

Presentation at 2004 Ministers Meeting by the Bishop Committee

1. Catastrophic medical needs.

The response has been minimal. We desire to keep this open for further discussion.

2. **Brother Chester Weaver** from the Grandview Gospel Fellowship in TX has been silenced by the work of a committee from the Maranatha Amish Mennonite Churches. Due to this work as well as other difficulties at Grandview there have been 13 households that have requested help from Faith Mennonite Fellowship at Lott, TX. They are presently attending Lott for Sunday morning services. The ministry at Lott is honoring Chester's present status with a desire to have it resolved in an acceptable manner. They are also committed to helping these families form a new Brotherhood in a neighboring community with the door being left open for reconciliation with their former congregation.

3. Position paper on Divorce and Remarriage.

The editorial work is nearly complete. We are recommending one slight change in wording that we consider editorial but want you to consider with us ... It is found at the bottom of page 5 of the document you received at last year's minister's meeting. Where it reads COMPLETE AND SUPPORTIVE AGREEMENT we believe the intention would be better served if it read A CLEAR CONSENSUS. We invite your comments. This document will then be returned to Paul L. Miller for final editing, giving him editorial privilege on highlighting techniques, etc. to enhance its readability then submitted to this committee for review before the final printing.

4. Hurting Hearts/Crying Needs.

- a. We give a strong endorsement to the vision and burden of this article from the Calvary Messenger.
- b. We are deeply indebted to those who have done so much for us in providing places and personnel that has given hope to many. We see these organizations as being able to continue supporting the work of the local brotherhood.
- c. We desire a greater commitment on the part of the rest of us in providing help and healing in the setting of the local congregation. For this to take place there must be vision. It is this very thing we are hoping to nurture.
- d. We are committed to the truth of Ephesians 4:11-16. It is incumbent upon us to be faithful in teaching and preaching so that the *saints are perfected*. *In this process of being perfected they can then be useful in the work of ministry that the body may be edified*. Servant leaders that are sensitive to the various gifts of the laity will encourage and develop their usefulness.
- e. We recognize that there are different persuasions as to the methods used to bring healing to troubled hearts and lives. Some ideas may even be perceived to be polar opposites. Our appeal is for sober minds and charity so as not to lose the heart issue. A commitment to the supremacy of Scripture in meeting the needs and desires of all is not to be questioned.
- f. We appeal for accountability to the larger body of believers by all who are involved in any formal counseling roles. Any spirit of superiority or infallibility in the methods utilized will hinder the healing process. Any work done in the Name of Christ is best done in the posture of humility and transparency.
- g. We are asking Brother David L. Miller to continue nurturing this vision by pooling comments and ideas. These could be presented in a future article in the Calvary Messenger. The possibility of a more formal presentation of practical helps by the next annual Ministers Meetings would seem right to us.

5. The Christian Woman's Veiling.

From the founding of this constituency there has been a solid emphasis placed on the principle and practice of the Christian woman's headship veiling. We believe there is still solidarity among us on the principle. The practice, however, seems to find itself under constant challenge. One of the challenges is the way the veiling is worn outside of worship services. We are troubled by the growing number of variations in the practice for everyday and travel usage that are not consistent with the way we expect it's practice at worship services. We are deeply concerned that if we allow this inconsistency to continue unchecked, it will seriously erode ~~both~~ the ~~principle and~~ practice. We believe that proper Biblical teaching and effective enforcement by us under-shepherds are called for here and now to stem the tide and safeguard this practice. *

Therefore, we strongly urge that we all take our pastoral responsibility in teaching and admonishing on this important principle and where necessary prescribing the type and size of the veiling that is consistent with what we understand the scriptures to teach.