



WINGS for Truth

# Elder's letter to Overseer Doyle Smith



By **wingsfortruth2** on July 9, 2024  
July 8, 2024

Dear Doyle,

Thanks for our text exchange last week. In our open exchange, there was an expression that the fellowship also has fault. One of those faults is putting the ministry on a pedestal and not questioning doctrine and behavior. This includes allowing others to take action that is counter to the Holy Spirit and Christ's example. Our text exchange resulted in this letter, in the spirit of "trying the spirits," both mine and others, as directed by scripture.

I beseech you: search every scripture in this letter, as I have. You see, I could tolerate being sidelined by this ministry after hosting a rich meeting in our home for three decades. **What I cannot and will not tolerate is wrong doctrine and the misapplication of the Word of God.** I eagerly hope and pray that you share my view. If anything I have shared here is not correct, let's communicate about it with our Bibles open. My church will soon be asking about these things—so if I know better, I can do better.

We all understand that I do not own my fellowship meeting. They belong to God. There is a growing, dangerous trend in this ministry to pressure elders to defend their appointment. To ask an elder "who appointed you?" is a personal attack, devoid of the love of God, for reasons I will explain in the pages that follow. Not one scriptural requirement for an elder in 1 Timothy 3:2-4 is controlled by the ministry. I did not write these words. I simply try to understand and obey them:

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

I have nothing to defend, or the desire to do so. God alone makes an elder. You can invite our flock to relocate for any reason, or no reason at all. It is my liberty in Christ

that makes this a non-issue for me. In the meantime, it is my purpose to take heed to myself and feed the flock that has been purchased with His own blood.

The following pages contain seven subjects that have been raised in recent days.

As I mentioned in my text, Doyle, I'm not feeling contentious—just deeply disappointed. And, I might add—feeling very motivated to please God and be upright before Him. I'm grateful for the support and encouragement of others as I walk.

With brotherly love,  
Paul Svendsen  
Bend Oregon USA

CC: Tom Hinkle Tammy Carr

---

ONE: **"You cannot have the fellowship without the ministry."**

The words of Christ refute this in Matthew 18:20 - **"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them"** John, an Apostle, stated the criteria for fellowship in 1 John 1:7 - **"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."** This agrees with the words of Paul in I Corinthians 3:11 - **"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."** I am well aware that this Scripture flies in the face of what Jack Carroll said in some notes of mine: **"Your heart's attitude, not what you say with your lips, towards the servants of God is the real test as to whether you are one of His people or not, and whether you have passed from death unto life."** I John 3:14 places that statement in jeopardy. I absolutely embrace the brotherly love described in I John 3:14. The problem is, Jack was sowing the seeds of idolatry that have grown into ugly, putrid flowers today. The Levitical Priesthood that was to stand between God's People and God was superseded by Christ, the only Mediator between God and Man, as noted in Heb 7 and 1 Timothy 2:5. This exclusionary statement that the fellowship cannot exist without the ministry does not recognize the great power in the life and death of Christ even as it may be preached. If the writer is intending to say that no one can know Christ without this particular ministry, patterned after the Faith Mission in the UK right down to the use of the term "workers," that also scripturally false. That is placing limits on the working of the Holy Spirit that simply do not exist. The only limit to the Holy Spirit is our willingness to accept its prompting and directing.

Only man would dare say you cannot have fellowship without the ministry. The events of Ezekiel 34 refute this idea completely. Things got so bad that God took it over. He actually stopped the shepherds from feeding the flock.

