

12-04-2012

### *Apostolic Call to be Seated*

Dear Brethren,

As already announced in prior communications, the MSC has scheduled another upper-room retreat on December, 14 & 15, 2012. It will occur in Edmonton Alberta Canada. Any of the masters of the literature of the *mustard seed* can apply for attendance in this proverbial foot-washing occasion; however, due to the vast distance from Pittsburgh to Edmonton, it has been especially scheduled as a ministerial assignment for the brethren who abide in that area, more than 3000 miles away. This special occasion pertains to the *Ordinance of Humility* which the Lord has commended to us, His end-time disciples, and it should be regarded with great solemnity.

Much concern has been raised and brought to the attention of this office pertaining to the restrictions and limits placed upon those who can be permitted to attend. We have, these past few years, sought by our intense study to draw closer to the Lord, and now He has called us, the “disciples indeed”, up higher. Therefore, if it helps the understanding of those who are not allowed to attend, please consider this gathering as a church board meeting. In such cases, not everyone can participate, only those who have been nominated. This is to be a very serene occasion, and our success as disciples hinges upon the care that we take to comply with the Savior’s commission when He called for the first communion: “**And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him**” —Luke 22: 14.

This is a board meeting with the 1<sup>st</sup> tier disciples. It is unreasonable for us to detract from the serenity of the hour by inviting friendly observers. This includes our children. Some of them have not, themselves, made the proper progress or grown in the truth, have not borne the burden of applying it to their lives, and we accordingly should not anticipate their inclusion amongst this august gathering. Who are the exceptions that might be included in the retreat? They are easy to detect: They are the ones who, regardless of age, have been, without parental prompting, zealously studying the literature and have taken a stand among their associates and friends in church, school, and life: Such conscious and spiritual individuals are welcomed to attend. Those who have not accordingly embraced the message to this degree should not consider this announcement to be an offense or insult; the Lord has, as prior studies have manifested, made accommodations for their future salvation and participation. They should continue to seek to master the message and carefully abide by its precepts with the anticipation of full communion among the later-arriving, 120 disciples, but this coming service pertains to the brethren of experience who have sought to master the message. Regretfully, some parents have uncovered the fact that their children have hidden reproaches, if not sins, in their lives. Some have, in their inexperience and youthful naivety, made inappropriate and hidden partnerships with the enemies of the Lord —have done so without parental knowledge or approval— and now need more of the Lord’s personal guidance to gain their victory. Such complications and entanglements cannot be allowed to forestall our progress. Should they become offended because they have not been called, with the disciples, to take this step upward, then let this moment of exclusion grip them with the soberness and serenity of the hour; let them seek to master the courage to open their lives to their parents, but let them not be included in the gathering of the “trusting” and faithful students of the Gospel.

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Notwithstanding, the MSC can make an accommodation: To have fellowship with all who desire to come together, let us seek to make plans after Sabbath, for a communion with all of our loved ones and friends of the faith, but let them not become covetous over the election and standing of their elders. Perhaps we can, as we did in October, have another pizza party and invite those who have shown an interest in our work but may now feel the sting of exclusion. The MSC will foot the entire bill. Please share this E-mail with all concerned and advise if such is possible. I know that this may present logistical difficulties which the group will have to consider before agreeing to this edition to the retreat: How will they be gathered? What will they do for the greater part of the Sabbath? Etc. Please forward this E-mail to all who may be concerned and advise me of the feasibility.

Sincerely,

Derek