

## „Prominent Thoughts On Our Leadership”

The article under the above title is an elaboration of a one-page article that appeared on the last page of PT 752 and a partial repetition of an article from BS 883. For this reason, my examination of its errors will partly overlap with what I have already written while showing the fallacy of the statements contained in the two pen products by the same author, Bro. Leon Snyder (LS for short). As before, the spirit emanating from the article is offensive to the reader, manifesting a very rare thing in God’s servants – the author’s confidence that all he is doing, or is not doing, is controlled by God Himself, who is treated by him as a business partner with whom he is in direct contact (e.g. “After Bro. Hedman **the long patterned method was changed by our great Jehovah**”; “**Jehovah has brought to our attention** the need for more corrections within His Movement which **we have been bringing about in His due time**”).



### Error No 1 (p.13, col. II – bottom)

*„We see that each time the Lord places His hand on the shoulder of a successor to lead His people”.*

### Comments

The phrase about God “placing His hand on the shoulder” of different people (seemingly chosen by Him to be leaders of God’s people) arrived along with Bro. LS, who keeps repeating that God did so with his predecessor (RH) and himself. Previous servants (up to Bro. Hedman inclusive) used a different method: they were pointed to by their predecessors as the ones chosen by God based on the Bible, whereas the last two (RH and LS) were appointed to that position by man, with the first one (RH) doing it himself towards himself, and the other one (LS) being appointed by the previous one (RH). Each of them, in a way only known to themselves, saw or felt the Lord’s hand resting on their individual shoulders, upon which they didn’t fail to announce the fact to the brethren so that they might know about it as well and show respect due the person in this position.

To refresh our memory on how it came about with Bro. RH, who deduced his own choice himself, here is what he said about it in PT 719, 2007:

*„If we consider all of the facts relevant to the selection of a leader at the present time, it appears that God’s choice was that of Bro. Ralph Herzig, who was elected by unanimous vote as the Executive Trustee by the brethren assembled at the 2004 conventions in Florida, Massachusetts and Michigan. **We are all aware that God, in the past, has always selected the Leader of His people prior to the election by the brethren for the Executive Trustee. Therefore, the selection of the Leader of God’s people was prior to the election in Florida.** Although there has not been the abundance of Scriptural and experiential support as with the past Leaders, we have to look and ask—**who has equal or better qualifications to fill the position than the present Executive Trustee?** To my knowledge there is no other brother, who consecrated before the Fall of 1954 (a prospective Youthful Worthy) and has faithfully served the Lord under the supervision of Bro. Johnson, Bro. Jolly, Bro. Gohlke and Bro. Hedman.*

And now let’s look again at how „God appointed” Bro. LS to the position of the present leader of God’s people (PT 739, 2012):

*„I have, in following the Lord’s leading, selected two brothers here in the U.S. to be the potential leader of the Lord’s People and the Executive Trustee after I am no longer able to occupy that position. It is not a*

matter of health that this arrangement is being made but I am now 87 and feel that this arrangement is best. Bro. Leon Snyder is the first choice to fill the vacancy when it shall arise and Bro. Daniel Herzig will operate as a back-up to the position."

Please note the underlined parts in the above:

- 1) "in following the Lord's leading" - how can anyone "follow the Lord's leading" as to who (by name) is to become the leader of God's people at any given time if God remains completely silent on the matter? Finding himself in exactly the same situation (i.e. without any Biblical indication as the person of the next leader), Bro. Hedman refrained from pointing to, or even recommending, anyone for this position, and stopped at recommending two brothers only for the position of the ET.
- 2) I have ... selected - who then selected LS to be the leader of God's people? God or man?
- 3) „to be the potential leader of the Lord's People" - the adjective „potential" only makes the whole thing worse, as it broadens the group of people selecting the leader by including more of them and moving the choice even further away from God; while RH selected LS to be the leader, he selected him to be "the potential leader", and now some indefinite brethren (only the pilgrims at a special pilgrim meeting, or maybe the brethren at large at a convention? - no one knows) are to vote "the potential leader" in, after which LS will become a full-fledged leader, not only a "potential" one. But where is any room here for God?
- 4) Bro. Leon Snyder is the first choice to fill the vacancy - the office of the leader of God's people, selected only by God, is here called a "vacancy" which should be filled, and it is to be done by people based on the recommendation from a man "following the Lord's leading" without using the Bible!
- 5) „Bro. Daniel Herzig will operate as a back-up to the position" - did any of the previous God-chosen leaders recommend two consecutive leaders? None of them did, nor could they, as to each of them God indicated through the Bible his successor only, and not his successor's successor! This very fact is sufficient proof that such a selection comes from man and man only, who does not know how long his candidate for a leader will be alive, and just in case appoints two! God does not need that kind of insurance since in His foreknowledge He knows the developments for ages ahead, and starts acting only when the due time comes, without having to take precautions against possible happenings that might come as a surprise to Him. That can only be typical of man, full of uncertainty and fear of what might come to pass, and on this account eager to protect his own interests as best he can.

### **Error No 2** (p.14, col. I - top and col. II - top; p.15, col. I - bottom)



*„Special Helpers usually become Leaders!!*

*After Bro. Hedman the long patterned method was changed by our great Jehovah. By many accounts the Movement was in need of another cleansing as we entered into an era of some changes and unknowns. Jehovah reasoned that some lessons were needed in 2004 to bring the needs of this present time to the fore.*

*I wish to draw our attention again to something that perhaps carries with it some importance: Special Helpers usually become Leaders! As the Special Helper to Bro. Ralph since 2004 I [Leon Snyder] was given some understanding of the needs of the Lord's Movement."*

## Comments

The first statement that „Special Helpers usually become Leaders” (p.14) has been made to show that it was like that up to 2004, and pertained to Bros. Johnson, Jolly, Gohlke and Hedman, but in 2004 “the long patterned method was changed by our great Jehovah.” Why was it? Probably to prevent Bro. Davis from becoming the next ET, seeing that he had been a special helper to Bros. Jolly, Gohlke and Hedman, which made him the obvious candidate. However, the US brethren wished to see somebody else in this position – a candidate for the YW class, not one for the CEC class!

Here is how it was explained in BS 883, 60:

*„After Bro. Hedman the long patterned method was changed by our great Jehovah ... this created the need for a special business meeting; which took place with pilgrims and auxiliary pilgrims from the U.S. and representatives from foreign countries for an indepth study of Heb. 7: 7, “Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.” This was the first time that the Movement was faced with making the determination between a Consecrated Epiphany Camper that had served at the Bible House for some time and a Youthful Worthy candidate that had not been serving at the Bible House regularly. The evidence presented showed that in harmony with Heb. 7: 7 the Lord had indicated His choice was the Youthful Worthy candidate.”*

Thus, Heb. 7:7 was used for something completely different than meant by God: **to make a decision as to who was to become an ET**, while **this Scripture concerns leaders of God’s people only: a leader from God, who as such is to bless those for whom he is the leader, cannot be from a lower class than those he is to bless!** The Scripture does not deal with the ET office, which can be held by the same person as the leader or anybody else, should it be justified in given circumstances, with his class standing being totally immaterial, as it is a business function, not pertaining to feeding the brethren with the Truth.

At the same time, another mistake was made, typical of the sects of nominal Christendom: **the pilgrims gathered to take part in Bro, Hedman’s funeral, at a special meeting voted on which of the two candidates for the ET office should be recommended to the brethren at conventions, which transformed the Movement into an organization with a governing body as its head, which the pilgrims then became!** If Br. Hedman mentioned two brothers for the position of temporary ETs, in the Addition (terminating the previous Powers of Attorney) not even alluding to class affiliations of either of them, the decision as to which one of them was to become the ET should have been made by the brethren at large at a convention, and not by a group of pilgrims, who based on the wrongly applied Heb. 7:7 (which does not apply to the ET office at all) chose between the two and recommended only one candidate to the convention. It could be compared to class elders making decisions that should be made by a whole congregation.