1 Timothy 2:5 couldn't be more clear:

***For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.***

**TWO: "The ministry was established from heaven even before fellowship."**

This is categorically untrue. Ps 119:89 states – ***"Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven."*** "The Word", not "The Ministry". Christ Himself. The Father established many things that are eternal parts of His plan, and Christ pointed to them repeatedly in scripture. The Son taking a Bride is about eternal fellowship. The Good Shepherd gathering His sheep is about eternal fellowship. The Sower and the Seed is about bringing people into eternal fellowship. At no time did Christ ever point to a ministry separate from the fellowship. He pointed to God's plan and God's Will and the wonderful news that it was. THEN he sent out a 'ministry', as a calling within the eternal fellowship, to PROCLAIM that GOOD NEWS. To identify the workers as one-and- the-same with the Apostles flies in the face of all evidence, natural and spiritual. The workers can only trace their biological history to the Faith Mission activities in the late 1800s. That is where the name "Worker" comes from. There have been many fellowships similar to ours across time. They have come and gone with little recorded history, and no substantial continuity. The Workers today have none of the powers given to the Disciples in Mt 10, when they were sent as Apostles to the Jewish people, or the powers given to many members of the church in Acts when the Gospel was sent to the Gentiles. The Workers cannot accurately claim Apostolic Succession based on simply going out homeless and 2x2. The Apostles were Disciples to learn and had fellowship directly with Christ as part of that learning. Their ministry came later. Christ himself taught many and had fellowship with many about his gospel. Many came to Christ through others (like the woman at the well) through fellowship and ministry from someone we would call saints today. This statement is trying to elevate the ministry to a place of pre-eminence that is counter to what Christ taught by word and life.

The following scriptures speak of the things God established, is establishing, or will establish:

- All the ends of the earth, the earth: Proverbs 30:4; Jer 33:2

- His covenant: Gen 6:18; Gen 9:9, 11, 17; Gen 17:7, 19, 21; Exo 6:4; Eze 16:60, 62;
- The oath he swore to Abraham: Gen 26:3
- The Children of Israel as a holy people to himself, his people, he would be their God: Deu 28:9; Deu 29:13
- His Word: 1Sa 1:23 (Elkanah states); 1Ki 2:4 (David stated); 1Ki 6:12
- His kingdom (with respect to David's throne): 2Sa 7:12-13; 1Ki 9:5; 1Ch 17:11-12; 1 Ch 22:10; 1Ch 28:7; 2Ch 7:18; 2Ch 9:8; Isa 9:7
- Judgment: Psa 76:9
- A testimony in Jacob: Psa 76:9; Psa 78:5;
- The Righteous: Psa 7:9
- The City of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God, Zion: Psa 48:8; Psa 87:5
- God's faithfulness: Psa 89:2
- David's offspring: Psa 89:4, 29
- "Your hearts" blameless in holiness before our God and Father (written to the saints): 1Th 3:13
- "Your hearts" in every good work (written to the saints): 2Th 2:17
- "You" (written to the saints) 2Th 3:3; 1Pe 5:10
- A new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Heb 8:8; Heb 10:9

Scripture states that Jesus came to:

- Fulfill the Law: Matt 5:17-18

- Seek and save the lost: Luke 19:5, 9-10; 1 Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 9:26
- Serve: Mark 10:45
- Do the will of the Father: John 6:38, 8:42; Hebrews 10:7
- Give his life as a ransom in payment for our sins: Mark 10:45; Matt 20:28; 1 John 3:5; Titus 2:13-14
- Call sinners to repentance: Mark 2:17
- That we might have abundant life: John 10:10
- Reveal the Father: Matthew 11:27; John 14:9
- Reveal God's love for sinners: John 3:16
- Bring light to a dark world: John 12:46; John 15:22
- Bring a sword: Matthew 10:34-36 (calls people to radical commitment to Jesus Himself – a message of peace that divides between those who choose it and those who reject it)
- Proclaim truth: John 18:37 (Proclaim himself – I am...the truth)
- Preach the good news – liberty to captives, recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty the oppressed, proclaim the year of the Lord's favor: Luke 4:18-19, 42; Isaiah 61:1-2
- Be made like his people to become a merciful and faithful high priest: Hebrews 2:14-17
- Give us an example of enduring sorrow while suffering unjustly: 1 Peter 2:19-23
- Ignite a spiritual fire: Luke 12:49
- Destroy the works of the devil: 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15

- Not to judge, but to bring judgment: John 3:17; John 9:39; John 12:47
- Give humanity eternal life: John 6:51
- Die: John 12:24-27
- Reconcile us to the Father: Eph 1:9-10; 2:14-18
- Bind up broken hearts, comfort those who mourn: Isaiah 61:1-3
- Give us a spirit of adoption: John 14:16-17; Gal 4:6; Eph 1:4-6
- Make us (saints) partakers of the Divine Nature: 2 Peter 1:4
- Reign as King (2nd coming): Isaiah 9:6-7
- That we might be blameless and holy: Eph 1:4
- To reveal God's glory: John 1:14; Isaiah 40:5; Isaiah 60:1-2; Hebrews 1:3

If this idea of "ministry before fellowship" is foundational doctrine, then why am I just now hearing about this? And why is it not discussed in the Scripture? How did Adam, Abraham, Moses, and David have fellowship with God before Jesus called the twelve?

