

May 28, 2010

Dear Church Family,

Many of you were present on Wednesday when I read a prepared statement regarding an incident that had only recently come to my attention. Formal statements made in public assemblies seldom allow sensitive spirits to be satisfied that full disclosure has been made. We are living, however, in a media driven age (Daniel 12:4) and have become all too familiar with the need to measure our words. With this in mind, I am sending this note to you in order to give you information while soliciting your prayers. I echo the request of the Apostle Paul found in II Thessalonians 3:1-2 when he said, "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."

Thirteen years ago, I was made aware of allegations of a crime against a minor. In seeking to do my best to provide protection for this young person and to follow the statutes of our state, I made myself accountable to legal counsel while reporting the incident to the police and to the Division for Children, Youth and Families. Since then, neither the young person nor her mother with whom she was residing was willing to visit the police station; I called the police a second time to let them know of the situation (I have carefully kept notes of all of this). Unfortunately, to my knowledge, no investigation was made. This week, the perpetrator was arrested. There are those who are making allegations about this matter against me and the church where I formerly served that are without basis and defaming. I have retained David Gibbs, III as my legal counsel. Mr. Gibbs has contacted the authorities on my behalf to register my concern regarding the way the police have represented this matter to the media.

Let me say now what I said to the church on Wednesday, "As in the past, I am and will fully cooperate with the police investigation. For my part, cooperation has always included answering inquiries promptly, personally and transparently while providing any information that is necessary to conduct a complete and thorough investigation."

There are questions about this matter which are provocative and puzzling. I cannot give you every bit of background in this letter, but let me assure you that the minor involved in the incident was constantly under her mother's care. She sought counsel from me and from our church staff. There was no obstruction, no collusion and only cooperation. In the end, the young lady was placed in the care of a dear, capable and amazingly reputable family in Colorado by her mother. While I was involved in the counseling process, all who know the end of the matter realize that the decision made by her mother at the time allowed the young lady to complete her high school education and enjoy the finest care that could be afforded anywhere.

You need to know that this is not a "Colonial Hills Baptist Church" problem. Colonial Hills Baptist Church was not involved in the situation thirteen years ago and is not tied to the situation today. This is something that the Lord has placed in my life and in the life of Trinity Baptist Church of Concord, NH for a reason. The current pastor of Trinity recently shared the following words with the church family there:

"So, how do we handle this crisis? What is the godly response? I have been praying much about that. In II Kings we are told about a man named Shimei who cursed David. David's soldiers wanted to kill Shimei. David responded, however, with an amazing statement, 'Perhaps the Lord told Shimei to say these things.' David was mindful that sometimes our enemies say things that God wants us to hear!"

I have reflected much on these thoughts from Pastor Fuller. They reflect the wisdom of God for me at this time. God's purpose is best. God's plan is perfect. Ministry, as with life, is not static. I must be willing to learn through blessings and burdens as well.

Please know that I have made myself accountable to Attorney Gibbs, other pastors and godly counselors and that I now make myself available to you.

If you have questions I will gladly supply you with the facts as I know them. God has given me the great grace of His peace and I can say with great assurance, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb.13:6)

Since this matter is not a Colonial Hills Baptist church matter, it will not be the focus of our services this Lord's Day. Join me in praying that the Lord would bless our services with His power as we seek to glorify His name.

Lovingly,

Dr. Chuck Phelps