

THE FRANCHISE CONTROVERSY

Is God
Copyrighted?

THE SIGN OF HIS COMING - CLEVELAND. TN. 62-0407.

What is a lie? It's a truth perverted. It was actually the truth, and somebody misquoted it, made it a lie.

Since a few years there is among the Message believers something that is putting them in conflict with one another. It is a *seed of discrepancy* that someone has sown. Now, we know that these things has to happen among the believers, yet, those that causes or produces this seed of division are not spiritual minded men, but carnal minded. Every one knows that the two seeds go hand-to-hand until the end, but not everyone realize *where*, in which side, the two spirits are working. You can only recognize it by the *results*, by the *fruits*. Now, if the result of an idea brings division among the believers of the same faith, then that idea must be wrong. That idea must be a *seed of discrepancy*.

All the ministry of the prophet was to *unite* the Bride of Jesus Christ. Therefore if there is now something that *divides* the Bride, then that something must be of the devil. It cannot be of God.

Now, this franchise controversy is one of the many things that is producing a disturbance among the Message believers, and, in same cases, putting them even one against the other. Why? For what reason? For the benefit of whom? Surely not for the benefit of the Bride, because this case is *disturbing* the Bride instead of *blessing* Her. And there is only one that has ever disturbed the Bride of Jesus Christ, and that is the *spirit of the devil* working through the *carnal minded believers*. We know this by looking into the Church History. Brother Branham brings this subject very clear in the Church Age Book, in the Seals Book, and in many of his Messages.

Now, as I said before, the problem with some believers is that they do not see from which side the spirit of the devil is working. Some believers believe that the devil cannot use certain persons. And that is

where they make their fatal mistake. They do not remember that the devil even used the apostle Peter to rebuke the Lord Jesus. They do not see that the devil used one of the disciples (Judas) to betray the Lord Jesus. They have forgotten that the ones that sold the Joseph of the Bible were his own brothers. They have forgotten that the ones that tried to stop David from killing the giant, was his brothers. They have forgotten that the ones that was leading the people away from the Truth, was the priests and scribes, the ones that had the Word of the Lord in their hands. See, they think that there is a *certain category of persons* that the devil cannot use. For example, no one sincere Roman Catholic believer would believe that the system of the Catholic Church is of the devil. Not one! Even if Mary herself would come down and tell that they are belonging to the wrong church, they will not believe it. See? Now, such a kind of people that believe this lie are practically in every religious movement, even among the Message believers. They don't know that the only category that the devil cannot use are those that stay with the Word, that obey It in all parts. No, this they don't know.

For example, I know that some are firmly convinced that the devil cannot use the children of the prophets. Yet, anyone that know the Scripture knows that not all the children of the prophets have walked on the same path in which have walked their fathers. Search the Scripture, and you will find out. Now, if this did happen with the children of the prophets in the Bible, why it cannot happen with the children of the prophet of our age? Why? How can it be that some believers, and even ministers, are so willingly ignorant and blind on this matter? Why they cannot see that *God has no respect of persons*? Why they cannot see that *there is ONLY ONE door* (the Word of God) and that EVERY ONE must pass through that door? No, they make *special doors* for the children of the prophet, when God DOES NOT.

Now, in our age, there are people that firmly believe that whatever the children of Brother Branham do or speak, it is like an "oracle from God", not because it is so, but only because they are children of the prophet. What a nonsense! What a heresy! What an anti-Christ idea!

Now, I believe that every sane and genuine believer will have respect for the children of the prophet. I do have it. Some years ago for two weeks I had in my house Sarah Branham, her husband and all their children, and I respected them as I would respect any of God's children. My wife served them like she does with any of God's children. Years ago I spent two days with Joseph, talking about the work of translation, and I respected him as I respect any of God's children. But between having respect for them and the fact of considering them 'infallible' in what they do or say, there is a lot of difference. Remember: THEY ARE MEN, subject to mistakes like anybody else, and therefore subject to be influenced by evil spirits like anybody else. If they (I do not know if they are or not, that is up to them) are not born again of the Spirit of God, like every one has to, then they can be used of the devil in any moment and in any way! And do not think that because they are children of the prophet they do not need to be born again of the Spirit of the Lord. God has no grandchildren! Also the children of the prophet have to be born again, like every one of us. There is not a special way for them!

I repeat again: there is A LOT of difference between having respect for the children of the prophet and considering them infallible, or considering them the ones from which comes the Perfect Will of the Lord. Remember: the will of the Lord came by the PROPHET, NOT BY HIS CHILDREN. His children has nothing to do with the *ministry* of the prophet. The ministry of the prophet was that of the Son of Man (Luke 17:30), and It does not continue to work on his children in the flesh. Now that ministry is in the BRIDE, worldwide. Do not forget this, otherwise you will be deceived!

So, let's have respect for the children of the prophet, BUT DO NOT PUT WHAT THEY SAY OR DO "ABOVE" THE WORD OF THE LORD. The Word of the Lord must be FIRST, and It must be our absolute. Not Joseph Branham is our absolute; not Billy Paul Branham is our absolute; not VGR Inc., or anything else. But the Word of the Lord!

Now, let's consider the RESULTS that this case of franchise controversy is producing among the Message believers.

Among the Message believers this case is producing division, strike, competition, discrepancy, legal threats, etc. etc. Why all this? Is all this generated from the Spirit of God? Is all this the perfect will of the Lord? And, unexpectedly, unfortunately, all this has been generated by the two sons of the prophet: Billy Paul and Joseph. This is sad to say, but yet it is the truth. It is a fact. A sad fact, but it is a fact. And because of what? Because of this "Franchise Rights" on the Message.

They claim that the Message must come only from them. No one has the right to translate It into another language. No one has the right to distribute It. Only VGR Inc. has the right. Because of this, the Bride is disturbed.

Now, they claim that Brother Branham put the Message under a Franchise. Well, what he said about it anyone can read it in the Message. If you have a computer, you can search for yourself and find out "what" he says about this franchise, and "how" he says it. On **page 4** you can see by yourself the letter signed by Brother Branham in which is mentioned this franchise, and you can easily see that there is NO MENTION ABOUT TRANSLATING THE MESSAGE INTO OTHER LANGUAGES. NOTHING! Then, in the year 1981, they put the franchise also in the foreign languages. (See copy of it on **page 5**.)

Now, if the prophet does say NOTHING about translating the Message into another language, why then they (Joseph and Billy Paul) say that no one can translate the Message into another language because It has the franchise put on by Brother Branham? Why? Brother Branham NEVER said that. THEY (Joseph and Billy Paul) say this, not Brother Branham. THEY (Joseph and Billy Paul) put the franchise also on the foreign languages, not Brother Branham.

Now, it is a LIE to say that Brother Branham put the franchise on the foreign translations of the Message. He never did! Why then they (Joseph and Billy Paul) do not say just what the prophet has said about? Why they add to his words, and therefore inducing the believers to believe something that has not come out from the mouth of the prophet? Is not this a "misleading" the people? Is not this a "twisting" of the Message? And then they pretend to say only what the prophet has said? What a mockery! What a brazen lie! Have you seen the copy of the "Transfer Of Franchise" (**it is on page 5**) where is written that only to VGR Inc. has been given the right to 'translate the tapes in other languages'? Please note how this resolution is dated April 16, 1981; more than **sixteen years after** the departure of Brother Branham!

The Bride of Jesus Christ has to obey ONLY to the voice of the prophet WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM; not to the voice of Billy Paul Branham, Roy E. Roberson, Fred Sothman, Joseph M. Branham, or whatever more.

"HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE"--Philippians 2:16

The Branham Tabernacle

INTERDENOMINATIONAL

EIGHTH AND PENN STREETS

JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA

PASTOR - REV. W.M. BRANHAM

THESE RESOLUTIONS WERE MADE AND PASSED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND DEACONS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE PASTOR AND THE ASSISTANT PASTOR.

I/ All tapes of Rev: William Branham's sermons are to be made by Fred Sothmann Only, until further notified by the Board. We do not at this time recognize any Free Tape Ministry. These tapes are Franchised, and cannot be reproduced by any person other than Fred Sothmann with out his written permission.

II/ No person holding meetings, selling books or tapes, writing tracts, giving out prayer cloths or cards of any kind, or soliciting any gifts, are not recognized by this church or its pastor. They are doing this under false pretense, and have not been given the authority to do so.

III/ This church does not send out any Ministers other than its pastor Rev: William Branham to hold services elsewhere.

The reasons for these resolutions are as follows:

It has been brought to our attention that ministers are crossing the country entering into other fellowships, saying they are associated with, and are sent out by this church to hold these meetings.

It has also been brought to our attention that people are printing cards and tracts, sending out prayer cloths etc. as though they were Authorized to do so by this church and its Pastor, which is not True. It will be appreciated if you will notify the church of any person found doing this.

These resolutions have been read and approved by the Pastor Rev: William Branham, Associate Pastor Rev: Orman Neville and the Trustee and Deacon Board.

REV: WILLIAM BRANHAM

William Branham

REV: ORMAN NEVILLE

Orman Neville

ROY E. ROBERSON

Roy E. Roberson

MIKE LEO EGAN

Mike Leo Egan

BANKS WOOD

Banks Wood

FRED SOTHMANN

Fred Sothmann

HOLLIN HICKERSON

Hollin Hickerson

TONY ZABLE

Tony Zable

CARL WHEELER

Carl Wheeler

BILLY PAUL BRANHAM SEC. TREAS.

Billy Paul Branham Sec. & Treas.



The William Branham Evangelistic Association


P.O. Box 325
Jeffersonville, Indiana 47131
United States of America

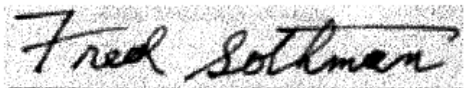
Transfer Of Franchise


This is to certify that as of this date, April 16, 1981, The William Branham Evangelistic Association, being the sole owner of the tape recorded sermons of Rev. William Marrion Branham, and as the missionary arm of The Branham Tabernacle of Jeffersonville, Indiana, does hereby grant Voice Of God Recordings the exclusive franchise to duplicate, translate into other languages, sell, and distribute all such recorded sermons of Rev. William Marrion Branham, as well as any and all films and photographs of him.

Voice Of God Recordings is further given permission, as technology permits, to explore new mediums that will allow better reproduction of the original message, including reprocessing, restoring, and bringing them to a high fidelity and also make the product more convenient for the consumer.


Billy Paul Branham, President


Roy E. Roberson


Fred Sothman


Joseph M. Branham



"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Now, let's notice carefully the REASONS why Brother Branham made those resolutions.

1) In the reasons it is NEVER mentioned that these resolutions was to be applied to those that was "translating" the Message into other languages.

2) In the reasons it is NEVER mentioned that those resolutions was to be applied to those that was spreading the Message. NEVER.

3) In these resolution it is NEVER mentioned that they were made to forbid anyone to record a Message when Brother Branham was preaching It. In fact we know very well that MANY had their private tape-recorders and was recording the Message while the prophet was preaching It.

Then, why they (Joseph and Billy Paul) are claiming that Brother Branham made resolutions that has to do with the "translation" of the Message, with the "distribution" of the Message, if Brother Branham NEVER said so? Why? By saying what the prophet have not said, are not they (Joseph and Billy Paul) telling around a lie? Sure it is a lie, because the prophet says: "*What is a lie? It's a truth perverted. It was actually the truth, and somebody misquoted it, made it a lie*". Do you see, my dear brethren?

