

W-Blackheath. N. York  
FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.

To the assembly at \_\_\_\_\_

*Lee, Kent,*

*20th December, 1881.*

The following copy of a letter from the assembly at Lee to the seven neighbouring assemblies, with copies of their replies, expressing fellowship in the action of Lee in separating from Blackheath, is circulated for the information and fellowship of saints gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Signed on behalf of the assembly at Lee,

CHAS. BRAINE,  
D. DICE,

EDWD. G. CARTER,  
THOS. GUILLAUME.

---

*3, Upwood Road, Lee,*

*4th December, 1881.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

On the 13th ultimo we addressed a letter (a copy of which is enclosed,\*) to the assembly at Blackheath, requesting explanation of their action in receiving certain brethren who had publicly withdrawn from fellowship at Lee.

Our letter was read there on the evening of the 14th,

after the prayer meeting, and again on the Lord's day following (the 20th), to the assembly, on which day the brethren above referred to continued to break bread without any question.

As this was an open and distinct breach of the unity of the Spirit, we felt it was due to the Lord to declare on the morning of the 27th, at the breaking of bread, that we at Lee were no longer in fellowship with Blackheath, nor could we receive any commended from it.

That this our action was of God, was confirmed by the receipt on the 1st instant of a letter from Mr. Kelly enclosing the result of two assembly meetings held at Blackheath on the 24th and 28th of November, in which it is stated that they "were not disposed to reject" those who had gone out from Lee, and further that they refused the judgment of Park Street on the Ramsgate question, and declined to recognise Guildford Hall.

We therefore now communicate to the local gatherings, to whom belongs the immediate responsibility in this matter, the position we have taken in obedience to the word of God in separating from an assembly which persists in a course contrary to the expressed mind of the Lord, and which is iniquity in His sight, and we count not only on the fellowship of our brethren in the neighbourhood, but of all in every place who are endeavouring (however feebly) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Signed on behalf of the assembly at Lee,

CHAS. BRAINE,  
D. DICE,

EDWD. G. CARTER,  
THOS. GUILLAUME.

*Thornton House,  
South Street, Greenwich,  
11th December, 1881.*

TO THE SAINTS GATHERED AT LEE  
TO THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS,

We have received and read to the assembly at Greenwich the communication from Lee of the 4th inst., announcing that the saints there gathered are no longer in fellowship with the assembly at Bennett Park, Blackheath, on account of the action of the latter in receiving certain brethren who had publicly withdrawn from fellowship at Lee. The saints at Greenwich, desiring to walk in lowliness and in the unity of the Spirit, feel that they have only to accept the decision of Lee, and to express their fellowship in it, which they do hereby. We desire however to add, that it has come to our knowledge that individuals meeting at Royal Hill, Greenwich, have, since the separation at Greenwich, been received to break bread at Blackheath as before. As those meeting at Royal Hill deliberately accepted fellowship with the brethren at Assembly Rooms, Broadstairs, and thus forced us into separation, the conduct of Blackheath in thus receiving them confirms us in the conviction that Blackheath has given its countenance and support to the evil from which we have sought, through grace, to clear ourselves.

Signed on behalf of the saints gathered at Greenwich,

F. E. RAVEN,

G. CHESTERFIELD.

*Chislehurst,*

*11th December, 1881.*

**TO THE BRETHREN GATHERED TO  
THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AT LEE.**

The brethren gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus at this place have had repeatedly before them the subject of the division amongst the brethren at Ramsgate. They trust that they have weighed this sorrowful and heart-searching matter in the balances of the sanctuary under a deep sense of responsibility to the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and also under a deep and humbling consciousness that they themselves have helped on the division by their own unfaithfulness in many things to their "heavenly calling;" but they have, nevertheless, arrived at the deliberate conclusion that faithfulness to God and the word of His grace demands of them to refuse fellowship with those who accept Abbot's Hill and reject Guildford Hall, believing that the latter, in spite of their failure (since confessed) in their mode of action, is now the only true expression of the assembly of God in Ramsgate.

We therefore are in full fellowship with you in your recent action with regard to the saints at Blackheath, though deeply mourning the necessity for such action.

Yours in Christ Jesus, on behalf of the assembly,

R. J. ROUSE,  
WM. CHEESMAN,

J. MACE,  
G. GREENGRASS.

---

*Plumstead,*

*11th December, 1881.*

TO THE SAINTS GATHERED TO THE  
NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AT LEE, KENT.