### THREE: **"The ministry cannot change."**

This is likely the single saddest statement I have read in a very long time. This simply states that the ministry cannot repent, since repentance is recognition of sin and a change from that sin. So, the ministry must continue on in the sin of Dean, Leslie, Mark and so many more? Dean Bruer, and many others, instilled their beliefs in the present-day ministry. Their position and respect within the fellowship enabled that. If there is not a change from elements of that ministry and the spirit that pervaded, then this ministry will fail under its own weight. God will allow it as he has in the past which is why we don't have documented history of an unbroken lineage from today to the end of Revelation. That spirit is evil and changing from it is absolutely necessary. The scripture I read, and you preach from, teaches us to acknowledge our sin, correct our heart, our thoughts and our spirit so that sin doesn't happen any longer. Or is this why the ministry ignores and minimizes the sin of Dean, Leslie, Mark and so many more, so they don't have to repent and change from their ways? That is

so incredibly spiritually sad and not found in the life of Christ. The ministry can and has changed since it first came to this country in the early 1900s. When it first came, workers were allowed to be married as was the case in the Bible. I actually professed in a mission of married workers. Men's decision in the early 1900s changed that for man-derived reasons. The first workers preached where they could, and anyone brought to Christ was encouraged to join the congregation that best fit their needs; this was the Faith Mission model. The first workers in this country crossed the country on trains and bicycles, not cars and airplanes. Gospel missions used to be conducted in tents wherever they could be erected or standing on the street-corner. Not in buildings and particularly not in purpose-built church buildings like conventions. There are many things that have changed since workers first arrived here. God wants us to change. That is how we grow and mature. But change is not without pain. Necessary change prompted by the Holy Spirit can be uncomfortable, painful and undesirable. However, it is 100% necessary for spiritual growth.

More and more elders are no longer moved to support a ministry that is not willing for serious self-examination and genuine repentance. Self-examination is biblical and critical. To refuse to engage in self-examination is to refuse I Corinthians 11:27-32, Psalms 26:2-6, Lamentations 3:40, Haggai 1:5-7, 2 Corinthians 13:5. God has called all men everywhere to repentance, Acts 17:30, Lk 13:3-5, 1Jn 1:9, Rev 2-3. No one is exempt. The Scripture is clear that works and sacrifice do not exempt us from the need of repentance.

Shortly before Dean Bruer died, he told me that the conditions and privileges of the ministry cannot change and have not changed. The fruit we now observe tells a very different story—that in fact, the moral standard of this ministry is a very fluid concept. That Dean was subject to other overseers tells me that the disease may be very advanced at this point.

#### FOUR: **"Who appointed you an elder?"**

This is a personal attack, devoid of the love of God.

This reminds me of my years testifying in court. If you are right on the facts, argue the facts. If you are right on the law, argue the law. If you are wrong on both facts and law, attack the witness.

I can see right through this behavior. This question reveals that the one who supplied this question is motivated by something other than the love of God.

The only person who can give someone the qualities of an Elder is the God of heaven. When the Apostles established Elders in every city, they were looking for the people whom God had prepared to lead the flock, and by formally ordaining them they passed the oversight of that local church from the Apostles to the Elder(s). In fact, the only times the word 'Overseer' is used in the New Testament, it is applied to the Elders. We would hope that the workers also defer to the prompting of the Holy Spirit when additional Elders are needed. But, there is ample evidence that men's desire gets into this decision as well. It is the God of Heaven working in the hearts and lives of an Elder and his wife that truly makes an elder. This statement presumes that the workers are intercessory and have some hand in "making an elder", rather than designating the Lord's choice. They have utterly no hand in it. That is through prayer, reading and contemplation. I am an elder, our home was open to the spirit and work of God long before any workers recognized we could fill a need in the field.

