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STATEMENT READ AT WACO, TEXAS, JULY 7, 1959

by Mrs. V. T. Houteff

(This statement was also included in an official letter sent out by Mrs. Houteff to her followers July 14, 1959.)

"We wish to express our sincere thanks to Elder Olson, Elder Odom, Elder Winders and the other brethren for holding meetings for our benefit the past two weeks. We also wish to express our appreciation to the General Conference for showing their interest in us by sending these representatives here.

"These meetings have given us the opportunity to become personally acquainted with Elder Olson who has been in charge of them, and we have come to respect him very much. We honor him for his age and especially for the many years he has served in advancing the work of the great Advent movement.

"We believe Elder Olson truly had the hardest assignment in his life when he was sent here to work in our behalf. His manifestation of a Christian spirit towards us in his endeavors here causes us to believe that he is genuinely interested in our souls and in our salvation. Our respect for him runs high.

"Inasmuch as it has been the purpose and desire of our ministering brethren to see the Davidians and the mother denomination united in truth, and as this is also our desire and purpose, we do not feel that our efforts to become united should end here in this meeting tonight.

"Elder Olson, our convictions in this regard are so great at this critical time, prayer bands in which many are participating are going on in our church around the clock. In these bands sincere prayers are continually ascending to God for our complete unification in Truth.

"It is our desire that the denomination will continue to have an interest in our souls' welfare, and will also conduct prayer seasons for the same purpose.

"Our efforts in behalf of bringing about unity/should not, I repeat, cease with this meeting tonight. Therefore, Elder Olson, we propose at this time that a meeting be arranged for in the General Conference headquarters in Washington, D. C., at the earliest possible time with representatives of the Davidians and official representatives of the General Conference for the purpose of giving the teachings of The Shepherd's Rod a full and complete hearing. This is something that has never been done, and which we have desired many years. With the sincere prayers of the people and also of those gathered together in a meeting such as we are now proposing, we do not feel that God would fail to hear and answer us.

"We must realize that the matter at hand involves the spiritual welfare of hundreds of souls here, and many who are not here. It involves the general feeling and attitude of the entire church, and also the advancement of the church work. It is with this full realization that we make this proposal.

"We have granted you full opportunity to use our tabernacle to speak to us as you wished without interruption or restriction of any kind. We regret that some have spoken and written questions to you in a spirit that we cannot approve. For this we make public apology. In the main, however, I believe you do agree that we have had a good spirit.

"The same privilege that we have given you is what we request for ourselves with this one exception. We are not asking to speak in any of your churches but rather we request the opportunity to sit down with some of the leading brethren, where we may freely in the spirit of Christ discuss our differences, and give the Lord an opportunity to do something for us in the direction of solving our differences and uniting us again. Elder Olson, because of the respect you have gained from us by your being here with us these two weeks, we feel you are an honest, sincere man, and therefore we include in our proposal the request that you be appointed chairman of the General Conference committee that will meet with us. We have every confidence that you will be fair and honest with us as chairman of such a committee.

"It is out of our desire to comply with the Spirit of Prophecy's instruction regarding these matters that we request this hearing be granted.

"Our sincere prayer tonight is that this wish may be granted, and as a result of it the Lord may work wondrously for His church and His people."