The "reasons" why the resolutions was made, was because: 1) ministers was crossing the nation saying they were 'associated' and 'sent' by the Branham Tabernacle (which was not true); 2) they were printing tracts, sending out prayer cloths etc, as though they were 'authorized' to do so by the Tabernacle Branham and its Pastor, which was not True. These two was the reasons. But Brother Branham never said that no one can print tracts that speaks about the prophet or the Message. He never says that nobody can translate the Message into other languages. It is "Joseph and Billy Paul" that are saying this, making it to pass as if it comes from the prophet, WHICH IS NOT TRUE. So they are telling a LIE. Yes, it is a simple and pure American lie. It is a lie that comes from an UNEXPECTED mouth: from the mouth of the children of the prophet. Sad to say that this is so! It should not have happened! But it has happened, and we can do nothing except than to certify that this sad and evil thing has come through the mouth of the children of God's prophet.

Now, do they really forbid some brother to translate the Message into other language unless the brother works UNDER their direction? In the next pages you can see two copies of letters written by Joseph Branham to a brother that faithfully and with dedication translates the Message for the part of the Bride that is in his nation.

This is only one case. But Joseph and Billy Paul have tried to forbid to translate the Message to MANY sincere God called men to do this important job. Many! By doing this, they (Joseph and Billy Paul) are putting themselves above the will of God, because God chooses His men in every nation to bring the Word of the hour to the Bride that is in that nation; and simply because these men do not work under the leadership of Joseph and Billy Paul, they are threatened and accused to be out of the will of the Lord by misquoting the letter with the resolutions made by Brother Branham concerning the duplications of tapes. You see?

I said "many". Yes, many. I can give you a few names and addresses so you can enquire by yourself, in case you do not believe me. They tried to stop brother Lorenz Otfried, which years ago was translating the Message into the German language. His address is: Lorenz Otfried. Ahornstr. 17 - 75328 Schümburg. Germany. They tried to stop brother Michael Janson, which was translating the Message



Cezary Mikołajczyk
ul. Barteczka 29/5
43-400 Cieszyn
POLAND

March 6, 1997

Dear Brother Cezary:

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I was saddened to hear from Brother Heino that you had decided to continue to translate and print the books on your own. My Brother, I would have thought that reading the franchise resolutions by Brother Branham would have been enough to stop anyone who follows this Message from translating and printing books without written permission to do so.

Instead, Brother Heino has informed me that you have started recording your own tape translations, in addition to printing your own book translations.

Brother Cezary, as you have a copy of the resolutions set forth and signed by Brother Branham, you must realize that you are direct violation of the resolutions which state, in part:

I/ All tapes of Rev: William Branham's sermons are to be made by Fred Sothmann Only, until further notified by the Board. We do not at this time recognize any Free Tape Ministry. These tapes are Franchised, and cannot be reproduced by any person other than Fred Sothmann with out his written permission.

I can therefore only assume that you no longer accept the authority of God's prophet-messenger to this last age, Brother William Marrion Branham, and therefore, of course, do not accept his right to dictate how his sermons should be handled.

While you may no longer accept his authority, I believe that there are Believers in Poland who do. Therefore, I will be sending a letter to all of the Believers in Poland, explaining to them how Brother Branham required the books and cassettes to be produced, and explaining to them that you no longer have the right to translate Brother Branham's sermons in either book or cassette form. I feel that this is my duty to the Believers.

I will also explain to them the situation that dictated that we could no longer work together with you in producing the Polish books and cassettes.

Brother Cezary, I did want you to know what Brother Branham said when questioned about the tapes in the message that he preached on December 29, 1963, *Church Order*.

All right. The tapes is by a contract. And if I... I don't know just exactly when the contract is expired, but the trustees, this belongs to the trustees, not the deacons, the trustees: not the pastor, trustees. The trustees, ever so often they--they write a contract, as I understand it. And if this--this is wrong, then the trustees correct. These trustees has an agreement with the person who is making the tapes, and the tapes are by a franchise.

No one else can make tapes unless it be permitted by the person that has the franchise, and they cannot be sold unless permitted by the person that has the franchise, because that's the law (See?), that the franchise holds it. See? And if the fran... The one who holds the franchise wants to let So-and-so make tapes, that's up to him. If he wants to let everybody make tapes, that's up to him; he wants everybody to sell tapes, that's up to the person who holds the franchise. He should have a--a little written note signed from the holder of the franchise to make and sell tapes, because then he's clear in the law; 'cause if he don't, the man that has the franchise on it... You'd be liable yourself to a... If there'd be a--a four person that wanted to cause some trouble, he could really do it. You go over that franchise... 'cause that's just like a copyright (See?), the same thing; you're not allowed to do it. It's a great fine to do that.

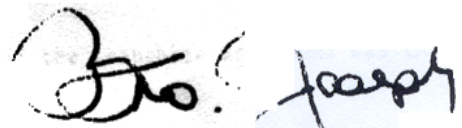
On a separate sheet, I am sending you a legal revocation of any rights to duplicate, translate, or print the sermons of Rev. William Marrion Branham.

I will also enclose a copy of both the original resolutions, and the letter sent out by the Branham Tabernacle in February of 1983, in case you have misplaced those given to you by Brother Heino.

If you have any questions, you may get in contact with Brother Heino Buitenkamp at our European Office in Holland.

May God guide you is my prayer.

Your brother in Christ,



Joseph M. Branham

Hebrews 13:8



Cezary Mikołajczyk
ul. Barteczka 29/5
43-400 Cieszyn
POLAND

March 6, 1997

Re: Revocation of rights to translate, duplicate, print or distribute the sermons of Rev. William Marrion Branham.

Dear Brother Cezary Mikołajczyk:

As the sole holder of the franchise rights to the sermons of Rev. William Marrion Branham, I have given permission to many brothers to translate, duplicate, print and distribute the Message of the hour. I also have the sole right to refuse and revoke that permission at any time.

As the sole holder of the franchise rights as given to me by the board of directors of The William Branham Evangelistic Association; I hereby revoke the permission that was granted to you to translate and record the sermons of Rev. William Marrion Branham at this time.

To translate, print, duplicate or distribute another book or tape from this date would be in violation of the guidelines that were set down by Rev. Branham and therefore deemed unlawful.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Branham

President, Voice Of God Recordings, Inc.

into the French language. His address is: Michael Janson - Le Comabut- 74200 ARMOY, France. They tried to stop brother Cezary Mikolajczyk, from Poland (**See letters on pages 7,8,9**). Are these names enough to prove what I am saying? And, in a polite way, they have tried to stop me also, by telling me that the translation of the Message that I am doing into the Italian language is in “disregard to the prophet franchise agreement”. Not because the translation is not faithful, but only because I am not working under their direction. See?

They (Joseph and Billy Paul) IGNORE completely those faithful servants that God has raised in each nation to translate the Word of the hour into their own language. They (Joseph and Billy Paul) do not even consider them! They (Joseph and Billy Paul) do not consider those ministers that are working on the “front line” in their own nations, doing every thing they can, giving everything they have: money, time, dedication, making sacrifices, only to bring and spread the Message into their respective nations. Was this the attitude of the prophet? Can you see how the sons of the prophet have a DIFFERENT attitude than their father? No, the attitude of Brother Branham was not like the attitude that have his sons. Not at all!

And then, do you know what? They come into a nation, make a convention and invite all the believers to their convention, and by doing this they pull away the believers from their local churches, breaking therefore the influence that their pastors have on them. So, what happens: because they are the “sons” of the prophet, they use this as a “means of influence” to draw the attention of the believers upon themselves and on what they are doing. The simple believers, blinded by the fact that they are the “sons” of the prophet, are irresistibly pulled to their convention to admire the great work they are doing, like a woman does when she is deceived by a man, forgetting therefore the respect that they should have for their poor pastor that have worked hard to bring them to the Lord, laboring and doing every thing he can for the good of their souls.

So now the believers put their eyes upon the “sons” of the prophet, put their eyes upon the “great work” that they are doing around the world, put their eyes upon the “great building” they have build, upon the great “Special Place”, upon the “International Headquarters”, and believe ANYTHING that those men (Joseph and Billy Paul) say as if it is “God speaking”, trying to find out from them what they could not get from their local poor and small pastors. Now their confidence, their attention, their money, their Tithes, goes to the sons of the prophet. “Oh”, they think, “now we have found the right men of God! Now we have found the ones that could lead us in all Truth. Now we have found the International Headquarters”. And the poor pastor, if he does not agree with them, is cut off from the scene, his influence upon his church is broken, and VGR Inc. takes over. Is this what the prophet did? He had respect for the local pastors! He never came above the authority of the local pastors. He never tried to pull people away from the local assembly. Not so are doing Joseph and Billy Paul. Of course, this is not done “openly”. Oh, no! This is done in a “subtle” way, with a very polite, humble, spiritual, Message quoting, but evil policy. Like the spirit of the serpent has always done.

See how they have made of this Special Place, and International Headquarters, and Franchise rights, etc. etc., another statue like they did in the Bible with Daniel the prophet? Can you see that same idea? Can you see that same spirit at work? Can you see that same law, that same creed, that is: “If you

disobey these orders then you are out of the will of God”? Oh, can you see it? Exactly the same thing is repeating again in our day with our prophet.

Yes, they have made another Vatican, with the same spirit, with the same principles of Copyrights on the Word of God, with the same popish spirit upon a man, which another prophet that speaks the absolute, and with a lot of worshipers, from all over the world, which run in holy pilgrimage to the new holy place, to worship the statue made in honor to the great prophet of God, William Marrion Branham. Oh, do you see it?

So, once the influence of the local pastor is broken, what happens next is that the people will look to VGR Inc. Now they will put their eyes of Joseph Branham. Then someone will mis-quote what the prophet said about Joseph, and the work of the devil is done. Now the believers depend from VGR Inc. Joseph becomes their “pastor”, their “leader”. Now the Tithes and Offerings take the way to VGR Inc., they do not go anymore to the “local pastor”, as the prophet teaches. And now VGR Inc. can build the Special Place, called: “International Headquarters”, worthy billions of dollars. Do you see it?

Why VGR Inc. takes the Tithes? Don’t they know that the Tithes goes ONLY to the “Ministers”? Who is the minister there in VGR Inc.? Billy Paul cannot be a minister, and every one knows why. Joseph until now is not doing a work of a minister, neither is he showing the gift of a minister. And even if they was ministers, still remain the fact, the truth, the Bible doctrine, that the Tithes has to go to the LOCAL pastor, not to another pastor overseas. You see?

Now, why they do quote only the Franchise and do not quote also the fact that by taking the Tithes from the believers they are OUT of the perfect will of the Lord? Why? You see, they apply only the Scripture that is convenient to them. The Scriptures that goes against what they are doing, they do not apply it. “Workers of iniquity” would call them their own father!

Now, let’s consider together a few things.

If no one can translate the Message unless it is done under the control of VGR Inc., then how can it be that the prophet did not stop them that ALREADY, in his days, was translating the Message into their own languages? Look here what the prophet says:

TESTIMONY - Shreveport. LA. 63-1128m.

The tape ministry is a worldwide thing, everywhere. I think it’s one way God has got scattering the Message back into the heathen lands, back in where that it has to be translated. And in Germany, and so forth, they got tapes they go to their congregations of hundreds and hundreds of people; and put little things in their ears, and run it onto a tape. And just as I’m speaking, the minister stands there making the same expressions, and in the other languages, and bringing it out before hundreds. And hundreds are being saved and healed, just through the tapes going out across the world. All in English, but being translated in many, many different language in tribes around the world. We hear from them, back through the mail.

Now, where was VGR Inc. in 1963? At that time there was not even Spoken Word Publications. And

yet the Message was ALREADY being translated into MANY, MANY different languages.

Now: who was doing the control on those translations? Who was in charge to show to the translators the VGR Inc. “guidelines” of how to translate? Who was controlling “verbatim” the translations? Brother Branham didn’t! Joseph didn’t. Billy Paul didn’t. Who did then? GOD did. The Holy Ghost did. And if He could do it then, why cannot He do it now? Surely He does it now! But Joseph and Billy Paul are trying to take the place of the Holy Spirit! That is the problem. And we know that anyone that takes the place of the Holy Spirit is an anti-Christ.

