aims and Purposes are correct as I understand the Bible.

Early in my administration John Allen Chalk and I struggled with an operating philosophy for Herald of Truth--how to survive in the currents and cross-currents of brotherhood thought. He said, and I believe it is valid, "We will follow the Bible as we understand it, and not follow some man, college or paper." With this point of direction, we can even make mistakes and survive.

I am not fully in accord with labels in religion. What is one man's conviction another calls bias. But I am not a follower of what I understand to be "renewal-restructionists" in church organization. I am not in favor of what I understand "open fellowship" to be. I do not support what I understand to be "subjective--emotional" approach to doctrinal matters. I do not believe in what I understand to be a "cynical-condescending" approach to church problems, in describing brethren in their foibles and struggles. I am against any attempt to discredit the "priesthood of believers" concept, as I understand it. I am not in favor of select men dictating as "guardians of the faith." I am against any "convocation of preachers" who attempt to decide any issue.

It seems good to make these points so that staff and agency can have a documented source for conducting this ministry. Neither of us should conduct the daily affairs of such a mutually important activity without some clear philosophy guidelines.

A call to the Bible only in religious matters is not overly simplistic, nor is working out the implications of that statement so complicated. The real test of every Christian is how to keep the freedoms in judgment matters from becoming a stumbling block to others. Our commitment is to love the brethren, both those who are ahead or behind us in Biblical understanding. We have a ministry both ways. Herald of Truth can be the healer between extremes by a definitive pledge of allegiance to Christ and His Word. This is what we have attempted to do in Aims and Purposes.

Clois Fowler  
May 22, 1975