

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington To Pastor Charles Ball, September 28, 1965

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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September 28, 1965.

Charles A. Ball, Pastor,  
Friends Church,  
Newberg, Oregon.

Dear Friend:--

If Wednesday of next week were not Monthly Meeting, I'd be asking you if you would like to go with me to a dinner in Portland in honor of Dan West, the originator of what has become the Heifer Project, Inc., which has fed hungry men and women and children in scores of countries on every continent and is increasing in its benefits every year; but I know you would not want to be absent from this <sup>monthly</sup> meeting. I promised long ago to be at this dinner meeting in honor of Dan West, and it is a responsibility that I cannot well escape. As perhaps you know, I was for years chairman of this organization for the Pacific Northwest, and still on the Executive Committee.

I have been absent from <sup>so many</sup> every meetings in which the big building change for the church has been considered that I do not understand the necessity for some of the proposed changes and additions, which the chairman of the Finance Committee <sup>says</sup> are estimated to cost \$125,000.00 if all is done that is proposed. To say that that is a great sum to try to raise from a congregation no wealthier than ours is a mild enough statement; but to me it is not the most important one. If we knew we could raise it, for me the most important question is; "Could such a sum do more for the advancement of the Kingdom of God if spent in some other way?" When I think what such a sum would accomplish if spent in other ways, it would take evidence and argument that I have not heard yet to make me feel that we would be justified in spending any such sum to satisfy any need that I have yet been convinced we have.

If there are changes in the building that must be made, we ought by all means to make them. If we cannot accommodate the audiences that are coming and that we see definitely ahead, it would seem wise to enlarge the capacity of the building in some way. It would not seem to me to be wise to plan without taking into consideration the possibility and the probability that in the foreseeable future there will be a college meeting established, and we shall not be accommodating hundreds of college students as well as the members of our own local church.

Up to now I feel that I must be at this dinner in honor of Dan West. Perhaps I can get away from that gathering in time to be here for part of the monthly meeting, and for the discussion of this building project, especially if other matters of business are transacted before this matter is taken up.

With the hope that we shall "seek first the Kingdom of God", and that we shall be correctly guided, I am

Sincerely your friend,