

# Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts

SEPTEMBER 14, 1981

DEAR MR & MRS GUHR,

IT DISTRESSES ME VERY DEEPLY THAT I MUST SEND A COPY OF THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT TO YOU - OR THAT I EVEN HAD TO COMPILE IT.

I WANT THE BEST FOR TONY, AND IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE LONGER HE PURSUES HIS OBJECTIVES, THE GREATER WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES TO HIMSELF AND TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME AND TO THE MINISTRY. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE REALLY KNOWN WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING, AND CONTINUES TO HAPPEN.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MANAS CITY PASTOR'S SEMINAR THIS FRIDAY. THEY WILL HAVE THEIR LARGEST GROUP YET.

SINCERELY IN CHRIST.

Bill

# Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts

September 5, 1981

Mr. Gerald Wiebe  
6735 Duke  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918

Dear Mr. Wiebe:

Your registered letter was given to me when I returned home on Thursday. Seven weeks ago, Dr. Radmacher informed me that you had been contacted by your nephew and that after thoroughly checking him out, you had decided to cooperate with him in trying to work out a solution to conflicts which have continued between him and others and the Institute leadership.

On the basis of Dr. Radmacher's recommendation of you as a sincere and mature Christian, and on the basis of the deep concerns which you expressed in your letter for your nephew's spiritual, physical, and financial well-being, I am writing a lengthy report to you.

There are many fine qualities and accomplishments which I could cite in your nephew. However, the purpose of this document is to explain as clearly as possible, the root problem which I believe is causing grave concern for him by you, by others, and by us. The longer this problem is allowed to continue, the more it is destroying what God has done and wants to do in a productive way through his life.

I can certainly appreciate the difficulty you will have in being totally objective, since you are related by family to your nephew; and since you have heard his side of the story; and without checking the other side, you have already begun to work out what you believe is the solution.



In an attempt to help you to be more objective, I am not going to use the name of your nephew in this document. There is also another reason for the title I will use to refer to him. It is a reminder that we are engaged in a spiritual warfare, not against people, but against "the rulers of darkness." In this battle, we can either become an agent of the Holy Spirit or an agent of Satan's influence or power.

You, and any future reader of this document, must determine whose agent your nephew has allowed himself to become. Please carefully consider the following twenty-six facts.

FACT ONE:

I first interviewed "the agent" for a staff position when he was completing his Bible School training about ten years ago. He appeared to be very friendly and eager to serve God; however, I sensed in him what seemed like a restless, independent, and troubled spirit. I learned that he was having conflicts with his authorities. I assured him that before he could be effective in Christian work, he would have to learn how to be under God-ordained authority. I suggested that he begin by going home and learning to live under his father's authority.

FACT TWO:

"The agent" followed this suggestion. He returned home. The resulting conflicts between him and his father were acknowledged by him to two other witnesses and to me last July. At that time, we agreed not to use this information publicly; therefore, I would encourage you to ask him directly what took place between him and his father during this time.

FACT THREE:

One of the strong motivations for "the agent" to go home and learn to be under proper authority was a "spanking" which he told me he received from God. This reproof was a result of defiance of authority in connection with a practical

Christian work assignment at Bible School. He has confessed to two other witnesses and to me what happened. I think it would be very important to have him tell you all the facts regarding this incident, since it suggests his relentlessness in doing what he thinks is God's will, even though his spiritual authorities assure him it is not God's will.

FACT FOUR:

"The agent" continued working on his goal of getting on the Seminar staff. He kept in touch with staff members. After several years, a staff member urged me to allow him to come on staff and work with him. I was given good reports of him and assumed that he had overcome his problems with authority.

FACT FIVE:

Before "the agent" came on staff, he worked with a roofing company. He has openly explained to others and to me that he learned on this job how to "compete with his boss." The clear impression he gave to me was that he was not competing to do a better job or to help his boss, but to prove his supremacy over his boss. I believe that it is very important for you to hear him explain this incident, because he has carried that same competitive philosophy into his work with the Institute. It helps to explain what he is doing now.

FACT SIX:

"The agent's" first assignment at the Institute involved assisting Gary Smalley. On many occasions, Gary would come into my office totally frustrated with him. Gary could not figure out what the problem was. Because of the intense pressure "the agent" was putting on him, Gary could not get his own work done.