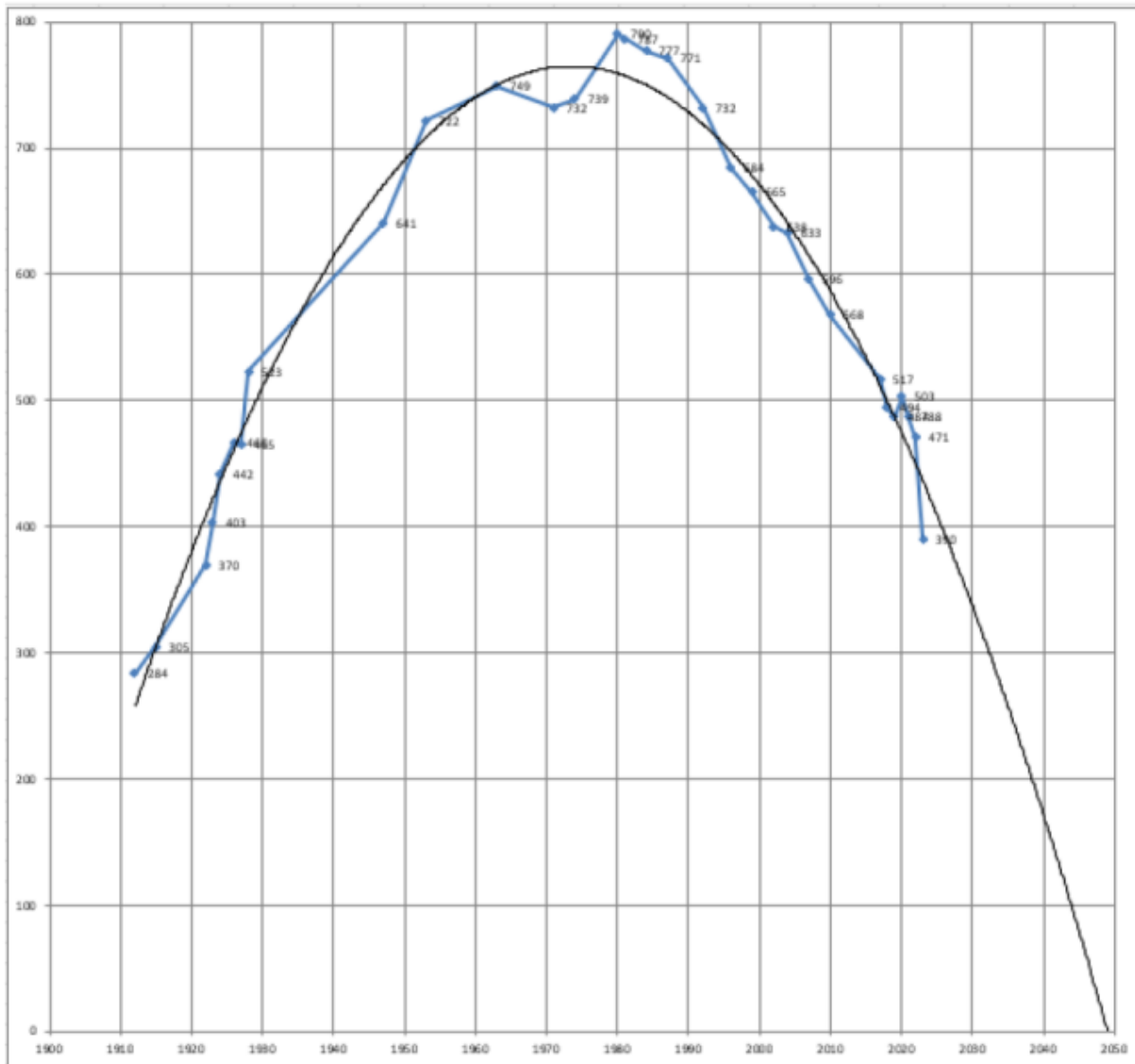
To answer the question at face value, if Dean Bruer was the overseer at the time, that alone is reason enough to give up association with "the ministry."

