

Wilmington, Delaware
Jan. 12, 1963

Dear Friends:

Loving Greetings in the Blessed Hope!

This communication is addressed to all whom it may concern. We are confident that it concerns all those who have heard and espoused what is known as the "Harvest Message" as it is contained in the "Studies in the Scriptures" and "Tabernacle Shadows," the works of Pastor Charles Taze Russell.

We realize that most of the Brethren, presently of this movement, had no direct contact or experience with it as it was operating during the Pastor's ministry and for a short period after his change.

We have used every opportunity that was given us in the past thirty years to inform the Lord's people of the great work and methods used during his ministry. The main and basic method was Colporteurism. This method was also used by the early Church in the work of the Harvest of the Jewish Age. It was a leaving all to follow in the Master's footsteps. Like Him, they appealed to the people of God at that time. They went to the Synagogues and to the homes of "Israelites indeed"! It was a personal devotion—a denying all to work in the wheat field. This having been set aside by the Apostate church, who concentrated all work in the hands of the priesthood, was revived in the days of the Harvest of the Gospel Age.

We are still in the Harvest time. The gales of trouble are still being held back until WE, the current people of God, finish our task, sealing His servants in their foreheads. Having Colporteurism in mind as a primary method of Harvesting, we have cooperated in all other methods developed by the Lord's people—tracts, lectures, radio, slides, television and fairs.

After thirty years, the Lord of the Harvest, in the Spring of 1962, inspired a few of His children to make the attempt at Colporteurism. The results have been heartening. Those that have engaged in this task testify of the feasibility and the practicality of the undertaking. The "Studies in the Scriptures" still perform their purpose. It becomes more and more evident that "in the days of the voice of the Seventh Angel...the mystery of God should be finished." Our young Brethren thus engaged testify of the blessings received in finding other lovers of the Word of God and assisting them to know His full purpose, and thus, in turn, to become workers together with Him. They testify of meeting and feeling the sufferings of humanity, and thus seeing the task to which they have consecrated their lives more clearly. The elimination of ignorance and poverty, uncertainty and disease, envy, hatred and war from the face of the earth.

They have inspired others who either give part of their time to this task in cooperation with their Ecclesias, or other young Brethren or those who are old and retired, to also enter into the wheat field.

We have been cognizant of the difficulties, however. We know that the task could not possibly prove remunerative enough by itself. We know that additional financial help is necessary. In fact, we endeavored to discourage selling books for the sake of selling. We emphasize the aim to be the bringing of the wheat into the barn, the local Ecclesia. So far, room and food has been provided Colporteurs by local Brethren. But even that is not enough.

In the Spring of 1962 when definite commitments were made by some to enter the field, we requested permission from the Wilmington Ecclesia to display a box marked "Colporteur Fund" during the Pre-Memorial Convention. The contents were deposited with the Delaware Trust Co. under the title "Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund." Many friends who became aware of its existence added to its total.

After consultation with those entering the field, it was decided that the fund would buy the books from the Dawn Bible Students Association and give them to the Colporteurs. Books were to be sold at the price advertised in the Dawn and the proceeds were to be used for their expenses. All the money thus collected would eventually go to the Dawn. There are no administrative expenses incurred, those being born by the Brethren handling the Fund.

During the year 1962, the Dawn Bible Students Association decided to emulate the work of this Fund and so supply the Volumes freely to those who give their full time to the work. For this we are grateful. But experience has taught us that the price of the books will not be enough to keep a Brother or a Sister in the service, even where other Brethren are able to supply room and board. This becomes more evident if the field is a city or village where there are no known persons of like precious faith.

We determined, therefore, to keep the Fund alive and active and provide assistance to Colporteurs varying the amount to fit the individual circumstances. A Brother who is retired, for instance, and drawing a pension or social security, would need less than a younger person who has had no opportunity to lay aside funds.