Now: why did not Brother Branham stopped those ministers that was translating the Message into other languages? Why did he not claimed from them the Copyrights? Where was at that time the Franchise on the tapes? Brother Branham NEVER says a word against those translators; rather he speaks good of the work they were doing. Why then his sons don’t do the same? Why? Do you know why? BECAUSE THEY ARE MOTIVATED BY A “DIFFERENT SPIRIT” THAT MOTIVATED THEIR FATHER. That is the only clear and true answer.

Now, this attitude of the prophet about the translation was kept until the end of his ministry. Look to the quote here below.

CHOOSING OF A BRIDE - LA. CA. 65-0429e.

And now in this, it doesn't exactly mean that I'm speaking this to this congregation present, but these tapes go around the world. They're translated in practically, oh, a great deal of the languages, even into the heathen lands around the world. We send them tapes free on a society of the church, and they're translated in all out through the jungles of Africa, and to India, and around the world goes these tapes.

See? So we can say with assurance that this was, and still is (because God never changes His will), the perfect will of the Lord concerning the translation of the Message. Because, if it was not His will, then the Lord would have corrected it by the PROPHET. But if the Lord did not corrected this by His prophet, then He will not correct it now by somebody else. God’s first will is always perfect.

If what they understand about this franchise is what Brother Branham “meant” by it, then why he applied the franchise in a different way than they are applying it now? Why? If the “meaning” of the franchise is the same as it was with the prophet, then why there is a DIFFERENT application of it? Why they do not apply it in the same way the prophet applied it? Have they a better interpretation of the franchise than the prophet had? Or are they more spiritual than the prophet?

Now I want you to notice in the above quote that Brother Branham says that the tapes was sent “*free on a society of the church*”. Do you see it? At the time of the prophet the tapes had NO RESTRICTIONS. Jeffersonville had NO CONTROL once a tape was send out. The job of the brothers that in the Branham Tabernacle was in charge of the tapes, was CONFINED, LIMITED, COMPASSED, RESTRAINED, to the “making” and the “distribution” of the tapes in the ENGLISH language. Once the tapes whet out of Jeffersonville, with those tapes they had nothing to do anymore. Once the tapes went out of Jeffersonville into other countries, THE FRANCHISE CLAIMS WAS NO

MORE VALID. Now the job “passed into the responsibility of others”. Now the Message was in the hands of others, which in their own nations were responsible of what they would do with It. The brothers in Jeffersonville had NOTHING to do with the foreign languages. For the foreign languages God had chosen His men everywhere, “ministers”, “missionaries”, says the prophet, and by them He continues the job in their own respective nations. And these men was NOT working under the leadership of the brothers in Jeffersonville that was in charge of making and duplicating the tapes in English. They was not even working under the leadership of the prophet! The prophet was only responsible to PREACH the Message.

Yes, these missionaries, pastors, ministers, was working under the leadership of the Holy Ghost that have called them to do the job in their respective nations. That was, and still is, the perfect will of God concerning this matter.

But now the sons of the prophet have changed the perfect will of God into the perfect will of VGR Inc.! Do you see it?

And they (Joseph and Billy Paul) cannot say that the work of translation started AFTER the departure of the prophet. The work of translating the Message started while the prophet was still here preaching It. So they cannot say that they have started the work of translation. The work of translation started LONG BEFORE VGR Inc. ever existed! No, they cannot say that they started the work of translation. So, since they have not started the work, why then they want to put their hands on something that they have not started? Why? If God started it, why don't they leave the work to God? Or maybe in the past God was able to do the job, and now He is no more able?

Why they have to interfere on the job that others are doing in their nations? Tell me: is not this an “arrogant American spirit” that tries to control the work of the Lord worldwide? Sure it is!

And if the work of translation that was done before VGR Inc. came into scene was done out of the perfect will of the Lord, then why the prophet HIMSELF did not speak against it? But we have seen that Brother Branham was glad and thankful to God for the way that He had on spreading the Message even in the jungles. But now it seems that Joseph and Billy Paul have a “better” understanding of the perfect will of God!

About spreading the tapes, hear what the prophet says:

CHURCH ORDER - Jeff. IN COD Vol.2. Page 897.

Now, you see here, it says on this card here, that, They're writing to the office and blaming you. Frankly, I've had many letters on it, and want to know why they can't get their tapes. Now, you know your contract with the one who has the franchise, as I understood... The tapes, I--I want nothing to do with them myself, if anybody can use the tapes for furthering the Gospel, “Amen”.

See how the prophet was not so much interested about this franchise story? See how he was only interested about the “spreading” of the Message? See how he was not interested about the tapes? It was “others” that was “forcing” him about the franchise and different things. He, as a man of God, as a

spiritual minded man, wanted one thing: “That the Message could be spread among the people”. That was all the desire he had. The apostle Paul had that same desire. In fact he says in Philippians 1:18:

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

See how a Holy Ghost filled man would speak? Joseph and Billy Paul are not speaking like that, so there must be something wrong with their personal spiritual experience.

Even the Lord Jesus Himself had the same idea of Paul and Branham. One time His disciples came to Him telling that there was somebody that was doing what they were doing, but because he was doing it without their permission, they forbade him to do it. Listen what they said:

“Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us”. And Jesus said unto him: “Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us”. (Luke 9:49,50)

See how those disciples did exactly the same thing that the Joseph and the Billy Paul of VGR Inc. are doing with the copyright? Don't you see the parallel? And do you know why the disciples did that? BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT YET BEEN IN THE UPPER ROOM, where they would receive the Holy Ghost. See, they were not yet filled with the Holy Ghost. That is why they were so carnal minded. The same is now with the people working in VGR Inc.

They (Joseph and Billy Paul) think they have a better spiritual sense than the prophet, a better spiritual sense than the apostle Paul, and even a better spiritual sense than the Lord Jesus Himself! Think about it! What a humbly arrogance! What a carnal mind!

Instead of going against those that are against the Message, or against them that twist the Message, they go against them that are FOR the Message; against them that are giving their life for It. They came against God's workers only because they are not working under the control of VGR Inc. What a shame! What a disgrace! What a miserable stand Joseph and Billy Paul have taken about this matter!

So they are “misquoting” the real MEANING and PURPOSE of the resolutions and franchise spoken of by the prophet. And by MISQUOTING it, they have build up a LIE. And they are repeating and repeating and repeating this lie about the franchise story till it is believed by the people that nobody can translate the Message unless he works under the direction and control of VGR Inc. See, they are doing exactly what the prophet says in the Church Age Book, page 120:

Tell a lie. Stick to it. Never mind fact or history. Just say it and keep saying it to the people, and soon the people will receive it.

This is exactly what they (VGR Inc.) have done and are doing. Do you see it? If you are a spiritual minded believer, you will see it, otherwise not.

They (Joseph and Billy Paul) also THREATEN the translators that do not work with them, by telling them that they (the translators) are out of the perfect will of the Lord for translating the Message without VGR Inc. permission. They put FEAR upon the believers! They also say that if a translated

Message does not come from VGR Inc., then even to read It is not in the perfect will of God. No matter if the Message is perfectly faithfully translated, if It comes not from VGR Inc., then it is surely wrong to read It. Here in Italy there is a brother that for years was receiving the Message that I translate, and for years he was glad of the translations. But since he got this lie that the Message has to come only from VGR Inc., HE DOES NOT WANT ANYMORE THAT I SEND HIM THE MESSAGE! I told him: "Brother, you do not want anymore that I send you the Message that I translate because It is not faithfully translated?". "No", he said, "the Message you translate is faithful. But, you see, I was in Holland for the opening office of VGR Inc., and there I met a brother that told me that the Message must come only from Jeffersonville. If It comes not from Jeffersonville, then God is not in it". I said: "But, brother, you read the Church Age Book, and it was translated in Italy, by me. Why then do you read it?". He said: "But it comes from VGR Inc.". I said: "But they just printed it. The translations were done by me". He said: "No matter who translates, the important thing is that It comes from Jeffersonville". And then he said: "Please, do not send me anymore the Message that you translate, because you are doing it out of the perfect will of God". Then he gave me an advice. He said: "Brother Mariano, why don't you give to VGR Inc. all the Messages that you have translated, so that they will print them and send them out?". At this point I quit the conversation, because for me it was a miserable viewpoint. See what kind of a seed are sowing the VGR Inc. people?

Now, do you know what the prophet says about those that put fear by threatening others? Listen to the prophet, the one who speaks the truth. Church Age Book, page 330:

Have you ever noticed how the people who lead others astray bind them closely to themselves by fear? They say that if the people don't do what they say, or if they leave, then destruction will follow. They are false prophets, for a true prophet will always lead one to the Word and bind the people to Jesus Christ and he won't tell the people to fear him or what he says, but to fear what the Word says. Notice how these people like Judas are out for money. They get you to sell all you have and give it to them and their schemes.

Do you see it, my brothers? Do you see this spirit working EVEN THROUGH the sons of the prophet? Do you see it? Oh, it is very sad that this is so, but: what can we do except than to take notice? Or should we, only because they are the prophet's sons, ignore this fact? No, let's not ignore it, but let's be "gallant" men and women, gallant believers, gallant ministers, that stand for the Truth, regardless of what we have to say and against 'whom' we have to say it!

Oh, of course, there are many excuses that they present by which they try to justify their policy. For example, they speak of "protecting the Message from false translations". That is a miserable excuse! Listen what the prophet says about them that try to protect the Word of the Lord by carnal ideas and human aids. Church Age Book, page 89, 90:

But as usual people don't heed God's warning. That revival fire built upon the sacred Word is so wonderful, and the manifestation of the Spirit so blessed, that a little fear creeps in and a whisper in the heart says, "How can we protect this truth we have? What can we do to see this revival goes on?" That is when the "antichrist spirit" comes in and whispers, "Look, you have the truth now, see that it doesn't get lost. Organize and set up your creed of what you believe. Put it all in a church manual." And they do it. They organize. They add to the Word. And they die just like Eve did for taking One wrong word. It's God's

Word that brings life. And it's not what we say about the Word that counts, but it's what God said.

Do you see it? That is exactly what VGR Inc. is doing with the creed of the copyright. This story of the franchise has become their “doctrine”, their “creed”, with the excuse that they want to “protect” the Message. What a foolish nonsense!

Listen: how can they know if a translation is good or not, if they do not know the language in which the Message is translated? They THINK they can control a translation, but in FACT they cannot. They can control the ‘paragraphs’, they can control the ‘dots’ and ‘commas’, they can control how many times is repeated “the-the”the”, and “I-I-I-I”. But when it comes to the bringing the SENSE, or THE MEANING of the Message into another language, they CANNOT control that. In this they have to trust the translator. And the Message is not “the-the-the”, neither “I-I-I-I”. That is the VERBATIM translation, but not a MEANING translation. Any good and honest translator knows that if a sentence is translated ‘verbatim’ it does not always make sense into another language; rather, it could give a “different” sense. The real work of a translator is that he must be able to bring into another language what the original language says. But to do this VGR Inc. has to trust the honesty and bravery of the translator. So, what is this control that they are doing on the translation? It is just an excuse, just another lie in order to justify the control they want to keep on the work of God.

I found out also that they try to “anglicizes” the other languages, making therefore a mess out of language. No, each language has its own rules and structure, and they must be respected, otherwise the translation is no good. But the VGR Inc. “translation guidelines” forces the translator to break these language rules, and the result is that the translation is not good.

If they really want a good translation of the Message, then they should find the right man, God called and God prepared man for the job. See that the man is born again by the Message of the Hour, and that he has a real burden to do the work for the Lord, and not for money. Check first if the tree is a good tree, and then the fruits will automatically be good! But VGR Inc. does not consider at all the quality of the tree. They only want good fruits. They don't care about the tree; they don't look if the tree lives a clean life, if he is in the right doctrine, if he does the work because God called him to do it. No, they do not consider these things. So, this is what happens: when they find someone that wants to work with them, they just give him their “translation guidelines”, and start the work. The result will be that the Message translated is ‘maybe’ VERBATIM correct, but The MEANING is perfectly a MESS. Many times to read such translated Messages makes the believer suffer with heavy “head hakes”, instead of making them rejoice in the revealed Word.

