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Trademark Issue: January 26 Letter Sent in Response To Pastors January 21

Posted on Monday, March 15 @ 19:50:58 EST by [WMB1](#)



This letter was sent by Joseph Branham sent to VGR supporters in response to the Pastors January 21 letter. January 26, 2004

Dear Saints,

Greetings in His Glorious Name

For three long years I have wrestled with a tremendous burden. It has distracted me from the ministry that the Lord has called me to do, and it has used up precious resources both man hours and money that should have been used to provide Food for hungry saints, and bring souls into the Kingdom of God. This burden has become a pit of quicksand that now threatens to pull me into its unscriptural depths. God forbid!

Many things have transpired since I wrote to you a few days ago, and I believe that I owe it to you, as a fellow-believer who has stood by me and this Message, supporting this ministry with your prayers, tithes, and offerings, to let you know what has happened and the decision that I have made as a result.

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On Friday, January 16th, when I mailed a letter to you, and to every other Voice of God Recordings' supporter, I also mailed a letter to each minister who was a part of the Opposition to Trademark proceedings that I described to you. I asked these brothers to please reconsider and call a halt to the unscriptural action that they had set in motion, before the rapidly approaching onset-of-litigation deadline.

Three days later, on the 19th, a concerned Message pastor, who is a personal friend of these brothers, offered to serve as a neutral mediator between the two parties that are involved in this controversy. His desire was to bring everyone involved together on neutral grounds so that an agreement could possibly be reached without going before the unjust for a judgment on this issue. I told him to tell the brothers that I was more than willing to meet with them anytime. The mediator selected a time and place that would be convenient for everyone, but ultimately not one of the opposing brothers were willing to meet with me then, or at any time before litigation was scheduled to begin.

Three days later, on January 22nd, I received a letter from six of the brothers who are among those opposed to the application that I have made to obtain a trademark on my father's name. In it they state that, "We have no intention of dropping our opposition to that [trademark], nor making some mediated compromise. At this time we can see no middle ground on this point." You may read this letter and other documents by going to VGR's web site [www.branham.org] and typing the word trademark in the search box. These documents can only be accessed at our web site by following these directions, and are not presented for viewing to the general public.

Their answer was emphatic: There would be no meeting between the brethren and me; seemingly,

they preferred to meet me before the unjust.

These brothers have chosen to judge me without first speaking to me, hearing my point of view, or even asking me regarding my motives and objectives, something they have had three years to do. Finally, they have demanded that I respond to them, not as a brother, but as a defendant, and this is something that I cannot find it in my heart to do.

The letter that I received on January 22nd also contained this statement: "The differences we have are not personal in nature."

The truth is, the differences are entirely personal! Otherwise, there would be

January 29, 2004 absolutely no basis for the opposition they have filed. I would not be able to use the trademark any differently than Bible Believers of Washington, or anyone else who may eventually obtain the trademark. There were no oppositions filed when Bible Believers of Washington held the trademark, even though some of the brothers who are now opposing ME knew of its existence long before I learned of it and made it public in December of 2000. Just yesterday I was told by one of the opposing brothers that even though he personally did not know in 1998 that Bible Believers of Washington had obtained the trademark to the name William Branham without notifying the Branham family, he would not have opposed them even then, as he is now opposing me. So therefore the problem must be ME. They do not want ME to have the trademark. That is PERSONAL, and what the Bible calls, "respector of persons."

Besides, the brothers that have instigated this opposition to prevent me from registering the trademark on my father's name are probably all aware of the limitations

Sarah Branham De Corado Testimony : ~ Not recently verified ~

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that are placed upon the trademark holder.

A trademark cannot be used to stop anyone from quoting Brother Branham, or referring to him, as it is being implied! To use a trademark to stop a brother from printing books or duplicating taped messages, I would have to sue them, a course of action that is forbidden to all Christians, according to the Word.

Let me repeat that: As the holder of the trademark, we would not affect anyone's ministry in the least. I would never use it to stop any minister from ministering exactly as he has been doing for years!

And that leaves us where we are today: poised to take the name William Branham before an unjust court and allow unbelievers to judge this matter. We call ourselves Christians, and declare that the Bible is our Absolute; we call ourselves Believers, and followers of God's prophet messenger, but look at the testimony this will leave before the people. What a terrible impression of the Message this gives to the world!

