

January 9, 2014

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

OPEN LETTER

Dear Pastor Bacon and Board of Elders,

I wanted to write to you today as a follow up to the December 30, 2013 letter and information package sent to you. It may be helpful in your considerations there for me to make as clear as possible what we see would be a good solution that would honor God and resolve a number of issues that have become obstacles to many in considering the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For 40 years Rev. Bill Gothard has explicitly claimed repeatedly to millions of people and 10s of 1,000s of pastors that they can trust him and his teachings because he is a member of the LaGrange Bible Church, is a member in good standing, was ordained by the church to the ministry and was commissioned by the church to this work. Millions of believers and 1000s of pastors trusted that representation as being true.

We know it to be false of course (by the very rejection of our 1980 urgent request for charges to be heard by the LaGrange Bible Church), and is a lie told repeatedly to the unsuspecting children of God who are in great need of truth. We believe all the Scripture requires us to sound a warning when this much is out of order and out of control.

I am glad to visit with you about the needs involved in this situation and what the best solutions might be. I believe these questions and related issues can be addressed clearly and Biblically to both clear the LaGrange Bible Church of its direct contributions to these conditions, and to bring praise and glory to God.

For your discussion and considerations there, we see that the following actions ought to be considered:

1. LaGrange Bible Church provide an open letter addressed to Tony G, fully recanting and apologizing for their participation in, endorsement and support of the 19 page letter of Libel authored by Bill Gothard in his personal attack against Tony G. The letter can and should include comments such as the obvious life-long damage such false accusations would bring to any person, the loss of opportunity to serve the Lord in one's field of training and education, the confusion it would bring to all churches and groups that received such a malicious letter.
2. Commit to participating in the trip to KS to speak with Bill Gothard for the purpose of acknowledging this shameful wrong, publicly apologizing before the Emmaus Church which received the above mentioned letter and which bowed to Bill Gothard's request to send two men to falsely accuse Tony G in a secret meeting which he (TG) was not invited to or allowed to attend or learn about. This open church meeting would be videotaped and recorded for public use to the church of Jesus Christ at large.
3. Publish an open letter of apology to Rev. Church Lynch and Tony G for the LaGrange Bible Church's rejection of their responsibility before God and as clearly instructed in Scripture, driving away these men who came with their urgent request for a hearing of charges being

brought against a member of the LaGrange Bible Church (Bill Gothard). Include in the apology your acknowledgement that very much damage to individuals and the wider church of Jesus Christ has resulted from the unconfessed sins of Bill Gothard, from his ungodly and irresponsible behavior, and his development of teachings contrary to the pure doctrine of the New Testament which continued by the protection and permitting of the LaGrange Bible Church.

4. Schedule in the next month or two a hearing at the LaGrange Bible Church to examine the charges against Bill Gothard which relate to unconfessed and unaddressed sins and wrongs. The charges (in part) and their supporting evidences have been supplied to you in writing in the December 30, 2013 letter and accompanying package. A number of witnesses and guests should be invited and are willing to participate. Bill Gothard should be invited to attend if he will, though such a hearing should proceed whether or not he is willing to hear these charges reviewed in person. His absence or failure to respond during such a hearing should not be permitted to be a way of evading the Church reaching decisions about how these offenses should be acknowledged and addressed.

If the charges, evidence, and witnesses are upheld, the Church would be asked to consider a series of decisions and actions including withdrawing the ordination, the commission and the ongoing support of the LaGrange Bible Church. The Church's ministry to the personal spiritual needs of Bill Gothard would need to be determined by an appraisal of his willingness to submit to such help.

5. Host, co-host or participate fully in a special Council to be assembled in the next several months from representatives of national church denominations, ministry organizations, Christian universities, theologians and apologists, and others as needed to examine the charges against Bill Gothard which relate to unconfessed and unaddressed sins and wrongs of behavior with a careful examination of his development of teachings contrary to the pure doctrine of the New Testament.

Our belief is that Bill Gothard has been and certainly is no longer qualified to be trusted as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and who fails to meet the clear qualifications of a minister, overseer, and teacher, as outlined throughout the New Testament. We are asking him, privately and publicly, effective immediately, to resign all titles, all posts including ordination, church commission, doctorate, chancellor, president, CEO, overseer, teacher. See Jan. 11, 2014 letter "Resignation Request."

Our prayer is that Bill Gothard will resign these positions and posts voluntarily. The departure from his posts and titles would be for the purpose of taking time away from public ministry for his own spiritual renewal and pursuit of peace with those he has offended, damaged and would benefit from his sincere apology, request for forgiveness, and any and all efforts he can make to put back right what he has immorally and by deception and force taken away from so many. Our prayer is that during this time he would welcome and receive help in coming to a more clear understanding of the gospel of grace through faith so that the promises of God may be seen as certain and fully reliable.

We trust that the Pastor and Elders of the LaGrange Bible Church will see a way to participate in these most important actions of correction and support of instruction in righteousness so sorely needed in our nation today.

I will look forward to any meeting or conference we might be able to arrange together to visit about these important matters.

Sincerely,

Tony G

C: Bill Gothard
IBLP Board Chairman
Dr. Les Lofquist, Executive Director, IFCA International
Paul Seger, Chairman, IFCA
Mr. L.L. (Don) Veinot, Jr., President Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc.
Director, Recovering Grace, www.RecoveringGrace.org
Christianity Today, Carol Stream, IL
Evangelical Ministries to New Religions, Aurora, CO 80046
World Magazine