

January 30, 2014

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

Dear Pastor Bacon and Board of Elders,

I am in receipt of your letter of January 22, 2013 sent by the Elders of the LaGrange Bible Church.

We want to thank you and the Elders for taking the time to consider the testimony and evidences of many persons regarding the charges of disqualification of the man your church ordained and commissioned to the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

While we accept your statement that Bill Gothard has terminated his membership with your church some ten years ago (for reasons we do not know), the injuries, the untruths, and the damages perpetrated by Bill Gothard were done by him while he was an active member of your church body. Since the LaGrange Bible Church has never publically repudiated or repented of these actions, the LaGrange Bible Church still bears responsibility before God and man for the ongoing consequences. The church has taken no actions to correct its past error. The silence of current church leadership gives weight to Bill Gothard's ongoing sinning and his continued spread of untruths, having built a nationwide sense among 10s of 1000s of churches and pastors that Bill Gothard is under your spiritual authority and personal oversight and care!

It is of interest that in your letter of 1.22.14 you have taken the same position regarding this case as did Pastor Hovey, Chairman Bob Peach and the Elders of 1980. They also argued they had no standing, no authority, no responsibility in the matter of addressing the charges of continued sin and ongoing teaching of contrary doctrines by Rev. Bill Gothard, because it was a "corporation matter."

The ample and detailed evidence of the wickedness wrought and covered up in this case were actually endorsed with hand written signatures of Bill Gothard (your active church member) and by your Pastor Hovey representing your church. Your three arguments in support of having no responsibility are presented with no support of Scripture references that might support taking such a position.

Your only reference to Scripture in your letter is Matthew 18:15-17 when you implore me to follow this instruction of Jesus Christ, which is precisely what we did in 1980 in our first approach to the LaGrange Bible Church, when Rev. Chuck Lynch appeared before you in 1981, and now again in my request to you Dec. 30, 2013. In all three attempts the LaGrange Bible Church has rejected the instructions of Matthew 18. It seems to many that we have reached the point of applying Matthew 18:17 and I Timothy 5:17-25, which we had hoped to avoid.

The church of Jesus Christ desperately needs an example of a church that does take a position against error, against doctrine contrary to the pure and simple doctrine of Jesus Christ. The LaGrange Bible Church has much standing and every authority from God and His holy Word, to declare truth, set right what has been done in an unrighteous way, and to warn the children of God of the dangers of false teaching. To say that you do not have such authority or standing is worrisome at the least!

I would beg of you to review the Scriptures below that you will find familiar as you read them. They describe the nature of God and His response to the confession by us of the sins of our fathers, the sins of our nation, and our sins as a corporate group, the church. It may be tempting for you to skip this call to read once again the Word of God on this subject, but I pray that you do. It will give you much

encouragement and instruction in this case. They are a review of the examples of confession of corporate sin and guilt by Moses, Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Hosea, Jonah with instructions from Jesus Christ, Paul and Peter. We do believe these examples and teachings apply to this case and many others that will develop in your church and others during the last days.

How you respond Biblically to these needs that developed in direct association with the LaGrange Bible Church will set an important example to 1000s of other churches that will be studying this story in great detail over the next months and years.

We must ask your consideration of two simple requests.

1. Develop a letter of censure and correction of Bill Gothard for departing from the basis of his ordination and commission to the ministry of the Gospel by the LaGrange Bible Church.
2. Acknowledge the wrong and resulting damage done by the endorsement of a letter of Libel by the LaGrange Bible Church without any consideration of or following the instructions of Jesus Christ, which teaching you have referenced in your most recent letter.

Is there a corporate responsibility for sin that is important for us to confess together before God?

If in the history of a local church the Elders discovered that 50 years prior the elders and pastor of that early congregation had pressured, forced, and moved a widow lady from her adjoining land and little house so they might expand their parking lot to meet city code, would your current Elders have some sense of corporate guilt of that sin that should be addressed before a holy God and before man, including any reparations to that widow lady and/or her family that took her in or moved her to a homeless shelter to live out her life?