I suppose that the moment the reality of this situation actually hit me was when my attorney asked me these two questions: "Who do you want to put on our subpoena list?" and "What questions do you want to ask when we depose the plaintiffs?" Right then I realized that if I pursue this, I would be going down the same unscriptural path that others have chosen to take! This is not the way Christians are supposed to settle matters between themselves! If there was an "opposition" to my application, why didn't these ministers of the Gospel do as the Scriptures command and "set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church."

[I Corinthians 6:4]

When Paul addressed this subject to the church at Corinth, he said, "I speak to your shame." What would he say about what is taking place today?

Today, the attorneys for both sides are preparing for depositions. Now we are to the point that I would be doing the same thing to my opposers that they are doing to me! I am sure that this is the way businessmen carry on their worldly business every day, and some may be able to do this and not be effected. But as for me, I cannot do this to a brother.

In the past weeks, I have asked myself so many times, "What would my father do?" Would he fight for his name? Would he deliberately proceed, knowing that his family, his friends, and his brothers in Christ would have to testify before a tribunal? Would he demand that a brother be questioned in the presence of an attorney so that an unbeliever could deliver a judgment?

No. No he would not do it. He would say, "Let them do as they will." How do I know that he would say this? Because it is the Word.

Immediately after the Apostle Paul shames the Corinthians for going before the unjust, he follows it with these words:

Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

I Corinthians 6:7

Therefore, this is my decision: I have withdrawn my application to register the trademark on my father's name.

For me, I want to see an end to the opposition, a silencing of the rebuttals, and an avoidance of depositions. To continue on this present course would be anti-scriptural, and although others may be willing to do this, I am not. But I believe that in this matter, as in all matters, the Lord will honor obedience to His Word. Some day we will stand before a higher Judge, and the truth will be known. Knowing that, I am satisfied.

Withdrawing my application does not change what I believe, and it grieves me more than I can express to have to leave the name of my father at the mercy of others who could not possibly love him or want to protect him in the same way that I do. Of course I wanted to see my father's name restored to its rightful place. My father was a great man. I am proud to be his son, and to bear his name. That is a `trademark' that can never be taken from me, because it was not granted in a court of law, but by birth. As my father so beautifully stated: "Every son comes in his father's name."

[Modern Events Are Made Clear By Prophecy 65-1206]

I am also honored by the many comments that he made publicly regarding my life and my calling.

Meanwhile, I will never stop defending every Word that was spoken by God's prophet, nor will I stop emphasizing the absolute necessity of listening to the prophet in order to know exactly what God spoke to His people through His mouthpiece. I will always urge the believers to test every spirit. No matter who is speaking, including myself, they MUST give what is being said the Word test.

I sincerely trust that by taking this step, I will be relieving a huge burden from the minds of the people around the world who were told, and may have been frightened into believing, that my intentions are evil, my motivation financial, and my spirit anti-Christ. Perhaps worst of all, I have been accused of hindering the work that others feel they are called to do.

I hope my actions today will prove that my heart is sincere, my intentions are honorable, and the respect that I feel for all God-called ministers of the Gospel is genuine. Above all, I want to be right in my spirit, and I pray that this decision will help, in some way, to re-unite the Bride.

In sincerity, I am asking that these brothers and the saints around the world who may have suffered in some way through anything that I have said or done in my response to these proceedings to please forgive me. Also, to the brothers that have received letters (via my attorneys) that have been threatening, I apologize for my heavy-handedness. I honestly felt that I could bring correction to a situation that I believe to be contrary to the Word, but obviously, it was the wrong approach. If I have offended you in any way, I am sorry.

It is time to get our attention back to the Word, every word of it.

Your brother in Christ,

Joseph Branham

"Even if we can disagree with a person, if we can't yet do it in a brotherly way, and then... See, if Christ is in the heart, then no matter how much you disagree with a

man, you still got love for him and respect. I disagree with many men, many times. But still, I've never seen one yet I disagreed with that I ever thought of any more than put my arm around him and call him my brother, try to help him the best I could. I disagree with him because that I think maybe that upon disagreeing that he... What he believes, that I might not believe just like him, but--and so forth, but now I might try to project my way to him as he projects his to me, and get them together and comb out and see what we got; but disagreement like that. Just far as it comes to... We should never get angry, or want to hurt, or destroy or anything. We should always be trying to build up."

William Branham

GOD'S GIFTS ALWAYS FIND THEIR PLACES 63-1222

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