

December 23, 1987

Dear Senior Elders and Elders at Seattle Community Chapel  
& Bible Training Center:

This letter is a desperate attempt and appeal for help to put an end, in some way, to the destructive path taken thus far regarding Pastor Don's marriage, ministry and personal and professional relationship with me.

Since I've been laid off, some 2-1/2 months now, I've intentionally not had anything to do with Don for the purpose of not aggravating an already bad situation and prayerfully and searchingly letting the Lord deal with me. The hurts and bitterness that the devil has so earnestly tried to serve me, through my interpretation of Don's actions towards me, his wife and others, has escalated continuously almost since the inception of my personal involvement with him and Barbara. To this day, by a letter from him, the situation mounts worse and worse. About a week ago, I decided to break the silence between him and I; hoping that time and change would possibly create a platform for resolve of the many circumstances too numerous to mention at this point. His response back to me proved no different in nature than the state of our previous communications while still in the capacity as Counseling Center Manager, brother in the Lord, and connection of his wife.

In all good conscience before God, I'm trying to come to some resolve between us the way the Bible outlines. If I seem to be judgmental, I'm sorry for that. I'm honestly dealing with these things before the Lord. But, nevertheless, I feel that the numerous episodes of blame, justification, defensiveness and dishonesty from Don towards me, cannot be resolved by him and I alone, but require an arbitrator(s). I've believed this for quite some time now and attempted as far back as April of 1987 to get arbitration, but Don has blocked all attempts thus far. For that reason, I'm sending this letter to you unbeknownst to him. He will receive a copy of this very letter but delayed somewhat to prevent him from blocking my attempts again. I trust that you will understand my heart and believe that I'm not trying to hurt and retaliate against Don, even though I am hurt. Please understand that the following is only the briefest account of events that have gone on for 2 years and 3 months with very little change in behavior on Don's part.

It is my understanding through a directly involved source that Don is planning yet another vacation to Hawaii with one of his connections. I've tried, and I am totally convinced that I cannot get through to him, of the devastating effect this has regarding his marriage. You may be asking yourself, "Why is what he (Don) does any business of yours anyway?" Well, it is a typical example of where things went initially awry between Don and I.

Let me speak more plainly. Let me first preface this by saying that Don has taught that, "Under no circumstances should any mate go on vacation without their spouse if the spouse can't handle it." Well, Barbara can't handle it, and the reason she can't is because Don is not trustworthy and has proven that he can't handle the liberty in these types of situations. Barbara did not come to this position by suspicion. It has been a problem for years;

not to the point of adultery, but of sexual exploitation taking many different forms, with many different people, in and out of the church. As far back as April of 1986, of which I can personally verify, his illicit behavior turned for the worse into promiscuous adulteries while on vacations and at home. This is not wild rumor but factual and can be substantiated by not only me, but Scott Hartley, David Motherwell, Lanny Peterson and the parties involved. These were not just occasional mistakes, but with at least two women to gross propensities (and several others to lesser degrees) and premeditated, habitual, deliberate ongoing adulterous relationships. Although I believe Don has repented and is consequently forgiven for these sins, the attitude before, through and after, on his part, has been one of blaming of Barbara and myself for his mistakes and "people jumping the fence". On numerous occasions, I desperately tried to stop him from putting himself in tempting situations that I knew the demons wouldn't let him escape from but he insistently retorted with some excuse of grace, justification, blame, or that he's "delivered", therefore, it won't happen again. But then he'd fall--again and again and again. Through all this, he resented me trying to help him. I was only trying to remedy the situation because of the devastation aimed at Barbara, and consequently himself and their marriage, and because he was not willing to seek counsel or outside help of any kind. I personally, before God, chose to take whatever blows that would incur for the sake of the pastor and Barbara, the church's reputation and the move of God.

Even my own marriage was hit when Renee could see that I was visibly shaken but couldn't explain, opening her up to be hit by the devil by my secretive behavior. I believe Don's gross adultery binge has dimmed his ability to comprehend reality accurately concerning anybody trying to help him at that time. He has admitted that he went through a time when his mind was "foggy." He says this when describing certain circumstances but claims accurate recollection when describing others. If his mind was "foggy," he should not trust any of his accounts until all is sorted out and I believe the facts can be established.