**FIVE: "We cannot remove the ministry nor fellowship that God established, but rather the individuals that commit horrible abuse."**

This is a false narrative. No one is asking for anyone to remove the ministry. This is intended to derail a conversation. But if removing the spirit that revels in sin from the ministry, removes the ministry, then God would obviously be behind such. It is possible to remove individuals from the ministry. When their actions and spirit make it obvious that their ministry is not of God, we are told to separate from them in multiple places in Scripture. It is idol worship to presume that some man or woman is in so great a place as to not be able to be removed from it. Many paid dearly throughout scripture for behavior that had them removed from their place. God puts His gift of ministry and a desire for fellowship with others in our hearts and spirits, 1Cor 12. No men, even workers and overseers, can remove what God has placed. The second part of this sentence goes to the heart of the issues that have inflamed this fellowship for the past 18 months. The removal of evil from this fellowship has not been accomplished in the past. Evil has been largely protected, enabled, and promoted. Dean Bruer and others got into their positions after years of reports that there were issues. They continued in their place despite continued reports of issues. As Darryl Doland so correctly stated in the WANIDAK workers meeting a few weeks ago, the ministry ignored the "obscure persons" and cozied up to the perverted actions and spirit of the perp. This is in direct opposition to the conduct of Christ. It is these actions and the evil spirit behind them that has people leaving this fellowship, both ministry and saints, at an unprecedented rate.



This graph shows the effect that a spirit not of God has been having for over 40 years on this fellowship. It is the number of workers in North America graphed over time. It has been declining for over half the time since workers first came to this country in the early 1900s. This is the fruit of the spirit currently in the fellowship:



If we don't remove those individuals that have committed horrible abuse, we are united in them and partake in their evil. (1 Cor 5:2, 6, 7-9, 11, 13; Psalm 34:14-15; 2 Cor 6:14-17; 2 Tim 3:1-9; 2 John 1:9-11)

**SIX: "God will never lead two people in two different directions by his Holy Spirit."**

This sounds like an admission that the ministry in this country is not being led of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because one leading spirit has led the Eastern States to accept

divorce and remarriage while another leading spirit has led Western States to vilify those who are divorced and remarried and prevent them from having full privileges in a meeting. Both sides claim supposed scriptural spirit-led grounds. In reality, this division has a lengthy history in this country that dates back to the late 1930's and a conflict between overseers, not the leading of the Holy Spirit at all. There are others. If the Holy Spirit doesn't give contrary direction, then why is there different direction among supposedly spirit-led ministry? Paul and Peter literally went different directions at the Spirit's prompting. Which were yet different directions than Thomas. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recorded the exact same scenes as they lived and experienced them and as the Holy Spirit prompted them--yet their wording, recollection and focus are different and the same. We will never be 100% clear on the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual life is a constantly evolving understanding of the direction, life, spirit, love, grace and mercy of the heavenly Father.

If God is not the author of confusion, then how can this ministry justify the confusion?

SEVEN: **"Each is given the opportunity to declare whether they believe in a God-established ministry or not."**

Why is there this nation-wide effort in this fellowship to develop belief in men? Christ's commission to his Disciples in Mt 28:19 was to <paraphrased> "make disciples and baptize" not develop a following. Paul spoke against this sort of mindset in Heb 12:2 – **"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."** Christ is the author and finisher, not the ministry. Paul spoke against this sort of mindset and behavior in I Cor 1. A true ministry teaches Christ, not a puffed-up set of man's rules. It is absolutely because of individuals that horribly abused place and power in the ministry that no one can nor should put their faith in men. The Ministry is to point to Christ, NOT themselves. THAT is their direction. We are told in I Jn 4:1 – **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** we are told by Christ himself in Mt 7:15-16 – **"15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"** This fellowship has been trying the spirits the past 18 months and has discovered more ravening wolves than we ever thought possible. Many of those leaving bear the bleeding wounds of wolves who have come to them as sheep and shepherds. Many are doing exactly as Paul directed in II Cor 6:17 – **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you"** They are separating themselves from idol worship that appears to have inundated the ministry