But it doesn’t seem to be the end of Jehovah’s fickleness as understood by the LHMM’s present management. As LS sees it, after 10 years, in 2014 Jehovah changed His “long patterned method” again and returned to the one He gave up in 2004. On p.15 LS writes: *“I wish to draw our attention again to something that perhaps carries with it some importance: Special Helpers usually become Leaders! As the Special Helper to Bro. Ralph since 2004 I [Leon Snyder] was given some understanding of the needs of the Lord’s Movement.”*

This time, it is about him and his credentials to hold the position, so God’s method that “*Special Helpers usually become Leaders*” works again (the pause lasted for 10 years only!). God changed His mind once again and is again using His “long patterned method”, about which He somehow let LS know, thanks to which he has some foundation to base his claims on – he says ever since 2004 he had been a special helper to Bro. RH (which does not seem to be true, as the US brethren well know, as for a few years after 2004 it was another brother who often visited the Bible House to help there, and was even encouraged by RH to sell

his house and come to live in the Bible House for good; it being a matter unrelated to the spiritual, I will not take it any further).

Please note another change that in LS's view must have been made by God and then communicated to him: **up to 2004 the outgoing leader, with the Bible in his hand first pointed to the Divine choice for the next leader, after which the brethren at large voted for such a Divinely-indicated leader as their ET.** When in 2004 Bro. Hedman died (as the last leader shown by God in the Bible) without pointing to anyone as the Divine choice for the next leader, the brethren elected RH the ET at the 2004 conventions; then he was considered to be only an ET, but three years later, in 2007, the ET came to the conclusion that he was also the leader, which he made public in PT 719!

What happened was a reversal of the sequence of events: **up to 2004, God had FIRST shown the leader in the Bible, AND THEN the brethren elected him to be the ET, but in 2004 the brethren FIRST elected the ET, AND THEN, three years later, that ET proclaimed himself to be the leader!** It turns out that ever since 2004 it has been man that has been electing for God the leader, since first man elects a brother as ET, and then assumes that God must have chosen him leader before! **In this way, anyone elected by the brethren as the ET automatically becomes the leader, the proof being that the brother chosen by men to be the next ET, FIRST has been selected by God to be the leader!** Thus, the decision as to who should be the leader has passed to man!

### Error No 3 (p.14, col. II – top)



*“Almost without any fear many of the prominent special helpers came forward with aspirations of leadership that could not be sanctioned by either the Lord nor the regulations that He had set forth in His chosen Earthly Movement”.*

### Comments

Let's start this comment from comparing the two language versions, Polish and English. Here is what this sentence looks like in the Polish PT:

*“Almost without any fear many of the prominent special helpers came forward with aspirations of leadership that could not be sanctioned by either the Lord nor the regulations that He had set forth in His chosen Truth Movement.”*

As can be seen, the difference consists in just one word: the English original says about “*chosen Earthly Movement*”, while the Polish translation is “*chosen Truth Movement*”. Why the change? As we know, LS thinks he is leading God's chosen organization on earth. After protests from Polish brethren (even his own supporters), he took back the word “organization”, but is still using the word “chariot”, whose typical significance in the Bible is exactly the same – organization. Now he says about God's “*chosen Earthly Movement*”, which in his mind is the LHMM run by himself, no longer God's most favorite organization on earth, but still God's most favorite chariot, or at least God's most favorite movement on earth.

It's the second time a translator's note has appeared in a Polish PT informing Polish readers that they are reading something different from what was written in English. Previously, it was BS 886, 8, from which a large portion of a sentence was left out altogether. Below is the English original, and then its Polish counterpart:

*“Those who receive a measure of justification by faith at the present time and do not go unto consecration and justification in their fullest sense, for expanded Gospel Age purposes, can lose their measure of justification by faith (or reckoned restitution), in order that they may receive actual restitution with the rest of the world—for never having fully consecrated, they are still a part of the world, having received the present grace of God in vain.”*

The Polish version stops at “with the rest of the world”, after which there’s the following translator’s note: “[Change in the Polish version as per the author’s wish].” Why did English-speaking brethren get the message about tentatively justified losing their justification for not consecrating, but their Polish friends did not? Don’t they deserve the new Truth? I leave the answer to this question to the reader.

