

Dearest Geoff

Think of you guys often and pray for you. Trust all are well.

I am hoping and praying that you will hear me regarding:

- How I plan to respond to your decision
- Two simple questions
- One simple request

I'm sure you already know I have spent the last two months in obvious pain over your decision. Being in Johannesburg a few times and not seeing you and the girls really hurt. Our whole family is shocked and hurt. Our church is grieving, and my home group prays regularly and earnestly. Barb, Ro and I watched the Winnie the Pooh movie this week. Delightful. We couldn't help mentioning Joey and Kayla throughout. Me with tears. (CTMI call this emotions in the "natural" vs "spiritual")

What exacerbates the hurt is the mysterious reality that family with no love for Jesus have full access.

Paul described a situation of being *sorrowful yet always rejoicing*. So while I ache daily, I rejoice in this being part of God's sovereign plan and am grateful that it has cast me more and more upon my Saviour for grace to help. It is comforting to know that the only reason we are suffering is because **we are standing for gospel truth for God's glory and the wider good of his Kingdom**. Why else would I do this? If it were not for gospel truth we would naturally prefer normal, close family contact.

The bizarre reality is that you are equally claiming a stand for truth. We have been told that we are like the Pharisees – religious people who opposed Jesus. The "expected persecution" repeatedly taught by CTMI. See Basil's twitter wall and we have a whole document of "persecution" quotes from CTMI sermons and blogs. Miki mentioned it frequently on Carte Blanche interview and Basil raised it in that "watershed meeting".

An early example of the influence of this teaching on you was your response to the very first question I asked. A perfectly normal - "*Oh you've decided to move to Mauritius! Why is that?*" You were defensive and said "*We have discussed it with my elders and you will not understand*" (?!)

This idea of "persecution" is a distortion Geoff! The truth is that the Pharisees opposed Jesus as Messiah and his claims to be one with the Father with power to forgive sins. They misinterpreted the true gospel. We love Jesus and the true gospel! Our only hope is his finished work on our behalf and we live totally for him – preaching and teaching his gospel every week and spending more hours serving Him and his people than anything else in our lives. And we have not once opposed this true gospel in your church. And you know this.

Obviously and clearly - one of us is wrong! There is no "parallel road" when it comes to gospel truth. There is only one. Any other gospel is "accursed".

Our Response

We have also been praying deeply about the issue and seeking advice from our elders and wise pastors and close friends – locally and worldwide. (All are shocked and incredulous.)

We have decided that, while you have chosen to cut me out of your life, I will not reciprocate with the same unbiblical and hard-hearted behavior. We will continue to share family news with you on WhatsApp and email and will send birthday gifts to Joey and Kayla. If you refuse this and return

the gifts (as Hayley returned Steve's letters unopened) or discard them, that is between you and the Lord. The girls will know the truth one day. Before my Lord I cannot cut you off. You are my son and I love you now as I have your whole life.

You are treating me like an enemy and are persecuting me for standing for truth. So I am guided only by his word.

Mat 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, (As Basil quoted recently on twitter!!?)

Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

We would really appreciate you answering **two simple questions and respecting one request**:

Questions

1. What would it take for you to accept us back into your lives? What are your criteria?
2. **Please help us understand the change in your approach.** (From one extreme to another) The reason you gave for your decision is "opposition to my church and my faith" Yet you specifically invited us back into your lives for a wonderful holiday in Mauritius at a time when we were much more actively engaged in raising awareness about your church? You took us around the Island, arranged beautiful large family photos (still all over our home) and material - still curtains in our room. You offered to keep CTMI people away from us. (I said we have been trying to meet with them for years!!) I made it clear that while I was deeply grateful, this did not mean anything had changed in our views and that interaction with you should not be used by your leaders as evidence that "all was now sorted" (as had been done with others). You replied "*totally accepted and understood – I would not have thought anything else of you dad*"

You then accepted our invitations to join us on a number of holidays (Crystal Waters, Berg Farm, Leliefontein; Sani Pass) as well as regular dinners out when I was in Jhb. (Much like Hayley and Levi accepting and enjoying holidays locally and overseas etc.)

Your decision now, after five years of almost zero CPG activity, is therefore totally baffling.

I haven't changed, issues haven't changed. You have changed. Why?

Our understanding is that this only makes sense if all interaction with you, rather than normal, loving family relations and enjoyment of our company, has been part of an agenda and plan to "impress, love bomb, form deep bonds with grandchildren" in order to manipulate us to change our views and back off. A sms from Basil as we were boarding the flight to Mauritius helps reinforce this view. As well as Rachel's recent threat to Duncan and Wendy after Openbarings. Simply because they are in the same church as Clint and me!

This strategy of allowing family closeness after initial distance, worked with some who put their heads in the sand to maintain crumbs of precious relationships, but not others. So now, immediately after your three months in Mauritius, the opposite extreme is employed with us who have maintained a steadfast "*please tell us where we are wrong, or apologise.* (God's blueprint for reconciliation) *Until either of these happen, we are not going away*".

We are also informed by much evidence from CTMI which shows a pattern of more or less equal vacillation between harsh “ad hominem” attacks and threats vs “*turn the other cheek, love your enemies, sheep do not have horns*”.

If we are wrong in our understanding of why you have changed, please tell us the real reason?

Request

Please stop telling yourself and others that you respect and love me – as you told me while leaving. The Lord’s word is clear – if you say you love but behave in an opposite manner – you are deceived.

1Jn 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

1Jn 3:18 *My little children, **let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.***

1Jn 1:6 *If we say we have fellowship with him while **we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*** (It’s clearly about actions not feelings, no matter how sincere)

Forever, your loving father

Dad