

This is an open letter to Hayley Goddard. We are not able to contact her in any way. We bought her a mobile phone recently, so that we could keep in contact. The sim card has been removed, so we have no mobile phone contact and she does not respond to emails. If you should bump into Hayley over the holidays, please would you give her a copy of this letter.

Dear Hayley

I am sorry I have had to revert to an open letter, such as this, but we are unable to contact you in any other way, and it's too expensive for Dad to travel to Mauritius again to speak to you. This letter is not intended to harm you and us in any way. It is an honest and desperate plea to you to make contact with us.

Dad came to Mauritius to speak to you about what was happening in your life, but you were not permitted (by Neville and Vanessa) to be alone with him, nor did you want to speak to him. On the way back from trying to see you, he was so upset and sobbed uncontrollably. The taxi driver would not charge him for the journey. We can only imagine that you are so influenced by those who surround you, that you have been coerced into thinking that Dad would pose a threat to you. In the 18 years you lived with us and we cared for you, not once did Dad ever raise his voice to you (it's not his way). He is a kind patient and reasonable man who has learnt well from his parents, who too, are loving, kind and reasonable. So it is very surprising and so unfamiliar to us to have to deal with unreasonable, unkind and self centred people. We are learning and are becoming better at it.

You were made to 'phone me (at work) the Tuesday, after the article appeared in the Saturday Independent Newspaper, to tell me that you were getting married to a young man. You mentioned his name, but Dad was so traumatised by the "phone call and I was so mad at you, that neither of us could remember the name of the boy you were planning to marry. That evening, we discussed at length, the possibilities.... Could it be Bryan (the auto electrician from Pinetown) or was it Greg Kyle (one of the twins). Maybe it was Ryan (also a chap from Pinetown). After discussing all the possibilities, we decided to call you again to get the name of the young man you were to marry. You then told us that the name of the chap was Levi Paige – and that you weren't sure when you would be getting married. We were told that Levi Paige had been in South Africa for the previous 3 months and even attended Stuart Brown's funeral, where you and I spent some time chatting. Not once did you say that you wanted us to meet a chap you were "in love" with. In actual fact, 2 months before getting married, you were planning on moving back home. Hope you are starting to realise the reasons for our concern – that you are being encouraged to marry and live a life without your family in exchange for a life devoted to Audrey and Miki. Go onto the Concerned Parent's website and you

will see how many people have been adversely affected by them. We hear horror stories every day and it makes us more and more concerned for you.

The man “you have on your heart” ‘phoned Dad 2 days after you spoke to us and in this call he told Dad that he had intentions of marrying you. Dad was cordial, but as we had never set eyes on him and he had never met or spoken to any of us, Dad’s advice to him was that we get to know one another. That he needed to come to South Africa to meet us and to ask our permission to marry you in person – not over the phone as you were both young and there was no reason to rush into marriage. We are sure he is a very nice young man, but it is the manner in which this has happened that has left us feeling so let down by how you have been manipulated.. We are disappointed that you have been influenced to behave so badly and that you are starting off your adult life so alienated from your family (us, grandparents, uncles, aunts), family friends and your own friends from your previous life.

You were rushed off to the magistrate’s court to get married so that you could extend your visa to stay in Mauritius. This is the only reason we can think of that you would rush this marriage. You have been ill advised, to get married so hurriedly. You get the visa, but you lose the opportunity of us all sharing this special day with you. That is something you will have to live with for the rest of your life. We do not know one person who would have given you this advice whether a Christian or not.

We have been told that you have also had your church wedding. Is there any particular reason you did not invite us? Do you no longer wish us to be part of your life? We have felt your alienation from us, from the early days of your association with CTMI and Grace Gospel, but this now has gone too far and if this is acceptable to you then it is a sad reflection of what this church is really about. God’s first commandment with a promise is the 5th commandment: Honour your father and mother- which is the first commandment with promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

It was my birthday on the 21st December (my 50th birthday). Family and friends made sure I had a happy and memorable day. I am so grateful to them. Even your friends, Sam, Kirsty, Jubes, Craig, etc. etc. came to my party and made it a very special day to remember. I mentioned you in my speech and it had everyone in tears. So sorry you couldn’t be with us, but more sad that you did not find the time or inclination to contact me on my birthday to wish me. Dad is also sad that you did not sms or phone him on his birthday and had someone phone him to ask for your had in marriage on his birthday! How very inconsiderate. It’s the little things in life that are important. Why are you not able to see what they have done to you or have the courage to change what is not right.

You keep telling journalists, etc., that we are telling lies about you. Please would you let us know what you are referring to and please be specific as we cannot think of anything we have said that would cause you to accuse us of lying. If we are guilty of not being truthful, we will be first to apologise and admit our fault, but every fact thus far has come from a place of honesty and transparency.

We will always be here for you – that's what families do – they support and love you no matter what, and we love you unconditionally – no matter what you have said or done to hurt us.

*Take care
Mum*