This time it’s about another of LS’s favorite errors – that God has on earth His chosen organization, chariot, or at least His favorite movement, which of course is the LHMM, but again he expressed the wish that Polish brethren should not read it the way he put it – “His chosen Earthly Movement” as opposed to “His chosen Truth Movement.” The natural question is why he writes differently for the US brethren, and differently for the Polish ones? Does he change his mind himself, or does someone help him do so? If the latter, who is the leader – LS or the advisor, who knows better than the leader what Truth to give to the brethren, e.g. he knows better whether the unconsecrated faith justified lose their justification on this account or not? He knows better whether the LHMM is God’s chosen movement only from among **Truth** movements, or God’s chosen movements from among **all** movements on earth? These questions must also remain unanswered for the time being, but it seems obvious that LS is aware of the fact that he cannot present his errors in Poland exactly in the same form as in America, since what can be and is freely accepted across the ocean, may be rejected here in Poland, leading to his symbolic death before the brethren, which sooner or later will come to pass anyway.

To bring down to earth those fascinated with the LHMM’s greatness and splendor, as well as with being its members (since in defiance of Bro. Johnson’s teachings, most LHMM supporters are regarded by the leaders as its members and see themselves as such) let me quote from a US convention talk by Bro. Hedman, “Truth as due and its arrangements”, delivered in 1987 at Chicago (starting at 24’):

*„We have a movement of voluntary cooperation, and this is the name that we use before the public, and this is the financial channel, or the fund that we use to show this thought. Now, one reasons I am concerned about this subject is because Bro. Jolly was so concerned about it, and so was Bro. Johnson so concerned about this subject.*

*It is the carcass, the Truth that we have that binds us together, not our association in the LHMM, or the Bible House, or whatever. It is not that at all, it is the Truth because the Truth is so much bigger and broader than all of us put together; we’re just a small fraction of Truth people.*

*So let us not get the thought that because we come and we subscribe to the PT and the BS that we are therefore the only Truth people there are, and I heard this thought expressed sometimes, and Bro. Jolly heard it expressed sometimes, and in the middle 50s there was an attempt to sectarianize the LHMM. Fortunately, Bro. Jolly was always there, Johnny on the spot, to resist errors, juts like Bro. Johnson was, and he resisted them quite a god deal.*

*So the Truth as due does not come through the LHMM, the 60<sup>th</sup> post is not the LHMM; we are not bound and fettered by the LHMM.”*

#### **Error No 4** (p.14, col. II – top)



*“At the very inception of Bro. Ralph Herzig’s appointment there was trouble because of a lack of proper understanding of his appointment recommended by Bro. Bernard Hedman”.*

**Comment**

There was no problem understanding Bro. RH's recommendation by Bro. Bernard Hedman as the next ET!  
**There was a problem understanding his recommendation for Bro. RH as leader of God's people simply because there was no such recommendation then, and there is none now!**

**Error No 5** (p.15, col. I – bottom)

*„We have entered a time in God's plan where a Youthful Worthy candidate is not available to fill the office of Executive Trustee for God's Movement ...*

*Again God has made His choice to lead His Movement and that individual comes with proper qualities”.*

**Comments**

It's quite a bizarre statement by LS, seeing that he also claims that there are still YW hopefuls around. **They are still alive, but none of them is good enough to lead the Movement as its leader, or at least be a suitable ET!** It reminds one of the Jews, who were afraid to go and take up Canaan thinking they had no soldiers god enough to conquer the enemy and forgetting that their strength was of the Lord, not of themselves. If any YW candidates are still alive, there must be among them some that might become both leaders for their class (and for the lower one) and ETs, and for sure they would be much better than LS, who makes childish mistakes in doctrine and organization, not to mention his loveless actions, and as such cannot be of God.

