

September 22, 1981

Reverend Bill Gothard
1027 Arlington Avenue
LaGrange, Illinois 60525

RE: Your letter of 9-5-81 Received 9-17-81

Bill:

Having read your hysterical letter several times, before sending it to my attorney, I have a few remarks and questions.

1. I hope you have a complete understanding of the considerable difference between the words "fact" and "opinion". Men of far greater ability, intelligence and experience than you and I battle over that issue every day.
2. Why did you feel it important to have independent parties look at the Institute records that deal with accounting and tax matters and apparently are unwilling to do the same concerning matters far more important to your ministry?
3. Don't you realize how silly it is to report to the Christian community, or any other group, an accountant's opinion without the report his opinion was about? It makes the opinion meaningless in my view.
4. I hope you don't give me a detailed run-down on all your imagined enemies and/or every party to wrong that may have worked for the Institute for the past twenty years.
5. I was and am as uninterested in your report on Toni Guhr as I am in a report furnished me of the specific reasons you were dismissed years ago at HiC. There will come a time when parties, other than myself, will be interested.
6. Might I suggest that you keep privileged information private, and not continue your old habit of using it to control and ravage the parties concerned.
7. I have not and will not position myself as a judge or a jury. There are other persons that sit in these places of authority.
8. As far as I know, Toni has removed himself from this controversy, and I have not and will not consult him concerning letters and calls.

Page Two
September 22, 1981

9. My understanding was that he sent you a letter, per my suggestion, regarding the matters at issue here. It appears from your letter that he did not.
10. The point of my letter was very simple. Provide an independent and complete report to the Christian community by Christians, or be exposed by governmental agencies. That was and still is my request.
11. Don't cry about the letter and its circulation. You could and should have called when the first letter was sent 8-19-81. It was sent and I have confirmation that it was delivered.
12. I am denying your request to correct, point by point, in your letter.
13. My personal view, based on many, many calls to me, from around the country, and my personal knowledge of some of the situations you expressed an opinion on in your note to me, is that of the 26 points at least 18 of them are grossly inaccurate. The others I have no report on. Bill, I don't need phone numbers from you. People are calling every day expressing opinions diametrically opposed to yours.
14. Bill, I am only trying to persuade you and the Board to be submissive to God's clear instructions. The fact that there exists such ill will and misunderstanding is proof that a committee or judge is needed to clarify matters.
15. A personal note, please. I'm not going to allow this interaction to become shrill, mean or pompous. I don't participate in those kinds of games. If you wish to continue to make a game or contest out of these matters, I hereby declare you the winner. Now we can perhaps get on with what should be a relatively simple procedure.
16. My personal observation and reports from people I've never met, verify your considerable talent. The seminars seem to be a God-sent vehicle for the propagation and teaching of the lessons and message of Scripture. Don't hamper the free working of God's Spirit.
17. I'm confident this matter can be worked out. The initiative is yours, Bill.

Page Three
September 22, 1981

18. I suspect that your role in this ministry is a lonely one; the load is no doubt heavy. If you need a friend and a reasonably clear head, I'd like to be that friend, and help if you wish.

Thanks again for your time,

Gerald Wiebe

P. S. Call me; let's talk. You and me make three. Matthew 18:20