

To The Beloved Brethren,

There has been a wide extension of fellowship meetings and other collective arrangements for the benefit of the Brethren, especially the younger generation, with a view to gaining morally and growth spiritually from an increase in ministry to strengthen the Testimony and consolidate the work of God.

Along with these arrangements has been a great increase in the size of groups travelling overseas and the inclusion of a greatly increased number of young people. The endeavour in these areas has been to pursue the increase of family conditions without preference or prejudice.

It appears from confirmed reports that this increase in the Brethren coming together has led to a setting on and promotion of worldliness and substandard activity which is clearly out of accord with all the great ministries upon which the recovery has been established and maintained. Current ministry has carried forward a strong sympathetic and understanding appeal to younger Brethren to give up the world and commit themselves unreservedly to the truth.

Whilst all the great leaders have exercised a gracious and forbearing disposition to the saints none of them has lowered the standard to accommodate worldliness in and shape or form. Certain unacceptable features based on irrefutable witness and universal report are as follows.

Excessive drinking. Alcohol at meeting rooms and precincts.

Cameras, recording equipment at meeting rooms.

Worldly dress, eg. Exposed midriffs, faded jeans, T shirts, visible words and signs, short skirts,

Casual dress, (eg) no stockings, exposed thighs, necklaces.

Unsuitable hair styles, (eg) sideburns and long hair – brothers, hair tinting.

Attending venues of worldly entertainment, including restraints.

Large gatherings of young people at Brethrens homes and recreational places. Pre-recorded music, CD, digital equipment, mobile phones.

Corrupt language and talk.

Rearrangement of predetermined travel schedule to accommodate special friendships and substandard links.

In addition to the above there have been substantial reports of unsuitable behaviour and liaison between younger Brethren including illicit conduct (drugs/physical conduct) that even the world regards as unacceptable and dangerous.

It would seem that if the Brethren individually and collectively do not accept the need for control and agreement to adhere to respectable standard of dress, behaviour and social activities, we have no basis to continue the program of increased Fellowship contact.

Contact has been made with, and this letter has been submitted to, recognized responsible persons in every country where the saints are represented and they are unanimous and unreserved in their support of this current stand.

Brethren in every locality should declare themselves in the Assembly in a conclusive manner that will leave no doubt that the regulation and control required will be respected and upheld without compromise.

It is incumbent on every locality, household and responsible individual (12 years and over) to accept the regulation proposed otherwise they will render themselves liable to be excluded from consideration for inclusion in the ongoing arrangements proposed for increased Fellowship contact.

It should be clear to the Brethren that every matter that we are insisting on has come up and has been ministered on in temple enquiry into the scriptures and is in printed ministry available to every household.

Failure to accept and submit to regulation would raise the question “Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He” (1Cor 10 v 22). The Lord has the right to make an issue at any time.(Mal 3 v 1)