We will welcome, therefore, the help of the Brethren as individuals or Ecclesias to the Fund. We promise to be judicious in its use. We hope to take all those participating actively at their word, respecting their claim of consecration and presuming their honesty and Christian contentment.

We would recommend all Brethren in whom the Truth is still alive and who still believe in the work of the Harvest, and who are unencumbered by contractual obligations to "go also into the wheat field." Those who are encumbered partially, we would recommend part-time participation in connection with their Ecclesias. Those living in communities without an established Ecclesia, and are partially encumbered, but having facilities for housing one or two Colporteurs, we recommend they ask us for such an assignment. While lodging them, meetings could be started, either in the home or in a suitable place. Thus, the Colporteurs' stay would be of infinite benefit to the Host as well as the Community, as the wheat they may exist there could be discovered and fed with Present Truth and a new Ecclesia started.

Others could distribute suitable tracts, especially advertising the “Studies in the Scriptures” in preparation for the Colporteur’s visit.

Those who are unable to take part in any of the above activities could contribute a bit of their substance to the fund to keep those who will be taking part, feeding, housing, transportation and enabling them to be presentable as befits the Ambassadors of Christ. Also, an occasional visit to their homes and to Conventions, where they would be able to regain strength and new ideas and vitality for the arduous task in which they are engaged.

All recipients of this report are requested to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send more reapers into His field. If you know any truly consecrated Brethren or Sisters who might be able to so arrange their lives with some concerted help, to do this work, please tell them of all these possibilities and ask them to get in touch with us. We would remind all that it is “He that reapeth that receiveth wages unto life eternal.”

The following page is a report of the Fund up to the first of December. Names of the donors to or the recipients from the Fund will not be disclosed, in harmony with our Master’s instructions not to let our right hand know what our left is doing. Indeed, since we do not know the Wilmington Convention contributors, this report will be sent out widely in hopes of reaching those who so prayerfully started it. If one gives, let it be done as unto the Lord, and those that receive may feel His Hand in encouragement in His work. The committee only acts as intermediaries.

Yours in the Master’s Service,

Brother Peter Kolliman

Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund
404 W 31st St.
Wilmington, 2 Delaware

Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund Report

Received

April	Wilmington Convention	\$272.75
May		20.25
June		113.25
July		13.00
August		135.00
October		107.00
November		<u>7.00</u>
Total to December 1, 1962		\$668.25

Paid Out

May 14	50 Volume 1 Cloth	
	25 Volume 1 Paper	
	<u>15 Mannas.....</u>	<u>\$28.50</u>
June 7	<u>Transportation expenses.....</u>	<u>25.00</u>
June 25	1 Set Scripture Studies	
	<u>1 Vol. in Polish.....</u>	<u>2.55</u>
July 5	3 Sets Scripture Studies	
	3 Tabernacle Shadows	
	<u>2 God's Promises.....</u>	<u>10.05</u>
July 13	24 Volume 1 Cloth	
	60 Volume 1 Paper	
	36 Hope	
	<u>36 Plan.....</u>	<u>22.32</u>
July 27	1 Set Scripture Studies	
	24 Volume 1 Cloth	
	1 Behold Your King	
	<u>6 Booklets.....</u>	<u>9.93</u>
September 3	7 Sets Scripture Studies	
	<u>7 Tabernacles.....</u>	<u>17.85</u>
October 15	50 Volume 1 Cloth	
	<u>50 Volume 1 Paper.....</u>	<u>24.00</u>
Total paid out to December 1, 1962		\$140.20
Balance		\$528.05

So with the first summer's effort, the friends who made the initial try have placed 12 Sets of Studies, 283 Volume One, 15 Mannas, and 92 pieces of other literature besides the tracts left at every door. One lady is deeply interested and three others are attending meetings.

As the New Year dawns, three Colporteurs are working in Florida so as to waste no time with bad weather conditions. May 1963 see a wider scope and use these opportunities.