Then another thing. What VGR Inc. wants is that the translator works from the PRINTED Message, not from the tape. Now, the Message printed IS NOT the original. The original is the tape. Now, this is what happens. The punctuation made in the printed Message in English NOT ALWAYS is correct. Many times they have put a comma, or a full stop, where it should not be (If somebody does not believe me on this, I suggest him to take a Message book and read it listening at the same time the tape. Many times you will find out that the punctuation is not correct.), and many times they have broken a sentence to make another paragraph. Now, by this I am not accusing them that have transcribed the Message from the tape to the English printed form. I want to believe that they have tried to do their best. But the facts is this: when they have made those mistakes, the translator in translating the Message

will make another mistake, and so the mistake becomes greater. It is just like shooting on a target; if the gun is not strait at the beginning, the more the bullet goes on the more it is out of the target. You see?

Now, since the “original” is THE TAPE, then the translator must work from the tape, from the original. This is the only way practicable in order to have a good translation. (This is the way I do translate.) But VGR Inc. does not do this! They want that their translators translate from the “written” Message. And the result is not good.

Now, let’s go back to our former subject: the protection of the Message.

Listen: has the Word of God lost the power to protect Itself? Has the Lion of the tribe of Jude lost its qualities? Is He not anymore able to protect Himself? What, God was able to protect His Word through the past centuries and dark ages, when there were no copyrights, and now He is not anymore able to protect His Message? What a foolish idea!

Don’t you realize that this idea of protecting the Word of God in such a carnal way, comes from the mother Roman Catholic Church? This is what they have kept telling for many centuries to the people here in Italy, that nobody could handle the Word of the Lord except the Catholic Holy Church.

When Brother Martin Luther started to translate the Word of God into the German language, the leaders of the Catholic Church was telling him the same thing that are telling Joseph and Billy Paul about the franchise: “We have not given you the permission to translate the Word of God into the German language. You are not working under the authority of the Holy Pope from Rome. (Now is the authority of Joseph from VGR Inc.) You are breaking the copyrights. You are out of the will of God. Therefore you are damned”. But, praise God, my Brother Martin Luther was DEAF to their threatening! And he kept going on just the same, doing the job that the Lord told him to do. He never cared about their Copyrights and franchise nonsense. The same thing will do today everyone that is called of God to do this same job of translating the Word of the Hour. That’s right.

I have noticed that the first copies of the English Church Age Book was not copyrighted. Anyone that has an old copy of the Book can verify this.

See, when at first Brother Branham printed the Church Age Book, he did not put a copyright on it. It was free from such worldly thing. He was not interested on this copyright; he was only interested to bring the Word to the people. That was all the prophet wanted. But now, after the prophet has gone, they (Joseph and Billy Paul) put the copyright on the Church Age Book. You see, they think they have a better interest for the Message than the prophet.

At the beginning nowhere we saw that © on the Message. Nowhere. But now you can see that © on every tape, you can see it on every CD-Rom, you can see it on every book they publish. That © has become such a disgusting thing that makes a real believer vomit.

Do you know what means for me that © applied to the Word of God? That ‘C’ inside the ‘zero’ for me means: “Christ annulled”. It means: “Christ imprisoned”. It means: “Christ inside a Zero”. That is what the © means to me.

Brother Branham says that if the tapes are not send out within few days since the order is received, then the franchise is annulled.

CHURCH ORDER - Jeff. IN. COD Vol.2. Pag. 898.

The law of it is that these tapes, from the time that they send for them, them tapes are supposed to be on their road within a day or two, three or four, five days; after they send for them tapes, it's got to be in the mail or the franchise can be canceled at any time when these orders are disobeyed. See?

Now, many times it takes more that five days to put on the road what the believers ask to VGR Inc., because VGR Inc. has become such a big Editing Company! They have so many things to do! And many times they cannot respect this resolution imposed by the prophet. So, then, according to the prophet, the franchise can be cancelled or disobeyed at any time. You see?

Recently I had to wait five month to get not even all the copies I asked of the Italian Church Age Book. Five month! Then, according to the prophet, I can disobey the orders about the franchise. See?

Another interesting consideration. One time the work of duplicating and sending out of tapes and books was based on a “work of faith”. It was a work done by faith. Now it has become a work based on “money”. Everything has to be payed. There is a price (and a high one) to pay for every thing. It has become just like the mother Catholic Church, that you have to pay for every thing, even when you are dead, to get out of purgatory!

Listen what the prophet says about:

THE FOURTH SEAL - Jeff. IN. 63-0321.

And remember, Judas took the place as treasurer and fell by money. So does the church of this day. The Catholic church (as we noticed last night) charging for novenas, charging them for prayers, and charging them for everything. It's almost same—fell the same thing to the daughters of the Catholic church, which the Protestants... The whole thing's wrapped up in money.

Do you see it? So, in the matter of paying, it looks like VGR Inc. is making competition with the Vatican.

Why, if the spreading of this Message started by faith, why It cannot continue by the same faith? When Brother Branham started to spread the Message by “preaching” It, he had a lot of expenses in order he could preach It. He had to pay for the auditoriums, and places he rented to preach and spread the Message. And he never asked for money to pay the expenses. Never. All the money he got was from “love offerings”, and by it he paid the enormous expenses he had. God never let him go dawn! Why then the same God is not able to keep His Message going on spreading by the same way of faith? Sure He is still able! But the problem is that the “sons” of the prophet are not working with the same principle of “faith” that the spreading of the Message started, but rather are working on the principles of “worldly business”, putting prices on every thing. This, then, is no more a work of faith. VGR Inc. is not doing a work based on faith, but based on “money”. It is based on the same bases like the rest of the worldly systems.

And because they are working with the same principle that works any worldly business system and company, then they should not take the Love Offerings and Tithes from the believers. Why the believers should send them offerings and tithes if there is a “price” to pay for every thing? It is not honest to receive the money from the price imposed PLUS the offerings and the tithes. This is not honest! They should go or by faith or by the worldly system.

I understand they have expenses. Also the prophet had expenses. And if the God that worked with the prophet is working also with them (Joseph and Billy Paul), then why they do not conduct the work by faith, waiting on the Lord, instead of putting prices on every thing? Why? Do you know why? BECAUSE THEY DO NOT DEPEND ANYMORE FROM THE LORD.

See, by the fact that they are putting prices on every thing, it is a very CLEAR sign that God is not anymore behind what they are doing. Sure! That is why they ask for money on every thing they give out. Do you see it?

You see, the translators in their different nations, by translating the Message independently from VGR Inc., they steal the money from VGR Inc., because in this way the people will not buy the Message from VGR Inc. and VGR Inc. loses money. So, instead of telling the truth about it, they (Joseph and Billy Paul) enforce and misquote the franchise question in order to protect their American Market. Do you see it? And we know that where there is love for money there is also the root of all evil. I Timothy 6:10:

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Look what building they have build. Was it necessary to build such a building? Yes, it was necessary, because they have taken under their control the work that was not expected for them to do. If they would have kept doing only the work of duplicating the English tapes, and the English printing of the Message, then they did not needed such a building.

Listen what the prophet has to say about big buildings:

WE WOULD SEE JESUS - Long Beach. CA. 61-0208

Listen. If we're expecting Christ to come... Do you believe that? Well, if we do it, let's act like it. How can we expect Christ to come, and putting six million dollars in a building? How you get these great big things, talking about Christ coming? Well, brother, we ought to be getting-making ready for the rapture, not for another five hundred years stay here on earth. See? There's something wrong. It just don't jive somehow. It don't-it don't make sense to me.

By their fruits... You might say it with your lips, but by your heart. See?

You say, "Oh, yeah, I believe Christ is coming." But your action proves different.

See what the prophet says about such big buildings?

They might say: "But we needed such a place to publish the Message!". Well, they could have said the same thing to the prophet.

Do you really believe that this big building they have built is ONLY to publish the Message? Do they really needed such a place? Do they really needed that lake in front of the building to publish the Message? Do they really need those banners in front of the building to publish the Message? Excuse me if I go on this little details. But I say this just to make a point, hoping that the reader will understand what I mean.

See, also the Catholic Church could say the same thing: “We really needed Saint Peter Cathedral”. Also the Jehovah Witnesses could say: “We really needed the Special Place in Brooklyn”. Also the Mormons could say: “We really needed the Temple in Salt Lake City”. Any denomination could say: “We really needed our big buildings”. But the prophet believed in a different way! See?

This spirit that wants to put the spreading of the Message only through an Editing Company, was already working at the time of the prophet. In fact they said:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - Jeff. IN. COD Vol.2. Pag. 1106.

Q-349 349. Now. ***Brother Branham, is it true that no one should preach but you? We have seen your-we have seen you ordain men. We do-don't believe you would do that if there were not-if they were not to preach.***

Mercy. Brother, sister, ever who told you that nobody's to preach but me, I'd sure be a poor subject to God with all that. No. Every man or that feels a call of God upon his life, get into the ministry and start preaching; we need them.

Men of God are anointed all over the world to preach the Gospel. See? I'm just one little pebble on the beach among many big stones. See? So I... There's just many that's more eligible, more worthy, more of anything to preach than me; I'm just one little, humble person laying out here. I'm one grain of wheat in a whole garner. See? So that just a... You know what I mean. Any man that's called of God needs to preach the Gospel.

Do you see the stand that the prophet took about the spreading of the Message?

Now, tell me: “Why did not Brother Branham claimed the copyright on the preaching of the Message?”. He never did! Rather, many times he says that there were OTHERS that was preaching the Message like him.

Now, look how his sons answer this question in a different way. You go and ask them: “Joseph, Billy Paul, is it true that only you are ordained to print, translate, and distribute the Message worldwide?”. The answer is: “Yes, it is exactly the truth. We are the only ones appointed by Divine Providence to distribute the Message around the world and in every tongue that there is under the heavens. If anyone will do this without our written permission, he is out of the Will of God”. BUT DO YOU SEE HOW THEY (Joseph and Billy Paul) ARE INSPIRED BY A DIFFERENT SPIRIT? DON'T YOU SEE IT? Oh, if you are not blind, then you will surely see it!

See, VGR Inc. should be busy on the “English part” of the job. They should be busy on duplicating, printing and distributing the Message IN ENGLISH. That is the right job that they are supposed to do. And the English speaking part of the Bride (the believers that are in the U.S.A., England, Canada, Australia, and others English speaking countries, because they are the “privileged” part of the Bride, for the fact that the Message is in their language) should help, in the measure they can, to get out the

Message as cheap as possible, and help to send It into other nations free of charge, if possible. Because the part of the Bride not speaking English has a lot of work and expenses to transfer the Message into their own languages. Help the other countries in the measure that the English speaking part of the Bride can, and do it working together with the LOCAL MINISTERS. Do not bypass the local ministers, because they are the ones that God is using to take care of His Bride that is in each nation. So, help, if you can: BUT THEN LET EVERY COUNTRY BE FREE TO DO THEIR JOB. Do not put control on the other nations, otherwise it becomes a “denominational system”, like the Catholic Church and all the rest of the denominational systems. This was the way it was done at the time of the prophet, and it still remains the ONLY way approved by God.

But now VGR Inc. has put on a system that is exactly like the one that have put on each denomination, included the Roman Catholic denomination. So behind VGR Inc. there must be the same denominational spirit.

Anyone that does not work under their (Joseph and Billy Paul) authority, is out of the perfect will of God. What a humble arrogance! What a humble diabolical presumption! In this way they put themselves ABOVE the will of God. In this way they IGNORE the will of God. In this way they DESTROY the work independently done by the servants that God has in each nation. Then it is clear enough that it must be the ANTI-CHRIST SPIRIT working through them.

