

February 25, 2014

Open Letter

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

Dear Pastor Bacon, Chairman and Board of Elders,

Re: LaGrange Bible Church Sins Against the Body of Jesus Christ

Over the past two months I have presented to you information regarding charges against Rev. Bill Gothard with clear evidence, documentation and testimony of many witnesses which would be the basis for the disqualification of any Teacher, Pastor or Elder who represents the Gospel of Jesus Christ in any ministry. Pastor Ross Bacon and each Elder of the church received a copy of the 140+ pages of this testimony and documentation. In that two month period your Pastor and none of your Elders have made one phone call in return to me, have not requested a meeting, and have not offered any invitation to visit together about these matters. Your Pastor has written several very short email messages and the Chairman of the Board and the Elders of the Board have made no contact with me personally in response to the serious requests being presented to the LaGrange Bible Church.

The “elder board” did write a letter on January 22, 2014 stating they would “not be involved” in the matters regarding the Rev. Bill Gothard because the church has no standing with Bill Gothard or authority over him. Additionally you declined investigating the past failures of the LaGrange Bible Church because the current Pastor and Elders were not involved during that time and the Pastor and elders of that earlier time has since deceased. You also advised that I/we do what we can to follow the teachings of Christ in Matthew 18:15-17, failing to answer the question of where Rev. Bill Gothard transferred his church membership after terminating his membership with LaGrange. The letter was not signed giving no source for who wrote the letter. Copy of January 22, 2014 letter attached.

I would like to attempt to make a few statements that I trust you will consider soberly and with prayer before God.

1. The LaGrange Bible Church as member of the Body of Jesus Christ participated in the cover up of immorality by one of its prominent members, Bill Gothard. On several occasions the LaGrange Bible Church rejected humble and urgent attempts to ask it to become involved in hearing charges against one of its members, according to the teachings of Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:15-17. Directly because of your church’s failure to obey the Scriptures and follow Christ, specific women were sexually assaulted and molested and lives ruined by the man and the ministry which you supported and provided protection for. Your church’s assistance in covering up these ongoing sins caused many more to be exposed and damaged by this member of your church.

This is not an error in judgment. This was a conscious rejection of Jesus Christ and His clear and precise teachings, becoming your corporate sin against the Body of Jesus Christ and against its weakest members (I Corinthians 12:22-26). Your actions were sin and stand as unconfessed sin today.

Is this not the meaning of the Scripture? “For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.” I Corinthians 11:29-32.

2. The LaGrange Bible Church repeated its rejection of Christ’s teachings in 1981 when the church purchased an airline ticket for Rev. Chuck Lynch to fly from Kansas City to Chicago for an Elder meeting at your church. In that Elder meeting the elders confronted Rev. Lynch with three elders competing with who could challenge him the loudest for a position they presumed he had regarding the need for the life of Bill Gothard to be examined by his home church in a Biblically clear and sound way. The meeting was abruptly ended after five minutes. The senior Pastor Everett Hovey then took Rev. Lynch to a private meal where Pastor Hovey stated his predicament by a question and a value statement, “What can I do? We are in the middle of a building program (fund raising) and if we deal with this situation (e.g. Bill Gothard and review of charges of his disqualifications as a minister) we will split the church.” See full account attached to this letter.

The LaGrange Bible Church and its leadership greatly sinned against God and His Church by choosing to pursue a successful fund raising program to build a bigger facility rather than obey God’s Word and accept its responsibility to review the most serious charges against a minister of the Gospel they had ordained and commissioned and who was then a member of the church for many years. By this great sin of the LaGrange Bible Church another million unsuspecting believers in Christ have been exposed to his ungodly life, several million others were not properly warned of his departure from sound doctrine and godly living, no correction of the confusion that has come from his unconfessed sin, and the accumulation and multiplication of his distortions of the gospel of Jesus Christ now embraced by millions of Christians.

You traded the pursuit of a new building and the collection of funds for the spiritual confusion and damage that has come to several million souls as a result. That is the still unconfessed sin of the LaGrange Bible Church.

