

December 30, 2013

Dr. Ross Bacon, and Board of Elders
LaGrange Bible Church
850 S. 7th Avenue
LaGrange, IL 60525

Dear Pastor Bacon and Board of Elders,

The LaGrange Bible Church and Rev. Everett Hovey endorsed and signed a lengthy letter of Libel against myself in September of 1981. It was authored by the Reverend Doctor Bill Gothard. It was additionally endorsed and signed by Rev. Everett Hovey, Pastor of the LaGrange Bible Church. It was widely distributed nationwide by the ministry then known as Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts (now IBLP).

With this letter to each of you, I am asking your organization to consider once again what was given as an official endorsement of this letter and its malicious and false writings. I do realize much time has passed, some of you may not have been involved originally, but much damage has been done by the endorsement and support of the ministry corporation. The ongoing consequences of this letter and the LaGrange Bible Church's participation in it are far from honoring to the Lord Jesus Christ. I respectfully request that you carefully and prayerfully consider your involvement in this grievous offense and consider the appropriate steps in putting this back aright?

I am enclosing with this request several documents to assist you in your review of your church's previous participation in this widely published letter by the President and Founder, a man whom you have continued to support for the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Copy of Bill Gothard's written requests of October 10, 16, 30, 2013 following his telephone call of Oct. 10

Copy of the 19 page letter authored by Bill Gothard and endorsed by Rev. Everett Hovey

Copy of my personal response to each of the charges made by Bill Gothard and Rev. Everett Hovey
Plus a number of additional supporting pieces as listed at Enclosures.

LaGrange Bible Church, Rev. Everett Hovey in representation of its Board of Elders, as well as Bill Gothard, together rejected the teachings of Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:10-20, failing to make any private attempt at inquiry or effort to verify the facts of the charges against me.

I am fully aware of the challenges you face and the risks you bear in dealing with this issue, in 1980 and as well as now in 2013-2014. The issue should not be the fear of a man but should be our fear of failing to serve a holy God faithfully in this matter. The Scriptures are fairly clear and repetitive in this matter:

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. II Corinthians 5:10; Rom. 14:12; Hebrews 4:13.

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the

corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward. ¹⁹ Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. ²¹ I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. ²² Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. ... ²⁴ Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. ²⁵ Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid. I Timothy 5:17-25

But if he does not listen to you, tell it to the church... Matthew 18:17
Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them...
Ephesians 5:10

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. II Corinthians 10:1-5

My preference is to support your efforts to follow God's Word with carefulness in any and every way that I can to resolve this matter in a way that honors the Lord. The current Board of Elders may elect to take the same position as did the LaGrange Bible Church in 1979-1980. Your response to this request, positive, negative or ignoring it will be made known to the wider church of Christ as either praise for God's faithful restoration of the truly repentant or as a warning to others. A warning would obviously have to include the rejection by the Rev. Bill Gothard and Board of Elders regarding this and other charges standing against him. Silence and obfuscation in this serious matter will be considered a rejection of the clear instructions of the Scriptures.

Serious charges were brought to the Board of Elders of your church regarding Bill Gothard, however, Bill Gothard was not willing to accept reproof or correction regarding these matters. Once turned away by the LaGrange Bible Church, we presented these charges to the Board of Directors of the IBYC ministry. They proceeded to ask Rev. Bill Gothard to resign, which he did the next day before the quickly assembled staff and employees. For your benefit to review the history of the 1980 materials and documents and personal testimony of victims prepared for presentation to your church, I have enclosed a summary of those charges to this letter.

I pray for you and trust that you will treat this request as serious and time sensitive. I would be glad to receive a letter by courier from the Chairman of the Board of Elders and/or Pastor inviting an initial telephone call for a consideration of meeting together and developing a Biblically clear process that might be utilized to address these past and ongoing violations and offenses regarding the libelous letter which your Pastor signed. It would be good to learn how we might together support Bill Gothard in his request to find full and genuine repentance from God (II Timothy 2:24-26) if God would grant that, to assist him personally and as a church in fulfilling the fruits of repentance that come out of a godly sorrow as outlined in II Corinthians 7:8-12; Luke 3:8.

Thank you kindly for your time today.

With many prayers,

Tony G

C: Mr. L.L. (Don) Veinot, Jr., President Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc.
Director, Recovering Grace, www.RecoveringGrace.org

Enclosures:

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Bill Gothard's Detailed Knowledge of Immorality Prior to 1980

Bill Gothard's Discipleship of Brother with Report of Outcomes

History of Attempts to Confront Bill Gothard Regarding Disqualifications from Ministry

Authorship of Ministry Materials by Men and Women Active in Immorality

Qualifications and Disqualifications of Teachers and Overseers in God's Word With Disqualifications of

Bill Gothard Illustrated