In this way they ROB the Bride of her liberty. In this way they destroy the SOVEREIGNTY of the local work of God. In this way they HINDER the fast progress of the work. In this way they MESS UP the hole plane of God! THINK OF IT, my dear brethren!

You see, God rises His men in each nation, they start the work of translation, they start to spread the Message, they have to stand the opposition, they have to labor, they spend their energy and money. Then, when all this work is done, and there are in that nation ALREADY some believers and churches that believe the Message, then VGR Inc. jumps in and put its hands on the work, telling them that they have broken the law of copyright on the Message, that they are out of the perfect will of God; and by doing this they stop the progress and the right continuity and unity of the work already started. By doing this they (Joseph and Billy Paul) come into a field that does not belong to them, and destroy the continuity and the harmony of the work that is already going on. They destroy the independence of the work; they destroy the trust that the people had in their translators; and in some cases they even destroy the good fellowship and harmony that there was among the believers, because now some start to think and believe that if you do not agree with what Joseph and Billy Paul are doing, then you are automatically out of the will of God. See what is the “result” of this franchise story? “Trouble, strike and division among the Bride of Jesus Christ”.

Now, how can it be that the work done not under the control of VGR Inc. is not of God? If this is so, then the work done by:

1- Brother Nail Halava, the one that put all the Message on Infobase, is not in the will of God? Then no one of us should have the Message on computer. Is that so?

2 - Then all the work done by **Tucson Books** (the red bound volumes) is not of God? Now they are also giving out The Mobile Spoken Message Player, a very little tape-recorder with all the Message inside; and also this is out of the will of God?

3 - Then all the great work done by Brother **David Mamalis** is not of God?

4 - Then all the work done by **Bible Believers**, from Vancouver, Canada, is not the will of God? They have done, and are doing, a great job around the world, and all is done out of the will of God? They have distributed all around the world many of so called "Seed Libraries", hundreds and hundreds of Messages on tape, and all this has been done out of the will of God? Now they are distributing the Message on CD MP3 format, and also this is out of the will of God?

5 - Then all the work done by Brother **Harold HILDEBRANDT**, of Edmonton, Canada, is out of the will of God? Now he is also giving out the all 1.150 Message on 18 MP3 CD format, and of a very good quality and at a very low cost, and this is also done out of the perfect will of God?

6 - Then all the work done by the **Independent Mission Work** in Rotterdam, Holland, is not the will of God? The believers in Rotterdam have translated hundreds of Messages into their language. Brother Harry van der Stel, beside doing his pastoral work, has printed hundreds of Messages. And not only in his own language, but he has helped and is helping many believers in other countries, printing the Message in their own languages, and giving them machines so that they could print the Message by themselves. And they do this since MANY years, even before VGR Inc. existed. And you tell me that all this has been done out of the will of God?

7 - Then all the work that Brother **Samuel Suter** is doing since many years in Switzerland (translating the message into the German language) is out of the will of God? Pastors (Samuel Suter is a pastor), men that God have called in their own nations; men with a proved ministry; men that have fought and fight for the Message and Its purity and integrity, now become men out of the will of God ONLY because they do not bow their will to the American Policy of Joseph and Billy Paul Branham?

And what about the many others that God has risen up in each nation already since MANY years? Are they all out of the perfect will of God? Yet, if today there is a Bride around the world, it is because of the work done by these men that VGR Inc. calls: "Men out of God's will"!

These men have not been risen up by Joseph and Billy Paul. No. GOD has risen them up!

Now, what, God has risen them up and now Joseph and Billy Paul has to control them? What, the God that rose them up is not any more able to control them in the job that they are doing?

There are many others. Here I mention some more.

8 - What about Brother **Uros Merliak** that for many years is translating the Message into the Slovenian language? Is he out of the will of God only because he does the job independently from the control of VGR Inc.?

9 - What about Brother **Dusan Toman** that since many years translates, in printed and spoken format, the Message into his language (Slovak)? Is he doing this outside the will of God?

10 - What about Brother **Hans Roleter** that has translated the Church Age Book into the German language? Did he do it out of the will of God? Yet the Bride in Germany is getting benefits from the book!

11 - What about Brother **Herbert Assmies** that has translated, and is still translating and printing many

Messages into the German language? Is he out of the will of God?

12 - What about Brother **Michel Janson** that has translated many Messages into the French language, and that VGR Inc. tried to stop him?

13 - What about the **Shekinah Publications**, of Gongo, Africa, that are printing the Message into the France language and spreading It in many African French speaking countries?

14 - What about Brother **Mariano Guagliardo**, that for 15 years is translating the Message into his own language, Italian? He, besides his pastoral work, has translated the Church Age Book, the Seals Book, and many other Messages; he prints It himself; he puts It in tape format, with the voice of the prophet and the voice of the translator; he put all the translated Messages into a CD-Rom format, and give it out to whosoever asks for it. And all this is giving out FREE OF CHARGE. No money is asked! The work goes on just by the freewill and love-offerings that the believers give. What, is this work all out of the will of God?

I just mentioned some; I could mention many others that are around the world, but I stop here, because these mentioned here are more than enough to show how that GOD is in control of His work, and not VGR Inc.

All these brethren have broken the Franchise law of VGR Inc., but have provided Food to the Bride of Jesus Christ. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

One needs to have really an American arrogant humble spirit to say that all the work that these men of God have done and are doing (and many of them are MINISTERS of the Gospel; men with a Divine call in their lives, and men that fight for the integrity of the Message) is out of the will of God, only because they do not bow to the policy of VGR Inc. That's right.

Yet, these men that are considered out of the perfect will of God, are the ones that God has used and He is still using to call His Bride out of each nation!

The Message could not have been spread out without the labor of these men. And now, someone that has done nothing, comes along and reaps the fruits; and instead of appreciating the work done by these UNKNOWN servants of God, he goes around telling that they did the job out of the perfect will of God? Those men have sown the Seed, they have worked to water It; God has done the work of increasing, and now the leaders and President of VGR Inc. comes along despising them that have sown the Seed, despising them that have watered It, and telling around that all these workers have worked out of the will and plan of God? What a heresy! What a blasphemy! May God have mercy of those people in VGR Inc.!

The apostle Paul speaks a different language from them. Listen what he says:

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, [ye are] God's building. (I Corinthians 3:6-9)

Of course, VGR Inc. finds always someone that agree and support their policy. Every denomination

has its supporters. But not because someone agree with them and supports them it means that they are right. Rather, I have found out that the people that blindly support the VGR Inc. policy have a very strange spirit. I know some of them here in Italy, and every one of them is involved in the belief of strange doctrines, strange behavior, strange ideas. There are some of them that do not believe in going to church. Some of them believe that since 1963 grace is over. Some of them believe that there are no more pastors to lead the Church. Some believe that the time to take the Lord's Supper is over. Some believe that Joseph Branham is the realization of the shadow of the Joseph in Egypt. Some believe that they should not read a Message unless it comes from VGR Inc. Some believe that they should read the Message between the lines. Some believe that Brother Branham was a prophet only for a week. Oh, my goodness, all kinds of demons are supporting the VGR Inc. policy! Do you know why? Because they (Joseph and Billy Paul) have spread a LIE about the franchise, and so LYING spirits have gathered together to support this policy. Do you see it?

So, look what happens now. These people with strange spirits are becoming the power that supports the policy of VGR Inc. They send to VGR Inc. their offerings, their Tithes (even if the Scripture says that Tithes should go only to the ministers, to the LOCAL ministers; but they don't care about this Scripture!); they go to their conferences; they go around visiting churches and spreading this false idea of franchise, breaking therefore the confidence that the believers have in their local pastor. These people with strange spirits go around saying things that the prophet have never said; but VGR Inc. never says a word against them, otherwise they will loose their popularity.

So, strange doctrines comes up. The local pastors have to fight against these false doctrines, to protect the Flock. Then in the fight it looks like that the pastors go against the sons of the prophet, when it is not; and these strange believers "twist" the real meaning of the fight for the Truth and present it as a fight against the sons of the prophet. See? So it appears that the guilt ones are those pastors that are fighting FOR the Truth, when the REALLY ones that are fighting AGAINST the Truth appears like the "holy men", very nice and gentle, never saying a sharp word, never speaking publicly against the wrong thing that someone is doing or speaking. Do you see this?

You see, this way of acting "holy" and "gentle" is just the same way of acting like the priest and popes of the Catholic Church do. They are so gentle! They speak so kind! They have such a kind outward attitude! Their motives look so nice, so Scriptural! And yet, behind them all, is hiding Mister Lucifer.

But these wolfs, these strange believers that go around creating problems, strike and division among the Bride, draw their strength and find their support in VGR Inc. So they support one another. They support VGR Inc. policy, and VGR Inc. policy is to support them that go around spreading this lie of franchise.

Do you know what they do? They write to Joseph about their problems; they write to him about how their pastors are fighting against VGR Inc. policy; they write and ask advices, etc, etc. Now, Joseph does not tell them: "Go to your pastors", like Brother Branham did. He does not check to find out if they are wrong in their motives and doctrine. He cannot do that, because it is human impossible that one man can answer and take spiritual care of people that are thousands of miles away. That is the work of a "local pastor". See? So, what they (Joseph and Billy Paul) do? They just care about "keeping the contact with those people", in order to "preserve their influence upon them", in order to "preserve their popularity" with them, and, forgive me for saying this: "In order to preserve their income

finances”.

See, they do not care about the “soul condition” of those believers. They CANNOT, because they are not ministers. The only care they have is to protect the franchise on the Message, so that the income finances would not get lower.

Again: forgive me for this clear speech, but I cannot express the truth in another way.

Now, as I said before, these strange believers are those believers that do not accept the idea that the sons of the prophet can be wrong. No, this idea they cannot accept. They can accept the idea that “their pastor” (the one that the Lord has used to bring them to the Truth) can be wrong. But they will never accept the idea that the sons of the prophet can be wrong. Never! Why not? Do you know why? Simply because they are the “sons” of the prophet. What a miserable belief! These believers simply do not know the Bible. If they knew It, then they would have known that many sons of great prophet of God have done terrible wrong.

See, for this kind of believers, the fact that they are sons of the prophet gives them the certainty that they are right anyhow. So for these believers the “meter” is not anymore the Word of God, but the “sons of the prophet”. What a far cry is this from the Message brought by the prophet, which constantly tells us to STAY WITH THE WORD OF GOD, and to trust only the Word of God and not the words of men, included his sons in the flesh!

Who are anyhow these sons of the prophet? Are they not men like all the others? Are they not born in sin like all others? Are they not sinners like all others? Do they need not a Saviour like all others? Do they need not to be Borned Again from the Word of the Hour like all others? Do they need not the Baptism of the Holy Ghost like all others? Do they need not to obey the Word of God like all others? Do they need not to walk in the fear and admonition of the Lord like their father walked? Do they need not the leading of the Holy Ghost like all others? Or there is for them a special “corridor” to Heaven? No, they have to go EXACTLY through the same process as anybody else. Not because they are sons of the prophet they belong to a “privileged group”. Not at all!

But for some believers the sons of the prophet are a “special people”. What a miserable and ridiculous thought it is!

Listen: don't you know that every REAL believer in the Message is a son of the prophet? Don't you have read in the Bible about the “sons of the prophets”? Do you know who are these sons of the prophets of whom the Bible speaks? They are not the sons that the prophets had in their “flesh”. No. They are the sons that came out of their “ministry”. Like Timothy was a son to Paul; not according to his flesh, but according to his ministry. So the same is now with the prophet of our age. Brother Branham had five children in his flesh. And what is born of the flesh is flesh, says the Bible. But he had, and still has, many “spiritual” children that was born, and are born, of his ministry. Now, which ones are more qualified before God: the children in the flesh or the children in the Spirit? I leave to you to judge on this.