3. The LaGrange Bible Church ordained and commissioned to the ministry of the Gospel the Rev. Bill Gothard. As of this date, you have maintained your approval and support of both his ordination and his commission to the ministry granted to him by your God given authority. Because of your original responsibility in examining the life and suitability of this man for the ministry, and because of your continuation to approve of his suitability for the ministry, the LaGrange Bible Church, as the ordaining authority in this case, is providing support and causing 10s of 1,000s of pastors (90,000 pastors on Bill Gothard’s mailing list) to trust your commendation of his doctrine and approval of his life, accepting his “example to the flock” which are now in the millions of unsuspecting souls. Bill Gothard has advertised to millions of believers and 10s of 1,000s of church pastors that he is under the authority and spiritual care of his home church, leaving his audiences to conclude he therefore ought to be trusted for his teachings and his integrity!
4. By these several sins against God and against His Church, the LaGrange Bible Church has additionally participated in covering up the sins of Rev. Bill Gothard, working to prevent his

being brought to account by his home church, the only church in the United States that did have any standing, making the LaGrange Bible Church directly culpable for the entire set of ongoing sins of Bill Gothard against individuals and against the Church. This is no small responsibility and it is no small matter. You have been granted a position on the wall as a watchman and will be held responsible for your duty or dereliction of duty. Ezekiel 33:1-20.

5. In proportion to the above great sins, a nearly insignificant offense was enjoined by the LaGrange Bible in 1981 by participating in and endorsing the publishing nationwide of a letter of Libel, 69 times titling a Christian brother “an agent of Satan,” authored by its own church member, Bill Gothard, signed by the Pastor of the LaGrange Bible Church, delivering life-long damage to another believer. This sin required the LaGrange Bible Church to reject Jesus Christ and His teaching in Matthew 18:15-17 which calls for the LaGrange Bible Church and its Pastor and Elders to first become involved in hearing every fact with several witnesses to confirm the truth or falsity of the charges before issuing a public judgment and condemnation.

God is surely looking for a local church to be an example to 1000s of congregations wondering how they might deal with their own experience with “winds of doctrine” and development of many false teachers in the last days. The church of Jesus Christ desperately needs an example of a church that understands the need to confess their individual sins and their corporate sins including still unconfessed sins of their fathers, a church that does take a position against error, stands 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. You do indeed have such authority and standing! Consider the Word of the Lord...

“...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.” Nehemiah 1:3-7

“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.” Daniel 9:4-19

“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove, and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.” Revelation 3:18-19, Letter to the church of Laodicea.

Because of the continuation of the sin of Bill Gothard, his obstinance against repenting of his impurity, immorality and sensuality which he has practiced (II Cor. 12:21) and his complete and repeated rejection of calls for him to come to account for charges standing against him, warnings to the church of Jesus

Christ are now being published following the teachings of Christ and the Apostles in Matthew 18:17; I Timothy 5:20-21; and Ephesians 5:11.

The history of the LaGrange Bible Church and its repeated rejection of its Biblical responsibility to hear these many accusations of continued sinning by its member, Bill Gothard, with much testimony will necessarily be included in the nationwide and worldwide announcement of these warnings. The purpose of making very clear the rejection by the LaGrange Bible Church is so the most common question can be answered as to whether or not there was ever a time that faithful believers and ministers attempted a Biblically clear process to address these sins in the past with his home church, with care, concern and great love for a man snared in many trespasses (Galatians 6:1-2).

The LaGrange Bible Church in its present spiritual condition is being invited to become an example to a watching and waiting world to learn how a local church of Jesus Christ can Biblically address its own history of unconfessed sin and rejection of the instructions of God's Holy Word, to plead with God for mercy for the many consequences in the lives of so many others for its past rebellion, and then taking a clear position that it will hold accountable those whom it has ordained and commissioned to the ministry who have fallen from grace and have with much evidence become disqualified, no longer able to earn its commendation to the wider church of Jesus Christ.

The LaGrange Bible Church has an opportunity to participate in a clear and proper warning of the church of Jesus Christ in this nation and around the world by its clear and full obedience to its God given responsibilities, starting by setting an example by its confession of its corporate sin against the Body of Jesus Christ in years past.

With many prayers,

Tony G

Pastor Ross Bacon

Elders and Ministerial Team of the LaGrange Bible Church

Mr. Ross Avery

Mr. Joshua Placeway

Mr. Richard Curlin

Mr. Leo Murphy

Mr. Michael Sardinas

Mr. Rich Southworth

Mr. Paul Westel

Mr. Don Wood

Mr. L.L. (Don) Veinot, Jr., President Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc.

Director, Recovering Grace, www.RecoveringGrace.org

Enclosures: January 22, 2014 letter from LaGrange Bible Church Elders

1981 LaGrange Bible Church Elder meeting with Rev. Chuck Lynch