More specifically, Barbara's and my intervention has been misunderstood and interpreted as meddling, unsubmission, rebellion and control on our part. Don has repeatedly in the last two years, used his position as pastor and president to block what the Bible outlines as a course of action in Matthew 18:15-18 and I Timothy 5:19. He denies it, but I can prove it, if anybody cares to inquire about records that were destroyed, and letters and tapes from Don in which he stated his refusal to talk with me, and also repeated threats to fire me if I pushed to meet with the Senior Elders. He took this position and action on the basis that I had no responsibility to expose him but I believe I did and do have a responsibility on the basis of the above-mentioned Scriptures, plus many others.

Girls came to me shamed, upset, crying, ready to leave the church; confessing all that went on sexually. These facts required action regardless of Don's position. Through all this, I've tried not to receive any hurts personally but, alas, after two years plus, I must admit that the continual manifesting of demons through Don has been like the battering ram against the gates of a city.

I'm appealing to you, as responsible leaders, to intervene and do something. The plan that Don is using is not working where Barbara, the

people that know his behavior patterns, and myself are concerned. He has repeatedly told me that he does not have to follow the rules that he has laid down for people in similar situations in the church; which to me, is open rebellion against his own God-given authority.

Please don't be intimidated any longer. Most of you know some or all of the information I've brought out and have done little or nothing. I believe that if God's people don't deal with the sin that is in the church, He'll bring in Babylon to be an instrument of judgment. Obviously, this is already happening but it's not too late to do something. Please do something to get Don to see the devastation that lies before him if he persists in being insensitive and refuses responsibility and accountability for the things he has done. Forgiveness and repentance are two important steps but in this case, a third step is vital; that being restitutional actions so that he will demonstrate that he was wrong and will now behave properly. Trust and integrity must be earned back. To my knowledge and experience, Don has not been willing to concede anything but persists in sticking to a defensive justifying and blaming posture that blocks love from springing forth in the hearts of those who need restoration if they are to have their respective relationships.

We are to love our enemies but ministerial, brotherly and marriage relationships require a balance of accountability along with unconditional love, not exclusively unconditional love. I must confess that I cannot realistically face coming into services when Don is there. Because he's pastor, it makes it very difficult to regularly and in a participating way as a member, be involved without attaining any resolve. If Don were merely a brother in the Lord, I believe I could and should, but it's become increasingly difficult for me to respect Don as my pastor when I'm consistently hearing him using the pulpit for his personal advantage, e.g. "I don't understand why my wife doesn't come home. I'm ready and willing." This and other statements like it put Barbara in a bad light and exonerate him when he, by this point in time, should at least "understand" why Barbara is where she's at. I know the Lord is still anointing the office but there are definitely manifestations coming through at the pulpit also and they frequently demand the blood of Barbara, myself and others, to our demise--not to our edification. I need the services to be edifying.

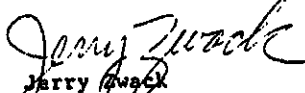
I'm asking nothing for myself but only to witness the restoration of their marriage and Barbara's ministry. These two things, I know, will do more to heal me than anything else.

If you decide as a group to do nothing about this matter, I feel like I will no longer have any desire to even try and get resolve via this church government. I think I can survive and even flourish in the Lord for I feel His presence with me daily. But I am full of doubts about the existence of Community Chapel & Bible Training Center as a church and the individual equilibrium of Don and his marriage if he does not change his course. If you will at least acknowledge the problem and attempt to do something, I'll hold on the best I can. Expecting instant action on your part, I know, is unrealistic because you all face retaliation by just reading this letter, let alone doing something about it.

David Motherwell, Scott Hartley, and Lanny Peterson are the individuals with the bulk of the details and verification of all I've mentioned. I'm sorry if I was too explicit but being non-specific caused Jack Hicks to not clearly understand what I was up against when he was getting complaints from Don of my so-called "disrespectful attitude," towards him while acting as Counseling Center Manager.

Please respond in some way, either by way of a spokesman or as a group. I'm determined to find help in some manner and I need to know your position.

Sincerely and in Him,

  
Jerry Swack

Copies to:

Jack DuBois  
Scott Hartley  
Jack Hicks  
Ralph Alskog  
John Bergin  
George Bowker  
John Harold  
Don Lockrem  
Russ MacKenzie  
David Motherwell  
Ron Myrick  
Lanny Peterson  
Jerry Slaminski  
Greg Thiel  
Mark Yokers