At an assembly meeting of the saints gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus at Plumstead, held on December 5th, 1881, at the Masonic Hall, Anglesea Hill, Plumstead, the following was unanimously adopted, viz. :—

Inasmuch as the Blackheath meeting has received into its fellowship saints who have ceased to be in fellowship with the saints gathered to the Lord's name at Lee, this assembly declares that it is not in fellowship with the meeting at Blackheath.

Signed on behalf of the assembly,

J. BUCHANAN,

C. MILES,

E. RYE.

W. WHITE,

H. HUTSON,

W. EASTWOOD.

J. E. HARLEY,

*Lewisham,*

*11th, December, 1881.*

TO THE SAINTS GATHERED TO THE  
NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AT LEE,

BELOVED BRETHREN,

At an assembly meeting held at the Clarendon Rooms, Lee Bridge, Lewisham, on Monday evening the 5th inst., to take into consideration your communication announcing the fact that you are no longer in fellowship with the Blackheath meeting; after having weighed the

whole matter as before the Lord, we arrived at the following judgment viz. :—

That we cannot but regard the action taken by the Blackheath meeting as independency, violating the first principles upon which we are gathered, and practically denying the truth of the one body, by their receiving, and continuing to receive these persons into fellowship, after having been informed of their withdrawal from the Lee assembly, and consequently from all saints gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus in separation from evil.

We would also add that we have learned with pain and sorrow that some of the leading brothers at Blackheath have associated themselves in service at a tea meeting at King Street, Deptford, (a meeting which is not in fellowship,) in company with two persons who have publicly withdrawn from the Lewisham gathering, being under serious charges at the time of their withdrawal, and who are now breaking bread with one who has been put away from amongst us as a railer.

Our judgment, as recorded 30th of May last, respecting the Ramsgate matter being fully in accordance with yours, it only remains to declare that we have full fellowship with you in your present position.

Signed on behalf of the Assembly,

W. MENZIES,	H. J. LANCASTER,
J. H. BODDY,	E. G. ELLIS.
JOHN ROWLAND,	

\* \* \* On and after this date the meetings hitherto held at Clarendon Rooms, Lee Bridge, will be held (D.V.) at Court Hill Hall, Court Hill Road, High Street, Lewisham.

FROM SAINTS GATHERED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD  
JESUS AT THE PUBLIC HALL, NEW CROSS, DEPTFORD.

As an assembly closely concerned locally, we find it necessary to avow that in our judgment the assembly at Lee had no alternative but to declare that it was no longer in fellowship with Blackheath.

The grounds for so doing (so clearly given), carry conviction to our consciences, and we unhesitatingly accept the action taken by Lee as binding.

It seems also necessary to us to place on record the fact (of which we are well assured, and shall feel bound to establish if called upon to do so), that the meeting at Blackheath has continued in full fellowship with those at King Street, Deptford, from whom we were obliged to separate in August, 1881, on account of their refusal to judge evil.

It is thus plain to us that Blackheath elects to go along with those who refuse to judge evil, whether it finds them separating themselves at Lee, or separated from at Deptford (and at other places).

We can therefore have no hesitation in expressing our fellowship with the course and decision of Lee, and we do hereby openly declare with them that we are not in fellowship with Blackheath.

We are thankful that the evil (not unrecognised) that has been so long smouldering, has at length so been made manifest as to make our own path evident and our duty clear in our earnest desire to "abhor that which is evil" and to "cleave to that which is good."

Signed on behalf of the assembly, .

R. J. SHEPHERD,  
J. GIRDLESTONE,  
J. MANCHÉE.

*December 11th, 1881.*

*The Foresters' Hall, Forest Hill,  
12th December, 1881.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

We have received your letter of the 4th inst., with its enclosure.

We are deeply grieved to find from your communication that the gathering at Bennett Park, Blackheath, has committed itself to a course which so manifestly violates the fellowship of the Church of God, thereby plainly declaring itself to be a meeting governed by the principles of independency. It only remains for us to support you in your declaration respecting the Blackheath meeting; but in stating this, we do most fervently desire that many beloved saints of God in that meeting may be delivered from an association so dishonouring to the Spirit of God, and from principles so contrary to the word of God.

Signed on behalf of the gathering,

, T. M. WHEELER,  
, E. P. CORIN.