What if in the history of a local church the Elders discovered that 50 years earlier the elders and the church enforced a bylaw of the church that required enforced giving of tithes and offerings by a head tax of \$250 per member plus a percentage formula of their annual income, to be paid on August 25 of each year, all for the proper support of the church property and budget, and which violation of such a church rule involved the elders reading aloud the names of all offenders and beginning the process of excommunication of those in violation from the church of Jesus Christ, shunning them from any further involvement in the church? Would the current Elders have some sense of corporate guilt of that sin of driving away many believers in Christ, members of the church body who by reason of poverty could not make such payments or by reason of conscience believed the Scriptures teaching regarding giving of tithes and offerings to be a private matter? Would the current Elders have some responsibility to seek those the church had wrongly excommunicated and driven away, to offer many apologies and a welcome to return?

Would you apply your position of logic to these real cases in the same way? Is there a statute of limitations regarding sin against God by a local church body? I Corinthians 3:16-17 addresses the local church as a temple of God in which the Spirit of God dwells, and where the use of "you" is in the plural form. The indwelling of God's Spirit is in the corporate body of Christ in each locality as much as He indwells each individual believer. To deny our corporate responsibility regarding sins of the local body of Christ, even in years past, seems to reject God's desire to produce for His son a bride that is without spot, without blemish, above reproach. Ephesians 5:26-27.

Consider the teachings of God's Word on the responsibility and opportunity to confess and address the sins of our church, our nation, and experience the resulting blessing and working of God in our

fellowship. Have you ever wondered, asking yourself why God does not send revival to the church of the United States? I have attached these Scripture readings in the pages which follow.

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

The Word of God regarding the confession of and turning from the sins of our nation, our people:

Moses. Psalm 106:23-24

Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, to turn away His wrath from destroying them. Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe in His word...

Moses. Deuteronomy 9:18, 26

Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so arousing his anger... I prayed to the LORD and said, "Sovereign LORD, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance that you redeemed by your great power and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Exodus 34:8-9

Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship. He said, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession."

Numbers 14:18-19

The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations." "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

Leviticus 26:40-42

If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me-- I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies-- or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land....

Jesus. Matthew 23:31-38

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of

them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Paul. I Thessalonians 2:14-16

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Proverbs 28:13. He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

II Chronicles 7:14.

...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

I Samuel 12:19-25

Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins *this evil* by asking for ourselves a king." Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. You must not turn aside, for *then you would go* after futile things which cannot profit or deliver, because they are futile. For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself. Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king will be swept away."

Ezra 9:3-10

When I heard about this matter, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled. Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me, and I sat appalled until the evening offering.

But at the evening offering I arose from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn, and I fell on my knees and stretched out my hands to the LORD my God; and I said, "O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens. Since the days of our fathers to this day we *have been* in great guilt, and on account of our iniquities we, our kings *and* our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity and to plunder and to open shame, as *it is* this day. But now for a brief moment grace has been *shown* from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our

bondage. For we are slaves; yet in our bondage our God has not forsaken us, but has extended lovingkindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us reviving to raise up the house of our God, to restore its ruins and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. “Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments...

Nehemiah 1:3-7

They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.” When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

Jeremiah 3:25; 14:7, 20; 18:7-10

Let us lie down in our shame, and let our humiliation cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day. And we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.”... “Although our iniquities testify against us, O LORD, act for Your name’s sake! Truly our apostasies have been many, We have sinned against You... We know our wickedness, O LORD, The iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You... At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy *it*; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. ⁹Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant *it*; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

Daniel 9:4-19, 20-23

I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, “Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.

“Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in

the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him. Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done *anything* like what was done to Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

“And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *have become* a reproach to all those around us. So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in *my* extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. He gave *me* instruction and talked with me and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell *you*, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

Ezekiel 22:30

I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found ^[a]no one.

Hosea 4:6-14

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being My priest.
Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children

Jonah 3:5-9

Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in ^[c]his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”