Gary complained of being a victim of "the agent's" lists. "The agent" gave Gary lists of questions, suggestions, or complaints and wanted Gary to respond to each one. While Gary was working on one list, "the agent" developed a new list.



Finally, Gary gave him an assignment and told him not to come back until it was done. Gary assumed that the assignment would take two weeks to complete.

The very next morning, "the agent" walked into Gary's office and set the completed assignment on his desk. He had stayed up all night to finish it. When Gary asked him why he did this, "the agent" stated, "I wanted to teach you that you couldn't get rid of me that easily."

This might be humorous if it didn't illustrate the methods which "the agent" has been using during the past eighteen months. He has developed endless "notes" and questions, and demanded that the Board and I stop the ministry until all of his lists are worked on to his satisfaction.

#### FACT SEVEN:

Gary then decided to send "the agent" out of town to work in different cities. He stayed in the homes of Area Staff. It would be wise for you to call one of these families and get a first-hand report of his attitudes and actions while in their home. I would be happy to provide a name and phone number for you.

#### FACT EIGHT:

The next person that "the agent" was assigned to work under was my brother, Steve. "The agent" eventually complained to me that Steve ignored him. Joe Coney heard his complaints and concluded that Steve was not giving him a chance. Thus, Joe volunteered to direct his activities on staff. Once again, "the agent" used his methods of competing with his authority. At first, Joe patiently responded to his questions and lists, but he soon became totally frustrated. He concluded that it was impossible to satisfy him and gave up.

#### FACT NINE:

By the time the staff problems had come to light, "the agent" had already expressed dissatisfaction with his job. On several occasions he asked me if I would put him in charge of counseling the staff. It soon appeared that the staff problems had become "the handle" for which he was looking. From the very beginning,

he assumed a position of authority and worked very hard to try to gain official status for what he was doing about the problems.

FACT TEN:

During a meeting in California in April of 1980, "the agent" revealed that he had direct contact with "three well-greased grapevines" within the staff and former staff. He used these sources to gather and disseminate bits of information. He began to design questions which, by their content and spirit, caused staff to either react to him or distrust all leadership in the ministry. At this point, the warnings of Scripture became very applicable:

"A whisperer separateth chief friends." (Proverbs 16:28) and

"A house divided against itself shall not stand." (Matthew 12:25)

FACT ELEVEN:

Whatever authority that "the agent" can claim from the Board or me to help in restoration of the staff came to a clear and decisive end on May 18, 1980. "The agent" had invited Dr. Bob Wood, Executive Vice-President of Bob Jones University, to speak to the staff. After the meeting, I informed Dr. Wood about the staff problems and the steps we were taking to deal with them.

The more that Dr. Wood learned, the more alarmed he became that I had allowed "the agent" to assume a position of authority in this matter. It would be wise for you to contact Dr. Wood and learn why he felt the way he did.

On that day, in the presence of the Board Chairman, Dr. Gus Hemwall, Dr. Bob Wood, Dr. Wayne Van Gelderen, several department heads and myself, "the agent" was asked by Dr. Hemwall, Dr. Bob Wood, and Dr. Van Gelderen and me to stop all further involvement in this matter. In front of this group, he promised to stop. The following statement was written by "the agent" in June, 1980. It confirms his promise to turn over all his responsibility. He refers back to the May 28th meeting:



"He [the agent] at the date [May 28], and on days thereafter, reaffirmed his recognition of Bill Gothard as having the full responsibility and accountability before God for any and all future decisions for all matters and questions related to the direction of the ministry and the integrity of the message."

It is quite obvious now, fifteen months later, that he has not kept his promise. He has persisted in a relentless campaign to keep things stirred up. He has used long lists of questions to imply that there are major problems which are yet unsolved and that only he can assist in solving. Four months after he promised to relinquish all further involvement in the staff problems, he wrote this statement to the Board and to me:

"I sense that some of you still do not believe I am sincere and that I am somehow "dangerous" to your interests. I do agree that the more you or others in leadership would oppose me rather than find a reasonable way to have me assist you positively in repairing the Institute situations, the more you will find staff and Area Committees forced to make a value judgement on your integrity."

