

Edward R. Rabb

QA - 111

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"Elmshaven," Sanitarium, Cal.,

3x

April 4, 1915.

1512 Broadway,
Oakland, Cal.

Dear Brother:

Some days ago I received your letter of March 2, stating your perplexity as to the duty we hold toward church members who have moved away and whose whereabouts we cannot ascertain.

Some years ago I took part in voting out of the Oakland Church a brother who had gone away, who refused to answer our letters, and who was reported as backslidden to the extent of complete apostasy. Afterward this brother came back to Oakland, and was greatly grieved because he had been disfellowshipped. This, and many other experiences, have led me to believe that it is right to transfer some names to a retired list. I think this work should be done cautiously, and should always be preceded by a most earnest effort to get definite information about the individuals whose names are under consideration for such treatment, and an effort to get them into living connection if they are in sympathy with the church, or to secure their removal from the church records if it is found that they have completely apostatized.

In a few places I have seen a willingness to put a large number of names on the retired list for the sake of securing better financial reports. I cannot defend this action. I think we should endeavor to make our records correspond in all things, as nearly as possible, with the records which are being kept in heaven.

With this I will send you a copy of a letter telling of Mother's experiences during the last week or two.

Yours very truly,

W. C. White