in their area. The only declaration required of us in scripture is that we proclaim Jesus as the Son of God, sent from heaven as our Savior, that he lived as God in the flesh, died on the cross and rose again, was seen of the disciples (not the 12, but all of those who learned from Jesus and followed him who were in Jerusalem), and ascended into heaven to sit at God's right hand and intercede on his behalf. NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE are we required to declare a choice of following "the doctrine that was established by God through Jesus to the ministry." No one stands between Christ and his people. This is a fabricated doctrine, designed to elevate the ministry. Anything else is an addition to the Gospel and is false doctrine.

**"There has to be a separation if we do not believe in what God established."** The Scripture is clear about separating from wrong doctrine:

- Angels separating evil from righteous: Mat 13:49
- Son of Man and his angels separate people from one another as a shepherd separating sheep and goats: Mat 25:32 32
- Nothing and no one can separate us from the love of God: Mat 25:32
- Separate yourselves from what is unclean: 2Co 6:17 17

John's second epistle instructs "the elect lady" not to receive the one who is coming with wrong doctrine so as not to participate in their wicked works. This would support the action taken by a recent elder and his wife in their declaration that they will not receive those who are pushing predators to be present in fellowship meetings. 2Jn 1:7, 10-11 – ***"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ... If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works."***

We are not called to be united around acts or systems of men, but around the person of Christ. Anything else is an addition to the Gospel and is false doctrine.

- Jesus said, I am the one who came from heaven (John 3:13, 6:38).
- Jesus said, whoever believes on Me has eternal life (John 3:15).
- Jesus said, I am the unique Son of God (John 5:19-23).

- Jesus said, I will judge all humanity (John 5:19-23).
- Jesus said, all should honor Me just as they honor God the Father (John 5:19-23).
- Jesus said, the Hebrew Scriptures all speak of Me (John 5:39).
- Jesus said, I perfectly reveal God the Father (John 7:28-29).
- Jesus said, I always please God and never sin (John 8:29, 8:46).
- Jesus said, I am uniquely sent from God (John 8:42).
- Jesus said, before Abraham was, I Am (John 8:58).
- Jesus said, I am the Son of Man, prophesied by Daniel (John 9:37).
- Jesus said, I will raise Myself from the dead (John 10:17-18).
- Jesus said, I am the Bread of Life (John 6:48).
- Jesus said, I am the Light of the World (John 8:12).
- Jesus said, I am the Door (John 10:9).
- Jesus said, I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

None of the above should be misconstrued to mean that I believe there should not be those who minister. The Bible is quite clear that there be some who have the gift and calling to take the "Good News" of Jesus to the world. But, importantly, nowhere does it state that those bringing the "Good News" hold the key to salvation. The sole holder of that key is Christ and He can reveal himself to whomever he will as he did to Paul, Timothy, the Ethiopian Eunuch and many others through history. Ministering and baptism are not limited to "the Ministry" as was noted with Philip the Elder in Acts 8.

- That Christ said "go ye therefore, and teach all nations" -- Matthew 28:19

- That it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them -- 1 Cor. 1:21
  - This does NOT speak to those preaching as being the ones doing the saving
  - In context, it is God working through that preaching that is what does the saving
  - Paul, being highly educated in OT scripture and having been taught by the holy spirit in the desert, recognized the absolute limits of his influence on salvation
  
- That God hath in due times manifested His Word through preaching -- Titus 1:3.
  
- That it is woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel. -- 1 Corinthian 9:16.
  
- That they went everywhere preaching the Word -- Acts 8:4.
  
- That Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ --Acts 8:5.
  
- The foretelling of ministry to come: Is 52:7

The ministry of this fellowship nor anything about this fellowship (meeting in the home, conventions, baptism, ministers, elders etc.) are to be an idol. We have clear warning in scripture to avoid anything close to idolatry and retain Christ and his Father as the focus of our spiritual life. We have access to a saved eternity via the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ and no other.

Anyone or anything seeking or claiming to step into that relationship between us and God is false.

1 Timothy 2:5 settled that a long time ago.