#### FACT TWELVE:

Not only did "the agent" continue to design questions which appeared to be divisive, defaming, and inflammatory, but others began to take up offenses and pick up his questions as theirs. In a letter dated December 2, 1980, he acknowledged his carnal method of framing questions. Here is a quote from that letter addressed to me:

"I can now see and realize this [framing questions] is also a part of "striving" (II Timothy 2:24-26) which is illegitimate for me

to use and which greatly reduces a person's desire and freedom to respond primarily to God. . ."

"I stand fully guilty of this sin against God's will and this sin against you and causing more of your present pains. If in this world I can ever repair or contribute to your escape and freedom from these consequences sufficiently for you to be able to forgive me for my sins, I will be grateful to you and to God. Thank you for your kindnesses to me in a 1000 ways over these many years. Sincerely,"

After writing this letter, he continued his activities. He worked with an Area Coordinator in designing 119 questions for the Board and me to answer. The words and warnings of Proverbs 26:20-26 perfectly describe his activities.

"Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out; so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross. He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; when he speaketh fair, believe him not; for there are seven abominations in his heart. Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation."

#### FACT THIRTEEN:

Many questions were aimed at the Institute's finances. "The agent" was instrumental in compiling, with a few others on staff, a list of thirty-one questions on finances. On the basis of these, he and they demanded that an audit be made by a respected firm "on the basis that there had been gross financial mismanagement."



The firm of Price Waterhouse, the second largest auditing company in the nation, has now completed an extensive and thorough audit. They spent 450 professional hours completing their audit and related examinations. They have willingly offered to refute anyone like "the agent" who would make such false claims about financial mismanagement. (See enclosed letter from Price Waterhouse)

When one of the senior members of Price Waterhouse read the list of thirty-one questions, he said, "Why, these are impertinent questions! I'm surprised that you would allow staff members to even raise questions like these."

FACT FOURTEEN:

When I began to answer the thirty-one financial questions, it soon appeared to me that the purpose of these and other questions was not to find answers, but to build accusations and discredit my father, the Board of Directors, and me.

Several questions refer to the Northwoods property such as:

"Why was the deed for the questioned property so delayed in being filed?"

"Were improvements made on Steve's property with Institute funds while it was still in Steve's name?"

"Why were we told four years ago (1977) that Steve's property had been transferred to the Institute?"

"Did Steve give the land and all its value to the Institute?  
On what basis can anyone consider that the land is free to be returned to Steve?"

The facts are that my brother had deeded his Northwoods property over to the Institute in 1977. The deed was accepted by Dr. Hemwall and turned over to our attorney.

At that time, some Board members felt that it was not right to have Steve turn over this property without some remuneration. Steve had put all his

savings and paychecks into the property. His father had also invested many thousands of dollars in it, and he and Steve were continuing to pay off a mortgage on the property.

Because of this concern by the Board, the attorney put the deed in his file and it was not recorded until 1980.

"The agent" seized upon this information to formulate and communicate the above questions, which on the surface would make it seem that the deed was not a valid gift in 1977.

During the past year, the I.R.S. made a special check on this transaction. They have affirmed that the deed was a valid gift in 1977. (See attached documentation)

FACT FIFTEEN:

Any official cooperation with "the agent" during the past eighteen months has seemed to be the same as giving him a license to build loyalties to himself by discrediting those who are in positions of leadership within the work.

During a personal conference with me in July of 1980, he explained what I now believe are his motives and methods.

I asked him how he would work with the staff if he were in a position of responsibility.

He said that he would first make them loyal to himself and then, if his authority was worthy of their trust, he would encourage them to be loyal to that authority.

This was the same philosophy and procedure which Absalom followed in his rebellion against David.

I wanted to make sure that I understood him correctly, so I quizzed him further on this point. He assured me that this was indeed his way of thinking and purpose in the staff.



I told him that such actions and attitudes explained why neither the Board, nor I, nor many on the staff trusted him and probably why he felt rejection.

After our personal conference, we met with a group of Area Coordinators who had come to the headquarters to try and discover why there was such division and distrust among the staff.

Before that meeting, I went up to "the agent" privately and said, "What you just explained to me about your methods in working with the staff clarified a lot of questions in my mind. I know that it would be very helpful for this group to hear what you said. Would you give me permission to share it with them?"

