



CHRISTIAN
LEGAL
SOCIETY

Tom Brander

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703-321-8004

November 2, 1981

Mr. William Gothard
Box 1
Oak Brook, IL 60521

Dear Mr. Gothard:

On a visit to Grace Community Church a few weeks ago, John MacArthur shared with me some material sent to him regarding some concerns with respect to the Institute. In view of the fact that possible litigation was contemplated, I suggested to John that he refer the concerned parties to the Christian Legal Society, in particular its Christian Conciliation Service (CCS).

(I should mention that I served at Grace Church from 1971 until December, 1980, both as an elder and the last four years as its Administrative Pastor. As of January, 1981, I have served as Special Counsel and subsequently as National Coordinator for Religious Freedom Services with CLS, establishing its Washington, D.C. base. Grace Church has underwritten most of the 1981 ministry of our Washington, D.C. office. I am enclosing herewith copies of a few of the reports on the activities of our office, as well as some literature on the ministries of the Christian Legal Society, in particular the Christian Conciliation Service.)

The CCS was established two years ago as a result of the concern of a number of Christian lawyers within CLS that the Body of Christ had not provided an effective means for resolving disputes within the Body of Christ consistent with Matthew 18:15-18 and I Corinthians 6:1-11. The Lord has honored the Scriptural approach to dispute resolution. Although a primary objective of CCS is to resolve disputes, of even greater importance is that reconciliation occur amongst members of the Body of Christ.

During the past few weeks, I have had correspondence and conversations with Mr. Gerald Wiebe of Colorado Springs concerning the conflict. Recently, I spent some time with Mr. Jerry Benjamin of your staff while he was attending the Shepherds' Conference at Grace Church. I have shared with both Mr. Wiebe and Mr. Benjamin our availability in facilitating a mediation/conciliation process.

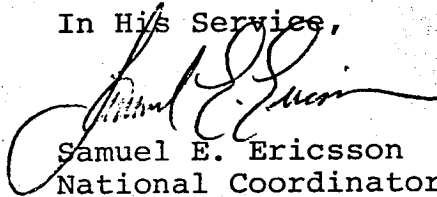
Mr. William Gothard
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I have suggested to Mr. Wiebe and Mr. Benjamin that an initial meeting be held in the Chicago area on November 19, 1981. At that time, Laury Eck, the National Coordinator for CCS, and I will be in the Chicago area. At a luncheon on that date in the Wheaton, Illinois, Mr. Eck will be sharing and explaining the CCS ministry. After the luncheon, it is our hope that you and a few representatives from the Institute, as well as Msrs. Chuck Lynch, Eugene Short, William Wood, and Tony Guhr will meet with us to discuss the feasibility of using CCS as a means for resolving the disputes that exist. It is hoped that the meeting on November 19 would lead to the selection of a panel of mediators, a definition of issues in the disputes, as well as a commitment to proceed with the process to the point of a binding resolution.

Obviously, CLS has no jurisdiction to mandate any party to attend or submit to this process. However, it is our belief that Scripture mandates that disputes among believers be submitted to the church and not to the secular courts.

I look forward to a prompt response so that we will be able to proceed with a meeting on November 19, 1981.

In His Service,



Samuel E. Ericsson
National Coordinator for
Religious Freedom Services

cc: Lynn Buzzard, Executive Director, CLS
Laury Eck, National Coordinator, CCS
John MacArthur, Grace Community Church
Mr. Gerald Wiebe ✓
Mr. Jerry Benjamin, Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts
Dr. G. Hemwall, Chairman of the Board, Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts



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November 4, 1981

Mr. Eugene Short
637 Still Meadow
Richardson, TX 75081

Dear Mr. Short:

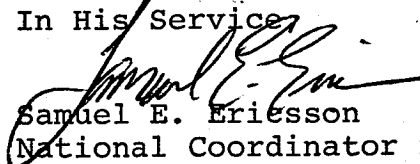
As a follow-up to our conversation yesterday, I am enclosing some material concerning the Christian Legal Society and the Christian Conciliation Service. The material is also being forwarded to Msrs. Chuck Lynch, William Wood, and Tony Guhr.

Our purpose at CCS is to serve as facilitators in seeking resolution of disputes among Christians and reconciliation within the Body of Christ. It is clear from what I have read and heard that a dispute exists. It is also clear from Scripture that there are Scriptural means to resolve such disputes and it is our hope and prayer that the initial meeting planned for November 19 in Wheaton, Illinois, will initiate the process that will resolve the dispute and reconcile the parties.

It would be helpful at that meeting (assuming Mr. Gothard agrees to it this coming week) that you present the central issues you believe need to be dealt with by mediators. In addition, you should submit suggestions as to panel members whose reputations in the Christian community are above reproach and whose integrity is such that both sides would accept a decision handed down by them.

Most of all, of course, we are all in prayer about this tragic situation. I am reminded of I Peter 2:21: "Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps." We pray that the Lord will move in the hearts of all those involved and provide a healing that only He can provide.

In His Service


Samuel E. Eriesson
National Coordinator for
Religious Freedom Services

cc: Rev. Chuck Lynch
Mr. William W. Wood II
Mr. Tony Guhr
Mr. Lynn Buzzard, Executive Director, CLS
Mr. Laury Eck, National Director, CCS
Mr. Gerald Wiebe

Christian Legal Society

P.O. Box 1492
Springfield, VA 22151

November 16, 1981

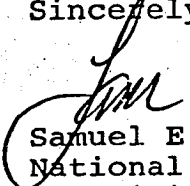
Mr. John McLario
N88 W16783 Main Street
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Dear John:

I received your letter of November 13 advising me that the Board for the Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts does not consider the current dispute as a proper subject for the Christian Conciliation Service. As I shared with you at length last week, I personally believe that the meeting we proposed for discussing the conciliation process is the best means of beginning to resolve this matter. I am therefore disappointed that the Institute chose not to avail themselves of this opportunity.

I appreciate your ongoing prayers as we seek to labor in His Vineyard as peacemakers and reconcilers. Our staff will continue to pray that God will be glorified through the resolution of the matter involving the Institute.

Sincerely,



Samuel E. Ericsson
National Coordinator for
Religious Freedom Services

cc: Lynn Buzzard
Tom Brandon
Laury Eck
William Gothard
Dr. Gus Hemwall
Gerald Wiebe
Eugene Short
John MacArthur

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