

**From:** Tony G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2014 8:47 PM  
**To:** Ross Bacon  
**Cc:** Ross Avery; Joshua Placeway; Danny Enright; DonVeinot  
**Subject:** Bill Gothard and IBLP News Articles 2014

March 5, 2014

LaGrange Bible Church  
850 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
LaGrange, IL 60525

To: LaGrange Bible Church, Chairman of the Board, Elders of the church, Dr. Ross Bacon, ministry team

Dear Elders and Pastor and ministry team,

I realize the Pastor is just now back from hopefully a good and restful vacation. If he is like me, I would not allow news and events to interrupt my attempt to slow down and get some true rest and recovery.

There is considerable news in the past week or two regarding your long time member, Rev. Bill Gothard. **I will list below** a few Christian news magazines and related links to some early analysis as of this past week so you can read or be aware of what your congregation and community will have already read or soon will read as these receive their subscription magazines or newspapers or are finding such news on the web.

As I mentioned in my last letter to you, there may be enough risk of exposure and liability of the church to this situation that it will be helpful for you to at least be aware of the events, changes at the organization, and developing issues. The Christian public, along with the Christian media, will likely want to know from you what your relationship is with Rev. Gothard, what level of detail your corporation knew of the detail of his behavior, and how the church responded to those facts or charges.

The current history shows that your church to this date has supported and continued in good standing his ordination and his commission by the church to Christian ministry. The history will obviously show that he was a member in good standing during the entire period of his membership at your church which he proclaimed had spiritual care and authority over him. I do not know, but if you provided him a letter of church transfer 10 years ago or so that declared him to be a member in good standing, that will be consistent with your current position of support and commendation of him to his national and international audiences.

In juxtaposition to that will be the growing body of knowledge that your church rejected a number of attempts to bring these charges, evidences, testimony and documentation of these wrongs against persons to your church for a hearing and hoped for assistance in preventing it from continuing. With the current level of evidence which you have been provided regarding his behavior toward women and others, which outlines in some considerable detail his offenses, you may well be asked by the wider church of Jesus Christ, and by the public and by legal authorities, what your actions and decisions have been regarding your relationship and commendation of him.

There is some increased discussion about Illinois statutes and their implications to Rev. Gothard and his Board of Directors, among some of the more recent cases of women, employees and volunteers who have

published their complaints against Rev. Gothard regarding labor laws, sexual harassment in the work place, and other related issues. The issue of the law seems to include not only the perpetrator(s) of such behavior and crimes, but the organization(s) that had responsibility and jurisdiction in the life of the perpetrators, as well as knowledge or expectation they had responsibility to gain knowledge of the conditions in the environment, or participated with him in covering up and preventing the reporting to civil authorities the violation of minors.

If the Board actually is reading this, I highly encourage them to investigate and learn about IL Code 325 ILCS 5/Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Part of the code MANDATES that Child Sexual Abuse be reported. There are two stories here on the site ([www.RecoveringGrace.org](http://www.RecoveringGrace.org)) where children who were counseled by Gothard reported they had been abused sexually at their homes, yet nothing was done for them. To fail to report these two crimes is a FELONY.

From 325 ILCS 5/

"Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this Section other than a second or subsequent violation of transmitting a false report as described in the preceding paragraph, is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor for a first violation and a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation; except that if the person acted as part of a plan or scheme having as its object the prevention of discovery of an abused or neglected child by lawful authorities for the purpose of protecting or insulating any person or entity from arrest or prosecution, the person is guilty of a Class 4 felony for a first offense and a Class 3 felony for a second or subsequent offense (regardless of whether the second or subsequent offense involves any of the same facts or persons as the first or other prior offense)."

It may be of some benefit for your leadership team to at least explore the law and what your involvement might be. I am not a lawyer, and can only estimate that being well informed at this point would be to your benefit as you consider what your responsibilities might be in this current case.

If you are in communication with Rev. Gothard and possibly even met with him in the past few months, it could be you have concluded and agree with him that he is innocent and that none of these charges of wrongs, sins, and behavior rise to anything close to violation of civil law or biblical definition of disqualification of a teacher or overseer, it would then be good and proper for you to defend him and support him through this most difficult time in his life.

If he is eventually demonstrated to be guilty as charged, it is also a good and important ministry you can have in his life as he deals with guilt, confession, repentance, reconciliation with God, and reconciliation with the children of God damaged by any wrongs and sins against them. I would imagine just to have these kinds of charges raised up against you would be a very heavy load indeed, even if completely innocent.

We have been and will continue to pray for each of you as you consider these very large needs in the lives of very many people focused now on one of the very long time members of your church.

Tony G