*To the Gathering at Lee.*

---

*Freeland's Grove,  
Bromley, Kent,  
18th December, 1881.*

At an Assembly Meeting of those gathered here to the name of the Lord Jesus, adjourned from Thursday, 8th December, 1881, to Tuesday, 13th December, to consider a letter dated 4th inst., received from those similarly gathered at Lee, setting forth details respecting their action in sepa-



rating from the assembly at Bennett Park, Blackheath, the following judgment was come to—

That we unhesitatingly endorse the action of the assembly at Lee, feeling before God that after the course taken at Blackheath with respect to those who had left the Lord's table at Lee, it was the only way in which they could clear themselves in the sight of God from that which was distinctly opposed to the unity of the Spirit.

We desire to add that we cannot sufficiently express our deep sense of the shame and dishonour brought upon the name of our Lord Jesus by this action of the assembly at Blackheath, disowning, as it does without a question, one of the divine foundation truths of God's word.

Signed on behalf of the Bromley gathering,

GEO. WAGER,	THOS. JONES,
ARTHUR J. TUCKER	C. B. PAGE, .

*To the assembly at Lee.*

---



---

#### APPENDIX No. I.

3, *Upwood Road, Lee,*  
13th November, 1881.

DEAR BRETHREN,

We have been informed on credible testimony that certain brethren recently breaking bread with the saints gathered in the name of the Lord at Lee, but who have publicly withdrawn from us, have been received at Blackheath in the fellowship of breaking of bread.

The circumstances under which these brethren have left the Lord's table at Lee, are believed to be known at Blackheath by some of the brethren there, but as the assembly, as such, may not be aware of them, it is thought right to detail them here.

The gathering at Lee has felt it necessary to take up the question of the Ramsgate trouble, and at an assembly

meeting called for that purpose on Thursday, the 20th October last, it was decided that we could not own as an assembly of God the company known as Abbot's Hill. On the question being put to the meeting that Guildford Hall be recognised as gathered in the name of the Lord, one of the brethren above referred to (Mr. Apthorp) rose, and among other things said "that all that had been advanced was to no purpose, and wickedness," and "that if we accepted Guildford Hall we were schismatic," and "for himself and his family he withdrew from the meeting at Lee."

Though he had thus characterised us, on the following Saturday he asked, on the ground that the meeting had been unexpectedly adjourned (which was done to give time to some to consider the matter), to be allowed to withdraw his withdrawal until the assembly had finally decided the question, and wished to break bread again with us on the Sunday. This the brethren here did not feel happy in, as he had clearly expressed his mind, and there was no change in his judgment; he therefore, with his family, left us, and is not at the present moment in fellowship with those gathered in the Lord's name at Lee.

On the following Thursday (October 27th), the adjourned assembly meeting was held, and it was then decided to accept Guildford Hall as an assembly (see copy of the judgment enclosed,\* which was read at the Lord's table on October 30th, and adopted without a dissentient). Mr. Tucker then said he could have no fellowship with us as to Guildford Hall, and he also withdrew from us for himself, and all his family and household, his wife having done the same by her note to one of the brethren on the morning of the same day (Oct. 27th). This family is therefore no longer in fellowship with saints gathered at Lee in the name of the Lord.

Under these circumstances the assembly at Lee feels it is due to the Lord that it should seek explanation of the assembly gathered at Bennett Park, Blackheath, as to the reception into its fellowship of the brethren whose withdrawal from Lee is now formally notified to it, and

Lee would therefore be glad that Blackheath would, as before God, and at its earliest convenience, give a reply in this matter, which deeply affects not only the consciences of all here, but of many saints in other places with whom we are united in the bond of the Holy Spirit.

Signed on behalf of the assembly at Lee,

C. BRAINE,  
D. DICE,

EDWD. G. CARTER,  
THOS. GUILLAUME.

*To the saints gathered to the name of  
the Lord at Bennett Park, Blackheath.*

---

## APPENDIX No. II.

*October 30th, 1881,*

The saints gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ at 3, Upwood Road, Lee, having had under their consideration the Ramsgate trouble have come to the following judgment:—

That the company known as Abbot's Hill were never gathered in truth on the ground of the assembly of God, and this is manifest both from their constitution at the first, and from their subsequent acts.

That those known as Guildford Hall are truly gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the unity of the Spirit, and we do therefore own them as such.

We cannot but recognise that some errors were committed by them, but they appear to us to have had a real desire to clear the name of the Lord from association with evil (2 Tim. ii. 19), and to maintain the holiness of the house of God (Psalm xciii. 5), and from the facts placed before us, we believe these failures have been owned by them to the Lord and to their brethren.

Signed on behalf of the assembly at Lee,

C. BRAINE,  
D. DICE,

EDWD. G. CARTER,  
THOS. GUILLAUME.