

NEWS AND VIEWS

BASIC CONFLICT

Shaking the Gothard Chain

In a shakeup of his unique organization, the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts, Bill Gothard, president and founder, has been asked to take an indeterminate leave of absence; his brother Steve, executive vice president, has been fired; and his father, William Gothard, Sr., assistant secretary of the organization, has resigned.

The entire ministry, which has sponsored seminars dealing with biblical principles of interpersonal relations, has been rent by a series of internal staff conflicts which will have far-reaching results. Many staff members on the second echelon of IBYC's operations have resigned or been fired in tumultuous staff and board sessions marked by charges and counter-charges of mismanagement of the sizable assets of the organization and tolerance of immoral conduct on the part of at least one top staff member. Also, already nearly half of the operating and clerical staff (about thirty-five people)

have resigned or been fired.

In addition to these vast changes in the key personnel, Dr. Gustave Hemwall of Oak Park, Illinois, chairman of the board since the founding of the organization, voluntarily relinquished his post to be replaced by a Milwaukee attorney, John McLario, who has also taken over Bill Gothard's post as president.

In the present crisis, the same veil of secrecy which has marked the organization in the past prevails. In early July, a cryptic release was issued by McLario's office, stating, "There was a problem within the staff. Because of Bill's closeness to the situation, he has temporarily stepped down from his position of authority to allow the board of directors to make the sole decision(s) during this period. The situations have been dealt with and the seminars will continue without interruption."

Subsequently, a letter was sent by Bill

Gothard to the 30,000 pastors on the organization's mailing list. He went into detail on many of the problems, taking responsibility for encouraging his brother to postpone marriage "because of the demands of the ministry."

It is apparent the board is seeking to maintain the ministry, which has been so highly successful in the past, employing video tapes in the continuing institutes.

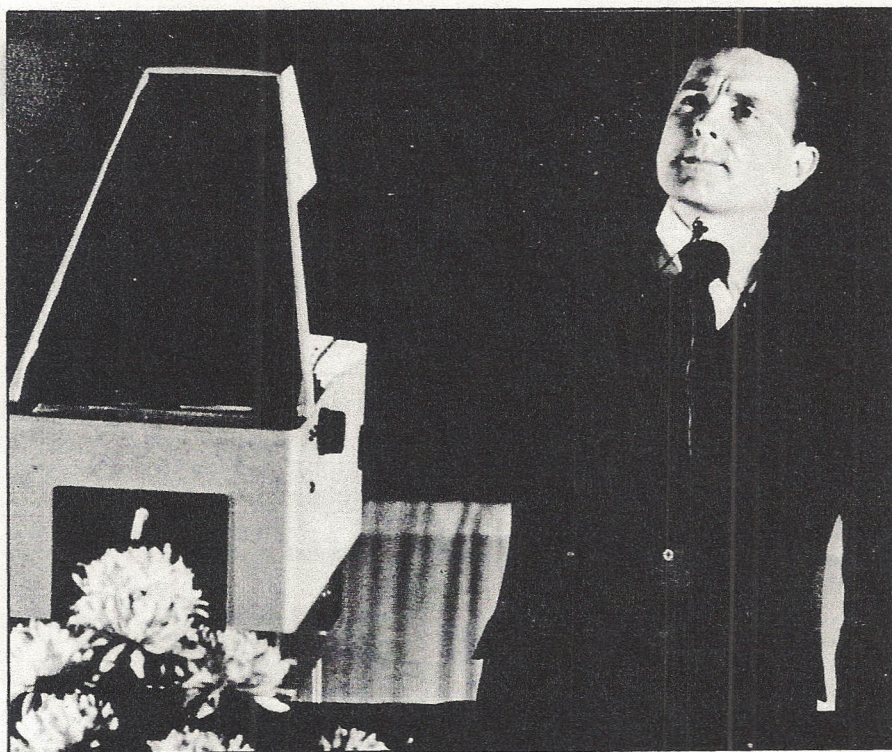
For some time video presentations have supplemented Gothard's personal appearances because of the proliferation of the work. In the years of its existence, seminars attended by thousands of individuals have been held in most of the major population centers of the U.S.

While no official announcement has pinpointed the cause of the violent internal explosion, it has been learned that staff morale deteriorated because of Bill Gothard's apparent tolerance of gross misconduct on the part of a high administrative officer. Gothard is not accused of misconduct himself. In addition, some staff members were disconcerted by Bill Gothard's public declarations of living a simple lifestyle which contrasted, they say, with what has been described as the lush ambiance of his retreat in the "north woods."

This is the North Woods Research Center, located in Gogebic County, six miles west of Watermeet, Michigan. Access to the 3000-acre property is reached by one of two airplanes owned by the organization—a three million dollar Lear executive jet and an MU-2 prop jet. A 5000-foot runway—long enough to accommodate a 727 jet, according to some experts—has been installed as well as an ample hangar.

The North Woods complex can accommodate 300 guests, but some staff members have indicated the property has not been used frequently for large gatherings but has been a retreat for Bill Gothard to conduct his research, and especially for brother Steve Gothard, who has spent much of his time there in recent years.