Looking somewhat embarrassed, he said, "No, don't tell them."

I complied with his wishes, hoping that he would understand how disloyal and unscriptural his approach had been. Instead, he has continued to demonstrate this philosophy again and again.

#### FACT SIXTEEN:

"The agent's" methods of getting people to be loyal to himself by discrediting his authorities have appeared to be tragically illustrated in his direct and indirect contacts with the parents of the girls who were involved in the staff problems.

There was open communication between Board members and the parents until one day Dr. Hemwall and Rev. Sinclair were both informed separately by parents that they could no longer talk to them directly. They must now talk through a committee composed of "the agent" and a few others.

#### FACT SEVENTEEN:

Another illustration which seems to indicate "the agent's" persistence in putting himself in a position of control is clearly illustrated in his contacts with Area Committee Coordinators and the letter that resulted.

"The agent" met privately with many Area Coordinators. He assured them of his love for me and his deep concern for the Seminar ministry. He then alarmed them with distorted facts and partial truths. He elicited sympathy toward himself and anger toward the Board and me by saying that he was never told why he was fired. Then, finally, he would suggest that if they would cooperate with his plan, he could work out all the problems.

Several Coordinators signed a letter that appeared to be drafted by him. The letter contained the threat that:

"If these issues and concerns are not successfully and quickly dealt with, we will need to seriously consider communicating to our city Ministers and our committee our reluctance to invite the seminar ministry back until these issues and questions are fully and expeditiously being resolved."

Four of their six "issues" involved finances. Their concerns <sup>SEEMED TO BE</sup> were the result of distortions and falsehoods.

The very first "issue," however, involved forming a special committee:

"We recommend that one of the following men be hired to lead this team: Gary Smalley, Chuck Lynch, "the agent," or Melvin Upchurch. This team should be formed immediately."

Such a committee would in reality have become the ultimate authority in this ministry since the Board would have become accountable to them. I asked the others who were listed if they agreed to be on such a committee. They said that they wanted no part of it. This proposal would, therefore, have left "the agent" as the driving force and ultimate authority in the Seminar ministry.

#### FACT EIGHTEEN:

"The agent" approached Rev. Miles Seaborn and Mr. Jim Sammons of the Ft. Worth Seminar. He suggested that they stop the upcoming Ft. Worth Seminar.



He then verbally expressed love for me and concern for the ministry. When he came to the part of expressing bewilderment as to why he was fired, both Rev. Seaborn and Mr. Sammons said, "It is very obvious why you were fired. If we had someone in our organization who was as disloyal as you have been here today, we would have fired him too!"

FACT NINETEEN:

In November, 1980, "the agent" met with Mr. John DeBoer and Joe Coney for a breakfast.

In order to prove his points during his conversation, he used shocking and disturbing illustrations which the listeners would assume were true.

However, after listening a while, Mr. DeBoer quizzed him on various points. Mr. DeBoer knew the actual facts. When forced to prove an illustration, "the agent" had to admit that it was distorted. It was skillfully and purposefully designed to give a false impression.

At this point, Mr. DeBoer realized how deceptively convincing "the agent" could be with people who did not know the real facts or understand the larger picture.

FACT TWENTY:

Everyone is deeply grieved over what happened in the staff regarding immorality and the conditions which led up to it. The sins have been thoroughly exposed; and there has been repentance, confession, asking for forgiveness, dismissals, and major policy changes to safeguard any repeat of such a situation.

FACT TWENTY-ONE:

The entire Board of Directors, including myself, has been eager to cooperate with efforts that would bring true healing and restoration. We have demonstrated this in many ways, including cooperation with a "Management Team," flying in past staff for restoration and counsel, allowing Gary and Norma Smalley last

summer to counsel with those who were involved in the problem, spending literally thousands of man-hours in meetings and conferences, and providing funds for several who were working toward restoration.

FACT TWENTY-TWO:

Every attempt to involve "the agent" in the solution or to cooperate with his demands has seemed to worsen the problem and leave a new trail of misinformed, bitter, or disillusioned people. We have been forced to the very firm and final conclusion that "the agent" has not been acting in good faith and that any information which he gets will be distorted and used against the ministry and those whom God has placed in charge of it.