Now, if the sons in the flesh are ALSO sons in the Spirit, then Billy Paul, Joseph, Rebecca and Sara are on the SAME LEVEL of each other son or daughter of the prophet. Therefore, if we are all on the same level before God, then why there are those that consider them sons in the flesh of a “higher class”, a “higher position”, in a “higher favor” with God? Why don't give them the same respect that should

be given to each son and daughter of God? Why? Are there divers classifications, divers classes, divers positions among the children of God? Are not we all on the same level? Are we not all children of the same Father? Since when God has different classes of children?

Don't you see where comes from this spirit that makes difference among the children of God? Don't you see that it comes from the DEVIL? Don't you see that this spirit has been working among the "false wine" along the Church Ages, dividing the people of God, making "classes" among them? Oh, if you do not see this, then you are surely blind!

Look, we are even coequal with Jesus! How much more then we are coequal with one another, included the sons of the prophet? Listen to what the prophet says:

GOD PERFECTING HIS CHURCH - Binghamton. NY. 54-1204.

But the thing of it is, they forget who they are. They think, "Well, I don't know." Oh, brother, you that's borned-again are sons and daughters of God, coequal with Jesus Christ, in His Presence. Oh, my. That's what makes the devil angry. Is let the Church of God realize who they are.

Then, if we are equal even with Jesus Christ, how can it be that we cannot be equal with the sons of the prophet? What, are they MORE than Jesus Christ?

Some say: "But the prophet said that Joseph was to be a prophet. And we believe what the prophet have said about him". Right, I do believe also what the prophet said about his son Joseph. And I believe that what he said was right. But don't forget this, my dear brethren, that no matter how much the prophet was right, there is still involved the FREE WILL of Joseph. Don't forget this!

You see, the "gift" of a prophet could be there, but if the man does not surrender his life completely to the will of God, how can God ever use him? Never!

Listen to what the prophet said about his son Billy Paul:

EXPLAINING HEALING, AND JAIRUS - Wood River IL. Tuesday, 54-0216.

Good evening, friends. It's indeed a pleasure to be here tonight, and a privilege. And I thank you for your thoughts of the boy, my son. He's just a lad, and he's been going with me now, for a little while... The manager's in Canada, Mr. Baxter, and so I—I hardly know how I would—be hard for me to get along without him right now. So he's kindly my right hand man, he's—but being just a kid, and you all's respect for him, I certainly appreciate that.

And I hope someday, that God makes a minister out of him. And if he would only give a complete yield to God, of course, he's just a kid. He's in the adolescent age yet, but Billy, if he will yield to God his ministry will exceed mine so bad till, so far it won't even be in the picture. Billy is going to be a very spiritual boy, and the Spirit of the Lord is near him.

For instance, we'll be riding down the road on place we've never seen before. He's talking to me the other day; he said, "Daddy", he said, "I see we're going to make a turn after while, and there's a red barn, and there'll be a cow standing over here, and some chickens standing around beside...". It'll be there just don't worry. It'll be just there. And see, it's

so near him, the same thing. If he'd just yield to It.

And then, we'll go a little farther, and I'll say, "Now, watch Paul," if you see it's the same I'm telling you. I said, "Now, we're going to be a man so—you be ready to catch your brakes 'cause there's a man going to come around the corner, in this next city, and the man's going to be dressed in a certain way, like that." And there he will be. See? Just like...

And, he will say, "Well now, daddy, that's... I see that too." He said, "But I don't know what to do."

I said, "Just follow what the Lord says." See, see?

Gifts and callings are without repentance. That's right.

Do you see what the prophet said about his son Billy Paul? And I believe that he was right. Yet, if you notice, in what the prophet says there is an "IF". "IF" the boy would only give a complete yield to God. "IF", there is a "condition" placed before the Lord could use the boy. But the boy did not fulfill that "IF", because he ran away with a girl, married her and then divorced her, and so God could not use his ministry. Do you see it?

Then listen what the prophet said in another occasion about his son Billy Paul:

LET US SEE GOD - San Jose. CA. 59-1129.

Billy has been my chum. I've raised him; his mother died when he was just eighteen months old; and have been father and mother, both to him. But he seems like he doesn't have a call to be a preacher: he's bashful, backward, and so forth, a whole lot like his mother, shy.

Do you see how that "IF" worked with Billy Paul?

Now, what about Joseph? Let's see what the prophet said about him:

ENTICING SPIRITS - Jeff. IN. 55-0724.

In a little closet, way yonder in the north lands You promised this child to me. Father, may Your blessings rest upon Him. Joseph, my boy, I give you to God, and may your life be a blessing. May you be a prophet, Joseph; may God's grace rest on you. May the God of your father, the Lord Jesus Christ ever bless you and make your life a blessing to others. In Jesus Christ's Name I bless this child. Amen.

You see? Brother Branham, as any good Christian father would do, blessed his child, wishing him to be a prophet. That was the desire of a "father". But between the 'desire' and the 'calling', and the 'going' into the ministry, there is a lot of difference.

Now, please notice that the prophet said this while he was under the anointing to preach the Message *Enticing Spirits*. Now, is there a connection between what he said about his son and the *enticing spirits*? Sure there is!

You see, this means that *enticing spirits* was already getting ready to "twist" the "contest" of what Brother Branham said in that Message concerning his son. Do you get it?

Listen to what the prophet says in another Message about Joseph:

LET US SEE GOD - San Jose. CA. 59-1129.

When I dedicated him to the Lord the morning, there was many little babies standing up, and had mothers with them along the altar. When I picked up Joseph in my arms, not thinking of what I was saying, I said, "Joseph, my son, thou art a prophet." That's my prayer anyhow, and I believe it'll be someday; God will take everything that He ever give me, and double it times double, and put on that boy, then when I leave that he'll take my place.

Now, do you see how it was a "prayer" of the prophet and NOT a "promise" of God?

Now, the prophet prayed, he expressed to God a desire, BUT IT WAS NEVER A "PROMISE" OF GOD THAT JOSEPH WAS TO BE A PROPHET. Never! What God did was that He promised him a "child", not that He promised that the child was to be a prophet. Do you see it?

Now, as we have seen above, Brother Branham expressed THE SAME DESIRE for Billy Paul, but then later he recognized that the boy was not fit for the ministry, and his desire to see Billy Paul working into the ministry could not be fulfilled. Now, could it be that the same desire was expressed for Joseph but it could not come to pass like it was for Billy Paul? I do not know! Maybe if the prophet would have lived long enough to see Joseph older and would have seen how Joseph acts on this matter of franchise, he could have said the same thing that he said later about Billy Paul's ministry. I do not know! Could also be that the time for Joseph to enter into the ministry has not yet come. I do not know! But we can see a FACT: Till now Joseph is NOT a minister. This is sure.

Now, he expressed the desire that Billy Paul *ministry will exceed mine so bad till, so far it won't even be in the picture*. Think what the prophet says! He says that the ministry of Billy Paul will EXCEED his ministry! Now, how can it be that the ministry of Billy Paul could exceed the ministry of the prophet, since the ministry of the prophet was the LAST one before the coming of the Lord? See, you must come into the "contest" in which the prophet expresses his desire as a Christian father. If you miss the contest, then you miss the correct picture of the thing.

Now about Joseph he says near the same thing: "*God will take everything that He ever give me, and double it times double, and put on that boy, then when I leave that he'll take my place*". See, he expressed the same desire for BOTH sons. But between "expressing" the desire and the "realization" of what has been expressed, there is a lot of difference. How many times you have expressed a desire to God, but He has never given it to you? Don't forget that God is SOVEREIGN, and He does what He wants, regardless of our desires. Some of our desires He will accomplish, and some not. If anybody does not know this, then he does not know the Bible.

Brother Branham prayed for many children, asking God to make ministers out of them. Now, are they all gone into the ministry because the prophet prayed such a prayer? Not at all.

See, the prophet "asks", but God "decides".

But do you know what the carnal minded believers do? They just go ahead of God! They just make out of a man a prophet even before they see any sign or the ministry of a prophet. That is exactly what they do. That is exactly what some are doing with Joseph. They would have done that also with Billy

Paul, but because of his marriage case, they could not do that. But until now with Joseph they have succeeded in their scheme.

Now, not because the prophet expressed his desire to God then God is obliged to do it. Not at all! God is SOVEREIGN. God will do what He wants to do. Look what the prophet says in the quote below:

A GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE - Grande Prairie. AB. Monday, 61-0515.

As old Congressman Upshaw said, "You can't be nothing that you hain't." A congressman of the United States, run for president. He knowed better, but he just—he just used my language, my way of expressing it. But that is true. You can just be... And that's what's the matter with us today, friends. All the whole world seems to be that way. If we would just be what God makes us to be, that—then you're—you're—you're... The trumpet will not give an uncertain sound then. It'll give a certain sound, and all the world will know it (You see?) when it's sounded right.

And so, a minister cannot be a minister because his papa and mother wants him to be a minister. He has to be called of God to be a minister. There would've been nothing do my heart any better than to know that my son Billy Paul would've been a minister. But to send him to school and make a minister out of him, I'd rather he'd be a spittoon cleaner than to have been that, something that he's not. See? Excuse that rude expression. I shouldn't have said that. See? Doesn't sound nice here, but you know what I mean. I'd rather he would've been something else.

See what the prophet says? He says that one cannot be a minister only because papa and mama wants him to be a minister. HE HAS TO BE CALLED OF GOD. Now, what the Holy Ghost says here by the mouth of the prophet has to be applied also to what "papa Branham" said about the ministry of his sons Billy Paul and Joseph! Do you see it?

If Brother Joseph has a call in his life, let's wait until we see the "manifestation" of this call; let's wait until we see him coming into the ministry. Why should we hasten God's time? God has His time and planes, why don't we wait until it is openly manifested?

Then, if he (Joseph) would come into the ministry, what kind of a ministry could he have? He CANNOT have a ministry that is outside of the fivefold ministry of Ephesians 4:11. He then would be a "preacher". That is the kind of a prophet that he could be. He would be a "preacher among other preachers", a "minister among other ministers". Then he should have his own church, his own pulpit. Then he will have to respect the ministry of others. He cannot be a minister ABOVE other ministers, because if he does, then he will be called an anti-Christ minister.

Then I would be very glad to have him preach in my church. Surely! And if he does not preach what the prophet has already taught, then I will kick him out of my pulpit. Sure enough! But if what he preaches is in line with the Message that the Lord has sent by His prophet William Marrion Branham, then I will pay him with highly respect, as a servant of God, a coworker for the same Cause. I will respect him as I do respect any other real minister of Jesus Christ. That's all.

But now consider this thing also. In all of his magazines Joseph calls himself "President". Now, that is NOT the title that the prophet wished for him. The prophet wished for him the title of a "prophet",

not that of a “president”. The prophet wished for him a Scriptural title. But now Joseph has taken a title that is NOT Scriptural! President is a “denominational” title. And since the prophet tells us that the title, or a name, “characterize” the person, then we can easily come to the conclusion that behind that title works a “denominational spirit”. God cannot use denominational titles to do His work! He uses His SCRIPTURAL titles. Do you see it?

Now: “Why has Joseph BETRAYED and ANNULLED the desire that his father had for him? Why?”. Do you know why? It is because he IS NOT doing the work that the prophet wished for him to do, the work of a “minister”, but rather he is doing the work of an Editing Company, called VGR Inc., which forces him to go against the principles by which God works and brings out His plans.

Behind that title of “President” there is a “system” and a “spirit” that compels him to act the way he is acting! And because he agrees with that system, then he has SOLD OUT the ministry that his father wished for him, and for which he prayed to God.

See, the ministry could have been on him like the birthright blessing was to be on Esau, but because of his decision, he lost that ministry, and God cannot use him anymore in the ministry. The gift could be there, but He cannot use it. Do you see it?

