

## **A Father Shares His Grief in Letter to Leaders**

**Please find below a letter we wrestled and prayed over for months before sending. It was sent five months ago. We did not have the courtesy of even an acknowledgement let alone a reply!**

To The leadership GGC and CTMI particularly Basil and Phil and Lyn Page from the heart –

Just over 10 months ago our daughter announced that she was joining GGC. Shortly after that she left our home to live with Phil and Lyn Page – long standing friends whom we had helped out on numerous occasions. Not long after that she left for Mauritius where it seems she will now be for at least three years. While all this was apparently under the leading of God we were baffled by inconsistencies. Why the suddenness of the way her attitude changed towards us and our church? We had previously had no problem with GGC and supported her and her sister attending a camp in Mauritius. We attended services with you. She was almost entirely dependent on our support and happily so. Overnight, she became defiant of our advice and went to Zimbabwe with you against our wishes. She became spiritually proud and critical of us, our friends, her friends and our church. Her departure to the Pages and Mauritius was with no consultation with us as parents. We naturally carry deep hurt over this split in our family.

When at an early stage our elders came to speak to you about agreeing a more peaceful process you showed your true colours. We were alarmed to hear of your twisting of certain passages about family (“Christ came to bring a sword not peace”); your complete disregard of us – “She is an adult – let her follow her heart, if they are upset, she can come and live with Basil or her mother, Lyn Page”; your disrespect and rudeness – calling our elders “pathetic Pharisees”; your disregard of holy scripture – “put the book aside, don’t quote a dead letter to us”.

We then began to understand the powerful influence you have exercised over our daughter. We have since become aware of other families who have been through very similar experiences –undue influence in the lives of impressionable young people - even arranged marriages - also against the will of Christian parents. Your teaching and advice has caused our children to dishonour their parents and Grandparents. To turn their backs on old family, friends and siblings. This is behavior that brings the precious name of Christ into disrepute. He held the family unit in high esteem. Even his last words on earth were to instruct his disciples to look after his mum. You often dismiss parental concern with a “they are adults and free in Christ – let them follow their hearts” response. This is revealing!! We want to make it clear that the parent child relationship is for life and believers are not free to ignore God’s precious word! And where in God’s word do you find this “follow your heart” teaching?!

We can no longer be silent on these issues and after careful consideration and prayerful thought feel constrained before God to hold you accountable for troublesome meddling (1 Peter 4:15) in the life of our family. We rebuke you in love for deeply and wrongfully wounding us and our relationship with you.

We hope and pray you recognise this rebuke as from the Lord and that He would cause you to acknowledge your error and seek restoration of fellowship with genuine repentance for all the hurt you have caused and continue to cause us.

Please do not write this off as “persecution from within the church in the last days” because you are standing for the “pure gospel”. Rather, this is Christian concern based on His precious word.

For His Glory