FACT TWENTY-THREE:

There is clear, factual evidence that "the agent's" program involves closing down the Seminar ministry. He would then only reopen it when it passes his inspection.

His first evidence toward this goal came on May 28 of last year. On that day, he gave me a letter which he composed and wanted me to send out under my name. In that letter, he stated the following:

"We believe God is leading us to temporarily cease from holding seminars beginning this fall (1980) and not plan to resume seminars for possibly one year..."

FACT TWENTY-FOUR:

I told "the agent" that God was not leading the Board or me to close down the ministry as his letter stated.

He then assured me that if I would just let the Board hear his concerns, he would be able to turn his responsibility for what he knew over to them and trust God to work through them. That would end his part in the matter.



The Board agreed to hear him and the date was set for Saturday, July 5, 1980. As the day approached, "the agent" met with others on the staff and worked out a complete "plan to cancel seminars."

On Saturday, "the agent" led a carefully planned attack on me, mixing facts, partial truths, and misinformation into questions which he had various people prepared to ask. Before this meeting, word had circulated among the staff that "the agent" was going to reveal some "shocking new information from all his notes." As it turned out, the meeting was basically a rehash of things we had already covered in meeting after meeting.

Many hours later, he and those with him informed the Board that all further seminars would be cancelled, including three scheduled for the following Monday. The twenty-five thousand people who were registered for those three seminars would be given their money back and sent home. The tens of thousands who were registered for other seminars would be notified by mail not to attend. This group assured the Board and me that they had support on the staff to carry out their plan.

The Board was stunned and amazed!

The group then declared that if the Board and I would cooperate with their demands, they would agree to conduct only the three seminars the following week.

Their fifteen demands included: my resignation as director, the resignation of my father from the Board, and the appointment of their "Management Team" to lead the work.

#### FACT TWENTY-FIVE:

When word began to spread that the seminars would be closed down, Christian leaders and pastors flew to the headquarters to try to reason with the staff.

This group included Dr. Jack Taylor, Dr. Charles Stanley, Rev. Miles Seaborn, Rev. Gordon Dorion, Rev. Skip Smith, and Mr. Jim Sammons.

When they walked into the headquarters, they were shocked at what they sensed was a spirit of rebellion. They had a meeting with the staff which lasted until two o'clock in the morning. They heard hours of complaints and accusations. Following this, they tried to reason with "the agent" and the "Management Team" that the actions which they had taken were uncalled for, tragically unwise, and certainly unscriptural. Some staff returned to work, others resigned, and "the agent" was fired by the Board.

This appeared to be the fruit of giving "the agent" another hearing.

FACT TWENTY-SIX:

Even after this, I held out hope that I could cooperate with "the agent" and that good fruit would result from it.

The Board had given me instructions not to spend any more time with "the agent." However, "the agent" said that if we could meet together to state how we had been offended, we could clear things up and become good friends.

I asked the Board for special permission to meet with him and three other staff members. They reluctantly granted permission and we met for four days. Then I discovered evidence which indicated to me that during the evenings, "the agent" was continuing his campaign of sowing discord among the staff and others.

Rather than resolving anything, our meetings caused more confusion and division. Dr. Schultz became angry with me for cooperating with "the agent." One of the last things Dr. Schultz said to me before he resigned was, "We warned you not to meet "the agent" but you did anyway. It didn't do any good to meet with him, did it!"

These twenty-six points are by no means exhaustive. There are many other examples of our attempts to cooperate with "the agent." He has seemed to use each attempt to sow more discord among Christians and cause more people to become



bitter and disillusioned. He has then accused us of not bringing about restoration of those who have been hurt.

I believe that it would be impossible for you to convince anyone who knows the facts that "the agent" is ready to abandon his unreasonable and abominable program by yet another round of talks.

I am sure that it is not your desire to see this tragic situation continue. You have stated in your letter that you want to see a speedy end to it. I can assure you that if your nephew is involved in any way, it will not be a speedy end.

In January of this year, "the agent" agreed to have Gary Smalley represent him in a meeting with several Christian leaders.