Now, consider another thing. Even if Billy Paul and Joseph have not a ministry, they do not work together neither do they cooperate with the ministers that God has around the world, the ones that have the burden to bring the Message to their people. See, they walk on a higher level than the local ministers. They do not believe that they need to stay under a ministry. No, they don’t believe this. They think that no minister could teach them the Word of God. See, because they are the “sons” of the prophet, then they think they do not need a minister to lead them. And the same thing thinks the people that work with them or are under their influence.

See, they think that they are a “special class” of believers, a special class of God’s children. A separated priesthood. Exactly what Brother Branham teaches us in the Church Age Book, page 93:

But see what was happening back there. That false vine was getting a hold and it was teaching that rulership by man was right. It taught that the church had to be governed. It taught a control over the people, but instead of doing it God's way, they simply took authority and vested all the spiritual power in their own hands and came out with a holy priesthood standing between God and the people. They went right back to the old Aaronic system. They became antichrist for they disposed of His mediator-ship and imposed their own. God hated that. The Ephesians hated that and any true believer will hate it too. We would have to be stone blind not to see that same thing at work all through the ages and right now it is the worst of all. What it was, was organization. That separated the people. God’s people are supposed to be one. By ONE Spirit are they ALL baptized into one body and EVERYONE is to be moved upon by the Holy Ghost and EVERYONE is to participate in the worship of God. But men wanted the pre-eminence, so they took over control, and bishops became archbishops, and with imposing titles they by-passed the Word of God and taught their own doctrines. They got the people to obey them until the time came that their way of worship did not in any way at all resemble the early days after Pentecost. These deeds were the beginning of apostolic succession. From apostolic succession it was one easy and quick step to "church membership" as the means of saving grace. The Word was

reduced to a creed. Antichrist by his spirit was predominating the church.

Do you see that same spirit working now through the VGR Inc. policy? Do you see it?

Why they act like that? You know why? Because they want a HIGHER position than the local minister. And this they do only because they are the sons of the prophet according to his flesh.

Now, this shows very clear that they are not led by the Spirit of God. Maybe they was in the past, but not now.

Now, since Joseph means “son of prosperity”, then whatever he does will prosper. But this prospering does not mean that every thing he does is in the will of God. Not at all! Look how many people prosper in the world. Are they all in the will of the Lord? Look how the denominations are prospering on building buildings of billions of dollars, and bringing forth their big programs, and yet they are all CONTRARY to the will of God! Look how the Catholic Church is prospering! Are they in the will of God only because they are prospering in all things? Listen to what the prophet says about prospering:

SPIRITUAL AMNESIA - Birmingham. AL. 64-0411.

Now, I want to speak on “Spiritual Amnesia”. Now, this little fellow that we’re talking about, Amos, just for a moment to get our background before we get to the text. This is during the time of the great prosperity in Samaria. Israel had prospered. They had really went after the world and had prospered. Not always prosperity is a sign of spiritual blessings, but sometimes on the contrary. People think maybe you have to own a lot of worldly goods and shows that God’s blessing you. That’s not true. Sometimes it’s the other way.

Do you see how prosperity has nothing to do with God’s approval? Listen what the prophet continue to say on the Church Age Book, page 118:

The cloudy skies and storms of life are no signs of God's disapproval. Neither are bright skies and still waters signs of His love and approval. His approval of any of us is only IN THE BELOVED. His love is elective which He had for us before the foundation of the world.

Do you see then how the prosperity IS NOT a sign of God’s approval? Now, not because Joseph is prospering then automatically he has the approval of God on what he is doing. Not at all!

But now, look: people from all over the world look to the “Great Special Place” that VGR Inc. has build in Jeffersonville, and they think: “My, surely God must be behind this work. Look what a prosperity! Look what a fantastic building!”. See, they are thinking like the disciples though one day, when they called the attention of Jesus on the majesty of the Temple. But Jesus destroyed their enthusiasm, and told them that of that building would not have remained a stone upon another stone. The same thing will happen soon to the “Special Place” that VGR Inc. has built in Jeffersonville. Just wait, and you will see!

Look. If VGR Inc. says that they was able to build the Special Place only because God gave them the money, then how can it be that the same God cannot provide them the money to duplicate, print, and distribute the Message free of charge? What, God was only able to provide them the money for the

building where to print the Message, and now He is not able to provide them the money to print and distribute the Message free of charge? What, has God's bank run out of money? Has God become poor? Has He spent all His money for building the Special Place, and now He has no more money to keep the work go on? Huh!

And also: if they say that the expenses are increasing all the time, then why they started to print in color, to have more expenses? So, they started to print in a more expansive way and now they complain that the expenses are increasing! Why then don't continue to print in black and with the cover, like they have done till now?

Now, if they want to print in color, okay, nothing wrong against it; but then do not say to the Bride: "You have to pay 1 dollar for each printed Message, because of the increasing cost we have". So, in one way they say that God has blessed them in providing the money to build the great Special Place, then they decided to print the Message in color cover, and then ask the believers to pay 1 dollar per book? What a contradiction!

But, see, the fact is that behind it all there is a "money business". That is the real truth about it!

See, once again we have found out that there is somebody that has build up a statue to Daniel (the prophet), and now wants that everywhere, under every country and tongue that there is under the heavens, people has to bow and do their will. If they don't bow, then they are threatened. Do you see that same spirit at work?

But, praise God, there is still some Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that do not bow to their man-made image!

But the attention of the majority of believers will be anyhow attracted to the great building that they have built, because of the "glamour" they make about it. So, instead of attracting the believers on the necessity to "live" the Message of the Hour, they attract the attention to "what they do" for the Message. And in order that the attention could be concentrated only on what they are doing, they IGNORE completely the work that others have done and are doing around the world. See, they want "preeminence" among the believers. They want to be the ones that have the "key", so that nobody can do nothing unless there is their approval. Just the same spirit that is working through the Catholic Church! Exactly the same. Only the Headquarters are in a different place; but the spirit and the policy of working is just the same.

So, you see, by that prosperity they are "dazzling" the eyes of the believers, making them blind to the real thing (the life of the Message) and making them to believe that whatever they (Joseph and Billy Paul) do is anyhow in the perfect will of God. At the same time they "belittle" the work that the other brothers are doing in other nations, printing perhaps the Message in little places, in some garages, in dark places (because they have not much financial resources), with little and old machines etc. etc., but yet, doing a great work for the Bride that is in their nations.

See, these unknown servants that God has around the world are not even considered by the leaders of the "Special Place" that is in Jeffersonville. But God knows them all!

Don't worry! Just be patient and wait! When you get to Heaven you will see many surprises! Then you will see who really broke the franchise law on the Message! Then you will see the ones that the Lord

will honor! Then you will see who was doing God's perfect will and who was not! Just wait.

In one of the pamphlet I got from VGR Inc. in the year 2001, there is written this quote from the Message: *"We are brethren, together, working together for all that we can, for the good of the Kingdom of God, and every church, every one"*.

What a LIE! What a cheek! What a presumption! What a "misusing" the words of the prophet! In the next page you can read yourself what they wrote to Brother Mariano in date August 9, 2001, about the *"working together"*.

Do you see how they are "misplacing" and "misquoting" the Message? And if they do it in this case, then they surely do it in many other cases, including the franchise story.

You know what they mean by *working together*? They mean that the others have to bow to their policy, and to what they tell them to do.

Then they say *we are working together*.

Please, note also how in the following letter (**page 34**) they are telling to Brother Mariano that he has not to use the name LA VOCE DI DIO (The Voice of God) as a name to put on the Message books that he prints, so that the people can write and ask for the Message in the Italian language. Do you see how they "dictate" what others have to do in their own countries? Do you see that old American spirit that wants to be above the others?

Reed in the page **35** the reply of Brother Mariano to their letter of August 9, 2001.

Let me say this to every one of you that will read this booklet. Since this franchise controversy has to do with the WORD OF GOD FOR THE HOUR, then every real minister should rise and be a standard against this heresy. If you don't, then you are not fighting the good fight of faith, and you are automatically a supporter of VGR Inc. policy and all the rest they are doing.

Also every good and sound believer should rise up and stand against this heresy. If you see the danger, then do not stand still! Rise up, and fight! Speak against this heresy that is bringing division and strike among the Message believers, and is hindering the progress of spreading the Message in God's proper way!

And to the sons of the prophet, Joseph and Billy Paul, let me say this with the love of God in my heart for you: Humble yourselves, my brothers! Walk humbly before the God of your father! Do not think that because you are the sons of His prophet then God will use indulgence for you. God has no respect of persons. Don forget this! You will have to give an account to God for what you are doing and saying, like anybody else. And have respect for the servants of God that around the world are translating the Message, bringing the Food to the Flock that God has given them to care. Have respect for them, because they are God's servants like you, which are working for the same Cause. Do not bypass them! And do not go around telling them what to do, because you are NOT their boss. Let the Holy Spirit be the Boss over them. As you believe you are lead by the Holy Spirit, then believe that also they are lead by that same Holy Spirit. If you believe that He can corrects you, then why you cannot believe that He can corrects them too? Please, DO NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, otherwise you will pay bitterly!



Mariano Guagliardo
P.O. Box 108
80049 Somma Ves. (NA) Italy

August 9, 2001

Dear Brother Mariano Guagliardo:

Greetings in the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother Billy and I received your letter of November 28, 2000. We are glad to hear that you and your family are doing fine.

Along with this letter we received the books and cassette translations that you sent. My Brother, we realize that Brother Branham said that every one of us is a free moral agent; we each have individual choices placed before us and we are responsible for our own decisions. If you choose to disregard the franchise agreement set in place by Brother Branham and translate and produce tapes without permission, you make that choice the same as you accept or reject anything else that Brother Branham said.

However, on the cassettes and books that you sent, you have used the name "La Voce Di Dio" or in English, "The Voice Of God." Brother Mariano, our company name is copyrighted. Please refrain from using our name, for, as you well understand, Voice Of God Recordings is widely known and our translations are trusted by Believers around the world. Your use of our name, leads people to believe that we have given you permission to translate, have endorsed your translations, or perhaps even to think that we have an office in Italy!

It is our hope that this matter can be resolved without any delay.

We will be awaiting your soon reply.

May God ever guide you is my prayer.

Your brothers in Christ,

Joseph M. Branham

Billy Paul Branham

Hebrews 13:8

VOICE OF GOD RECORDINGS INC.

P.O. Box 950 □ Jeffersonville, Indiana 47131 USA □ (812) 256-1177 Fax (812) 256-6187

Mariano GUAGLIARDO
P.O. Box 108
80049 SOMMA VES. (NA) ITALY

September 3, 2001.

Mr:
Billy Paul and Joseph Branham
c/o VOICE OF GOD RECORDINGS
P.O. Box 950-Jeffersonville IN
47131 U.S.A.

Dear brothers Billy Paul and Joseph Branham;

Trust that the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you!

I received your letter of August 9, 2001. By it you tell me about the Post Address I put on the Message translated and printed by me in Italian. My dear brothers, I am astonished for what you wrote in that letter! You wrote telling me that I should "refrain from using the name LA VOCE DI DIO (The Voice Of God) because it is your company name and it is copyrighted". What, "LA VOCE DI DIO" is your company name? Since when THE VOICE OF GOD has become a 'name of a company'? Since when you have the "exclusive" on the VOICE OF GOD? How can you put a 'copyright' on the VOICE OF GOD? So you mean to say that the VOICE OF GOD is something that belongs to you only? Hey, have you fallen from grace, my dear brothers? Don't you are ashamed of yourself to say such a thing?

As a Post Office address on each Message book that we print, we write LA VOCE DI DIO because that is what the Message is. The people that ask for the Message ask to have LA VOCE DI DIO, and we send them LA VOCE DI DIO, which is the Word of God, the Message of the Hour. That's all. That is the only reason we have by writing LA VOCE DI DIO.