Although it has not been put in print officially in a PT or BS yet, the real reason seems to be the fact that there is no suitable candidate among the US brethren, and for some reason the US brethren will not have a leader or an ET of another nationality! Might it be another secret thought of Jehovah God revealed to LS and his coworkers? The Bible says there is no Jew or Greek before God, but to LS an ET or a leader can only be American, and among them surely there is no better candidate than himself: no one who will know better the Parousia and Epiphany teachings and the structural organization of God's people! And even if there is one, he was long ago forced to leave the Movement as part of the ongoing cleansing process, or simply kicked out so as not to pose any competition for the ambitious and loveless leaders, hungry for power and demanding absolute obedience.

**Error No 6** (p.15, col. II – top)

*„ We read in PT 1978 p. 87 “We have every confidence that after the Great Company finishes its earthly course, our Lord will continue His shepherding care for His people through the Youthful Worthies and that after the Youthful Worthies finish their course in this life, He will continue it through the Consecrated Epiphany Campers.”*

## Comments

The above is a quote from Bro Jolly, and is to prove that after the YWs finish their earthly course, the Lord will continue His care for His people through a CEC, meaning, naturally, Bro. LS. However, it's hard to comprehend how it goes to prove that the time has come for the Lord to take care of His people through a CEC, if at the same time it is claimed (e.g. BS 883, 61) that there are still YW candidates here on earth. When will the Lord take care of His people through a CEC then – when the YW's are still alive, or only after all of them finish their earthly course? Do Bro. Jolly's words really apply to today's situation, or are they used only as part of a desperate attempt to find some basis for LS's leadership today, an attempt so blind that he cannot even see that instead of strengthening his case, he undermines it?

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Before signing off, two last remarks. The first deals with the note about Bro. RH's death, which has been printed on p.16 of the Polish Spring 2016 PT. I do not see it in the English edition. It's not about any error, but about a peculiar proof of Bro. RH's consecration. We can read there that in 1942 RH helped a certain pilgrim (visiting his class) carry his suitcases to the car. While doing so, he asked himself whether he was consecrated, to which he gave himself an immediate and positive answer. **This is interpreted as proving his being a YW hopeful, since he helped a pilgrim brother carry his suitcase as early as 1942** – 12 years before the end of the YW call. I don't know what to think of this, but personally I would look for some other evidence of someone's consecration, or just remain silent.

My last comment is about the general impression one can get from reading this and other pen products of the present PT editor. How easy it is for him to judge, almost by name, large groups of brethren as unfaithful. For him, they are those who do not consider him to be the leader of God's people, and do not agree with his new teachings he is gradually introducing into the LHMM. As he sees it, anyone leaving the Movement or being kicked out by himself, is manifested by God as unfaithful to God. When because of autocratic and clerical moves of his predecessor half of the brethren in the USA and Great Britain left the movement or were kicked out, for him it was not the result of the wrong treatment of the brethren, who were required to manifest full obedience and submissive approval of the new teachings, but a much needed cleansing. Himself he is also zealous in "cleansing" the Movement, getting rid of the brethren who have the courage to think for themselves on important matters and speak it out. In the PT under consideration, he calls all such brethren "chaff" (p.15, col.I, top) as opposed to wheat, who – needles to say – is himself and his supporters.

**What's the point of preaching God's Word to bring one person into the Truth in many years, if with one move hundreds of those already in the Truth are kicked out and branded as chaff, unfaithful to God, only because they don't recognize a man for what he claims to be?** Why are they treated by their brethren (with whom they were in close brotherly and sometimes personal relationships for years) worse than all other Christians, and even the heathen? Where, after so many years of being in the Truth, are the fruits of the Spirit? Would Jesus behave like that? Did He condemn those preaching the Gospel but not associating themselves with Him or His disciples? Why all the hate? Why all the venom? These questions must also await a satisfactory answer, which, hopefully, we will get one day from our God, who should be thanked for all the bitter moments in our consecrated lives, which – if received properly – may make us all the better candidates for the Kingdom, as the antitype of the Israelites asking the Egyptians for garments. May it be so in every single case!

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