We paid the plane fare for Gary to fly to "the agent's" home to pick up his material. We flew in Dr. Charles Ryrie to meet with Dr. Ken Taylor and other Christian leaders. "The agent" then began changing his mind about who should be on the committee. He demanded that the committee give him two hours to talk. After seeing the situation and praying about it, Dr. Ryrie and others urged me not to continue any more talks. They felt strongly that this was certainly not God's direction and that we should get on with the work to which God has called us.

The same counsel was given to John DeBoer and me by Dr. Charles Swindoll and several other leaders who have understood the larger picture of what we are dealing with.

Under no circumstances will we now allow "the agent" or any of his agents another opportunity to undermine this ministry. He already has a great deal to account to before God.

Instead, we are instructed in Scripture to mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine of Christ and avoid them. (Romans 19:17)

"The agent" has been confronted personally and with witnesses. Two witnesses met with his pastor and church deacons.

Now, Mr. Wiebe, what deeply concerns me is that your letter is infected with the same spirit and methods of "the agent."

I find it shocking that, before you would talk to me or check out these facts, you would use threats in your letter. I am further disturbed that you would try to even justify such an unethical, unscriptural and unchristian "alternate action."

Your nephew also attempted to justify your (or his) unscriptural action in a recent letter to me by making the false claim that I am "outside the influence and authority and discipline of the Church of God." Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Board and I, as well as other respected Christian leaders, want you to know that such threats will in no case cause us to compromise the clear leading of the Lord for this ministry. We have every confidence that He will protect this work against any attack.

You could do a great service to your nephew, to the Lord, to Christians and to tens of thousands of churches which are being strengthened by this ministry by stopping any further "committees," and following the wise counsel of Gamaliel in Acts 5:35, 38-39:

"...Take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men."

"...For if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."

I believe that you have committed folly and shame as the Scripture warns by answering a matter before you have heard it. (Proverbs 18:13) Your "answer"



has required me to compile this document and, in order to validate its truth, to send copies to each person named in it so that they could confirm the facts which relate to them. I am also enclosing a copy for your associate, so that he can get a better understanding of what he is dealing with.

Actually, Mr. Wiebe, you are doing the same thing your nephew has done. You are assuming a responsibility which God has not given to you.

If you feel the need for any further attention to this matter, I would invite you now to check out all these facts. If you find any that are incorrect, please let us know as quickly as possible so that we can be sure that this document is totally accurate.

Our prayer for months has been II Thessalonians 3:1-2, 11-15:

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you; and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for all men have not faith. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."

In your letter you have stated your concern for your nephew:

"Having observed him for the last several months, that he is wasting his time. He is no longer effective as an individual."

You further state:

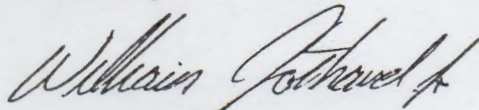
"I am concerned about his financial well-being because he is unemployed..."

Your own testimony serves to identify your nephew in the above Scripture and also to implicate you.

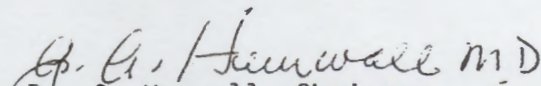
I deeply appreciate your assurance of your love for this ministry and for me. You are in a position to demonstrate that love now by having faith that God can work through the Board and me to lead this ministry. Love does not keep account of evil or expose sins which have been confessed and forsaken. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (I Corinthians 13:7) Let's express this kind of love for one another.

I will await your reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely in Christ,



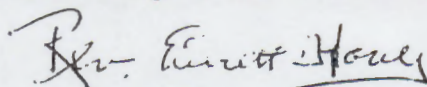
Bill Gothard, President  
Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts



Dr. G. Hemwall, Chairman  
Board of Directors

As Bill's Pastor, I want to assure you of my understanding of this situation. I was present when many confessions were made. I have had a private conference with your nephew. I have discussed the situation with our Board of Elders.

I can affirm that Bill Gothard, as an individual, is under the authority of the La Grange Bible Church and the discipline of the Board of Elders in the same way as each of the other members are, according to our church constitution.



Rev. Everett Hovey, Pastor  
La Grange Bible Church\*

\* Bill Gothard was ordained, commissioned, and is presently an active member in this church.