There has been some staff criticism that 300 of the choice acres at the Research Center are still held in the name of Steve Gothard, who made a grant of the property to the organization. Whether the 300-acre



Basic Youth Conflicts director Bill Gothard has temporarily stepped aside because of staff upheavals.

plot has been properly transferred and the deed duly recorded could not be ascertained. The Michigan property, valued at several million dollars, and the 250 contiguous acres of property at the Oakbrook (Illinois) headquarters and compound are held by the corporation.

Some supporters of the Gothard work have criticized the administration for possession of such vast land holdings. Reputedly this practice has been defended on the basis of responsible stewardship.

The tightly controlled family operation with its secretive method of conducting its financial affairs and its "chain-of-command," authoritarian-type of administration has both its supporters and detractors.

It is obvious that the Gothard organization has taken in millions of dollars over the years of its existence from the registration fees of the tens of thousands of seminar enrollees. But it has never been the practice of the organization to give any account of its financial affairs to the Christian public.

No doubt the reshuffled board of directors will correct this and other alleged abuses which led to the staff insurrection. McLario, a devout evangelical, has a reputation for honesty. He currently serves on the executive committee of Bob Jones University and is an active member of the Falls Baptist Church in Menominee Falls, Wisconsin.

—Russell T. Hitt



**West
Sub
is
people.**

People like you, who want to become competent and caring nurses.

West Sub's people are faculty. Experts in their fields. As concerned with your personal growth as they are with your developing professional expertise.

West Sub's people are health care professionals. Colleagues who will support your professional education through the continual process of integrating theory and practice.

West Sub's people are patients. Served by a community medical center where you'll come to realize that healing is an art as well as a science. That clinical excellence also means knowing how to communicate hope to those for whom you care.

West Sub's people are special kinds of students. Academically competent. Geographically diverse. Studying and cramming together. Laughing and crying together. Sharing love for each other in Christ.

Applicants of any age, creed, ethnic background, and sex will be considered.

Excellence in Diploma Nursing Education Since 1914

**West Suburban Hospital
School of Nursing**

In Cooperation with Wheaton College

YES I'd like to know more about becoming a West Sub Student. ET090

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Year of High School Graduation _____

MAIL TO:

Mrs. Judy West,
Admissions Director
West Suburban Hospital
School of Nursing
518 N. Austin Blvd.
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

You are also welcome to call us at (312) 383-6200, Ext. 6538.

Live life to its fullest

Break away from mediocrity. Discover these important keys to a truly victorious life.

Building Up One Another by Gene A. Getz

Every member of your church can help strengthen and establish other Christians. Dr. Gene Getz discusses 12 significant commands of Scripture and gives practical steps for developing this important interpersonal ministry. \$3.50

The Gift of Joy by Leslie B. Flynn

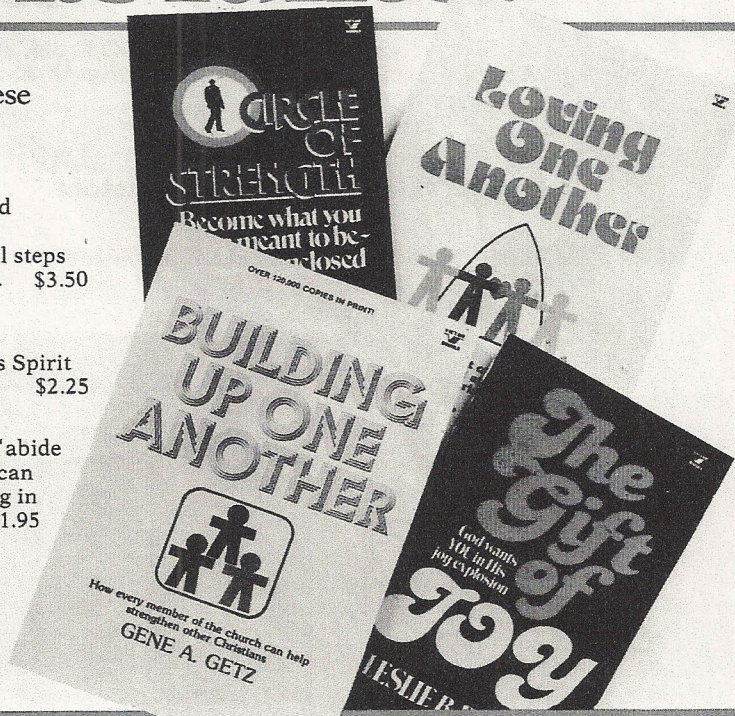
Dispels the myth that joy equals happiness or that grumpiness equals holiness. The gift of joy from God's Spirit can add a totally new dimension to your life! \$2.25

Circle of Strength by Raymond C. Ortlund

Here's exciting, practical advice on what it means to "abide in Christ." Illustrations and anecdotes show how you can draw on everything Christ offers for living and serving in today's imperfect world. \$1.95

Loving One Another by Gene A. Getz

You can be a part of the miracle of oneness within a church that will attract other people to Jesus Christ. After all, effective New Testament evangelism begins with Christian love. \$3.50



Available from your Christian supplier, or write:

P. O. Box 1825, Wheaton, IL 60187

A Division of Scripture Press Publications, Inc.

**VICTOR
BOOKS**

Leader's Guides available.
(Guide for *The Gift of Joy* includes
Multiuse Transparency Masters.)

ET90B