

CHAT WITH JOHN NELSON

This was a follow-up on another chat I had with him in mid December when he came in (in his usual manner, standing in the door to my office, not quite coming in, but quite insistent) to ask me about the project and what he could do to help. He talked about speeches in other church congregations, was ditirambic in his praises about how great my speech to WUM had been, etc. I had told him that I was free in early January and that I would follow his lead.

He came today to tell me that he had arranged a meeting with Bishop Jeremiah Park (a Korean) who is “Episcopal Leader” for the Methodist Church. This “leader” is responsible for the @500 churches that make the Eastern New York Conference. He supervises with a cabinet made up of the district superintendents (@80 churches per)

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{I take this to mean that this person is in the position of archbishop in the Catholic church}

Individual pastors do not meet with him often, except at the general conference, once a year. Park, Nelson tells me, is “short of stature, quiet, firm, very pleasant.” He is known to make visits to churches unannounced.

Complexity: George Bond, to whom JN had spoken about my visit to WUM, said he would be interested in meeting this bishop. We try to schedule a joint visit, but the scheduling does not work and, eventually, I tell JN that it does not quite make sense to make this a joint event since we have different goals. So JN says that he will schedule two meetings

Eventually (through a telephone call on January 12th), it turns out that the bishop is not willing to meet twice and that the time he can meet is the one that is convenient for George, but not for me. So I end up not meeting with this bishop.