Your English name is not like ours. Yours is THE VOICE OF GOD RECORDINGS Inc., which is totally different.

And then: "With what authority you tell me to refrain to use that name"? Why don't you give me the same liberty that you take for yourself? Or you think that God has sent His Message only for you?

If you feel that the name LA VOCE DI DIO would damage your image, then why don't you change your company name instead of telling me to change mine? The problem is yours, not mine.

Your letter really disappoints me! In November 2000, I sent you a copy of the *Seven Seals Book* that we have translated and printed in Italian. I sent you a copy of the book *A Man Sent From God* printed in Italian. I sent you a CD-Rom with all the Messages that I have translated into the Italian language. I sent you a copy of a Message in tape-form. I sent all this TRUSTING that you will REJOICE with me to see how the work is going on also here in Italy. But you, instead of rejoicing for the work done, not only tell me to refrain from using the proper name worthy of this Message, but you tell me also that I "choose to disregard the franchise agreement set in place by Brother Branham and translate and produce tapes without permission"? My dear brothers, what you wrote is too much! I have no proper words to express what I would like to tell you. The orders set by Brother Branham NEVER say that no one can translate the message unless there is your permission. NEVER. It is YOU that are saying that.

Anyhow, in case you don't know it yet, I inform you that since it was God the One who told me to do what I am doing, I receive orders only from Him. And in case you have any legal authority to stop me from doing the work of the Lord that I am doing here in Italy, I gentle invite you to show your colors and put into action what you say. I will be very glad to be persecuted for the work of the Lord's sake. Italy is full of real believers that during the past centuries have disregarded the orders of copyrights and various claims imposed by the mother Roman Catholic Church. It would be a great honor for me to be one of them that by that same spirit has been persecuted only for doing the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Trusting that by this letter I made myself enough clear, I greet you in the Name of the Lord Jesus, with the hope to see you one day glad and rejoicing for the work of the Lord that other brothers around the world are doing outside of your control.

Sincerely yours in Him,

Mariano Guagliardo

If you can help someone to print the Message in their language, help them in the measure you can; but do not control what they do! Let God do the controlling. If you control the others, then, “who is controlling YOU”? Or you think that you do not need any control? If that is so, then you are really backslided, my brothers. REPENT, and turn to the beaten path!

Take my humble advice, as a brother in Christ, and as a minister of Christ: do the work of duplicating the tapes in the English language. Do the printing in the English language. Do all you can in the part of the English language, BECAUSE THAT IS THE PART THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU IN THIS GREAT WORK. Then if someone asks you to help them in the printing of the Message in their language, help them in the measure that you can; BUT LEAVE THEIR WORK FREE FROM YOUR CONTROL. Leave them as much independent as you can. Let them stay under the control of the God that has called them for the job.

And do not ignore the work that others are doing. Show appreciation for the work that others are doing in God’s Vineyard. Do not fight against them! And do not try to break their influence in their own churches and countries, because in breaking their local influence YOU HELP TO DESTROY THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, and for this crime you will pay bitterly! Once the unity of the Body is destroyed, then the Sheep of God are lead into spiritual amnesia, then into confusion, strike, enmity, division, etc.

By some of the things that you write in your magazine (Catch the Vision) and circular letters, you are injecting into the mind of the believers a different opinion than the right one they should have about the way of doing the work of God, and when they get two opinions, then they start to have “Spiritual Amnesia”, and the revival, the love of God will cool down in their hearts. Oh, you do not realize what a great damage your influence is bringing among the believers of a local church! I know it, because I see it, as a pastor. Please, do not be guilty of such a terrible crime! We have already enough devils working against us, why should you help the devil to do his job against the Bride of Christ?

Fight rather against them that are misquoting the Message, against those that are bringing reproach to the Gospel by their strange doctrines. But, please, do not fight against them that are 100% for the Message! If you go against them that stands 100% for the Message, be careful, God is a jealous God! And do not think that because you are children of the prophet you will escape the wrath of God.

And to them that are lifting up Joseph and Billy Paul above of what is due to every son and daughter of God, let me say this: You are the ones that is damaging the sons of the prophet! You are the ones that is helping them to get out of the way. You, you that consider Joseph “the eight messenger”, you that consider him as the Joseph in Egypt; you are the ones that are ruining him! You are lifting him up, and then make him fall. But you are the ones that are actually guilty.

Listen, ye fools: why do you put your eyes upon Joseph instead of putting your eyes on Jesus Christ? Brother Branham NEVER says that we should put our eyes on his sons. NEVER. He always says that we should keep our eyes on JESUS CHRIST, the WORD OF GOD. Why are you then disobeying the command of the prophet? Don’t you know that you will have to answer before God for disobeying the words of the prophet?

If you really want to do good to the children of the prophet, then, do you know what you should do? PRAY FOR THEM. Yes, just pray for them.

I have seen some going around the sons of the prophet like if they were Gods for them. I have seen some that go around them and try to pull from them I don't know what a kind of virtue or a blessing. They nearly bow themselves before them and kiss their feet! Some look to Joseph Branham like the Catholic people are looking to their pope. Oh, what a pitiful sight to see such believers doing that! They don't know that that kind of honor and attention and reverence belongs ONLY to God. No, they do not know it. Why? Because they are CARNAL BELIEVERS. Never have been born again by the Spirit of God. NEVER. That is the reason they do this. And because they are carnal believers, then they need a man to whom they can bow and depend. And they have found their man in Joseph Branham. At the time of the prophet they did the same with Brother Branham, calling him even "Jesus Christ". But we know how the prophet rebuked them. Joseph should do the same thing that his father did: rebuke them publicly. They are stealing the honor that belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ. And if Joseph does not rebuke them, then it shows that he likes to receive that honor. But God is a jealous God, and He never has given His honor to a man. Never. Those that have attempted to take that honor, have always perished.

And those of you that run to VGR Inc. like if it was a "Holy Sanctuary", don't you know that you are supposed to stay in your local church? Don't you know that you are supposed to stay faithful to the work in your local assembly? Don't you know that you are supposed to stand with the pastor that God has given you? If you do not know these elementary things, then, what are you reading in the Message, only what you like?

And to those of you that are from other nations, and are supporting the work of VGR Inc. instead of supporting the work in your own nation: SHAME ON YOU! You are supposed to help the Cause that God has in your own nation.

And to them that are sending their Tithes to VGR Inc.: don't you know that the prophet teaches that the Tithes goes ONLY to the LOCAL minister? Why are you disobeying God's Commandment? Send to VGR Inc. your offerings, if you do not need them in your local church; but do not send them your Tithes, because they in VGR Inc. are not ministers. You may say: "But I want to help the work there". Well, let the English speaking part of the Bride that is in the States, Canada, England, Australia, and other English speaking countries, help the work there. But you that are in a foreign country, you that need financial help to support the work of translation in your own language, use the money that the Lord gives you to help and support the work of translating, printing, distributing the Message IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY. Remember: each one of us is responsible to bring the Message to the people of the country in which God has placed us.

In concluding let me say this. I am one of the less of God's servants. God called me since when I was a boy of 17 years old. He called me to the ministry. He gave me a little Flock here in Italy. He gave me a great burden to translate the Message into my language, Italian. In the year 1987 I quit my secular job to work full time in the translation of the Message. At first I asked the printing help of VGR Inc., which thing they kindly gave me. They printed for me the Church Age Book, and two other Messages. Then the Lord provide a brother here in Europe (Brother Harry van der Stel, from Holland) which helped me by printing the Messages that I was translating. Then the Lord continued to help me by another brother (Brother Samuel Suter from Switzerland) that gave me an Offset, and by it I started to print the Message here in Italy in a total independent way. Two years ago the Lord provided a new printing machine, which is much faster and easy to use than the first one. In the year 1997 we translated and

printed a 1.000 copies of the Seven Seals Book. The Bride in Italy is blessed by it. We translated and printed a 1.000 copies of the book *A Man Sent From God*, written by Gordon Lindsay. Oh, by now we have printed many thousands and thousand of copies of each Message we have translated! We send It all over Italy, and to whosoever asks for It. We send it also into other nations, wherever there are Italians.

Beside the Messages we have printed thousands and thousands of tracts to present the Message and the ministry of the prophet.

Beside the printed Message, we also make the tapes, with the voice of the prophet and the translation into Italian. We have translated the Video *The Deep Call To The Deep*. Since two years we have also a Web site where we have put near all the Messages that we have translated, so that anyone can read them, and by this we have had some contacts; people asking the Message. We also provide, for any one that asks, a CD-Rom with all the Messages that we have translated. And we send out all the Messages FREE OF CHARGE. We never ask for money. We cover the expenses by the *free will offerings* that the believers send. And until now, we have never gone on debts. NEVER. Oh, God is still Jehovah-Jireh! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Blessed be His Name!

And we are not reach people! We are not making money by the Message. We just live by faith day by day, giving out every penny that we have for the work of the Lord. I have no house of my own; I live with my family in a rented apartment. The building we have for the church, is not of our own, we just rend it. In this world I have no property at all! The only property I have in this earth is a second hand car of ten years old. That's all. But I have a treasure: the Message of the Hour. And that is more than enough for me.

Since 1987 we have translated and printed many Messages. We print a 1.000 copies of each Message. Some of them we have already reprinted. Just now we have reprinted a 1.000 copies of the Church Age Book. The first 1.000 copies printed by VGR Inc. have nearly run out. By His grace and help, we are trying to do our best to serve that part of the Bride that speaks Italian, here in Italy and also among the Italians that are in other countries.

But, of course, VGR Inc. is not happy with what we are doing! What can I say? I can say the same words that said our Lord Jesus: "*He that is not against me is for me*". And, automatically: he that is against me is not for me. And if VGR Inc. is not form me, then it must be my enemy.

It is a pity, a very sad thing, that the sons of the prophet do not approve the work that the other brothers are doing! It is a very sad thing. But, what can we do? Nothing, except than telling them that they are wrong motivated, and pray God that He may give them more grace. The rest is up to God. After all, each one of us has to give an answer before God for what we have done here on earth. May God help us to be humble, and to remember always the words of our Lord Jesus: "*So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do*". (Luke 17:10)

Trust this little booklet of mine would be a help to the Bride of Jesus Christ worldwide, and a mean of help to keep the unity among the real and genuine believers and ministers that are in this Message.

If in this exposition there is something that offends somebody, I can assure that it was not my intention to offend you, my brother or my sister. My only motive was to make a "stand" for what I consider to

be the Truth about this franchise controversy.

If there is someone that likes to translate this booklet in his own language, just be free to do it. There is no Copyright on it! But just translate it right; or “copy it right”. That is the real meaning of copyright: “Copy it right”.

And if you need some more copies of this booklet to give to others, just feel free to make copies of it and give to others.

Let’s work together for our Master! Let’s do all we can to spread this wonderful Message! Do not fight against one another, trying to destroy the work that the other brother is doing. Who does this is working against God. Let’s fight against them that are preaching strange doctrines out of the Message, bringing therefore reproach to the Cause of God. Let’s fight against them that misquote the Message for their own evil profit.

Surely, we know that the *“ELECT CANNOT persecute elect. ELECT CANNOT harm elect. It is the reprobates that persecute and destroy the elect. Oh, those reprobates are religious. They are smart. They are of the Cain line, the serpent seed. They build their Babels, they build their cities, they build their empires, and all the while calling on God. They hate the true seed, and they will do all they can, (even in the Name of the Lord) to destroy God’s elect ones”*. (Church Age Book, page 359)

My prayer is that the Lord might bless each one of you that is a genuine and a real believer in the Message of the Hour! And if this booklet has been a blessing to you, just remember me in your prayer before the Lord. If it has not been a blessing to you, then pray for me anyhow, because I too need the Grace of the Lord daily. God bless you!

Your brother in Christ Jesus,



Bro. Mariano Guagliardo

- Printed in the year 2001 -