

FINAL APPEALS FROM OUR ELDERS | OCTOBER 3, 2018

Multiple appeals have been made to each defendant, some dating back many years. Difficult decisions that are arrived at, in some cases over many months and years, cannot be understood by an appeal to a single Scripture. The Elders of Harvest take their responsibility to behave in a biblical manner very seriously, arrived at this decision very reluctantly, and only after making a final appeal in writing for resolution. Responses were disappointing.

From: The Elders of Harvest Bible Chapel Chicago <elders@harvestbiblechapel.org>

Subject: Meeting Request

Date: October 3, 2018 at 8:00:35 PM CDT

To: "julie@julieroys.com" <julie@julieroys.com>

Dear Julie:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Elders of Harvest Bible Chapel in hopes that you will consider a better path forward to understanding our church than the one you seem to have been pursuing. We believe a higher level of transparency and access to information that we cannot make public, but can document with certitude, will prove satisfactory to a person seeking to maintain journalistic integrity.

When we were contacted by people who used to work at and/or attend our church who indicated you were developing a story that would question the integrity of our leadership, including our Senior Pastor, we were concerned on many levels – but most of all with the apparent subjects of your source material. We have written to the only person we know to possibly have a complaint, inviting them to bring their story to us, for meaningful listening in a context of safety and for biblical resolution where appropriate.

We are concerned that the line of thinking you seem to have been pursuing is one you could not possibly hold if you had access to the people who know our church best. Would you be willing to meet and discuss the possibility of having access to the leaders of our church, and the history of our church? These too-common scenarios among Christian ministries, where faults in leadership are badly distorted through poor quality journalism, are repeating themselves over and over across the body of Christ.

We offer this with the prayer that it would also erase any skepticism or uncertainty about the integrity of ministry that is happening in and through the leaders of our church. A meeting to discuss this avenue of discourse and what boundaries would be needed for both sides to be comfortable seems like a healthy way forward.

We have come to the end of our willingness to be lied about and are ready to take every reasonable measure to protect our church family. Please reply in response if you are willing to meet in the near future. We have nothing to hide and would be relieved to know that no further measures to establish the truth about our church will be needed. We ask to hear from you by end of day Friday, October 5, 2018.

On behalf of the Elder Board of Harvest Bible Chapel,

Steve Huston, Elder Executive Committee Chairman

From: The Elders of Harvest Bible Chapel Chicago <elders@harvestbiblechapel.org>

Subject: Meeting Request

Date: October 3, 2018 at 8:00:38 PM CDT

To: "theelephantsdebt@gmail.com" <theelephantsdebt@gmail.com>

Dear Ryan Mahoney and/or Scott Bryant:

The time has come for the removal of the public record of your efforts to discredit our Senior Pastor and ministry. Throughout what is now seven years, we have owned our failures and repented where appropriate. We would like to meet in humility and express these advances afresh.

In the past, we have sought to meet under terms of relational reconciliation, but we feel the time for that has passed. What we seek now is a simple reckoning of what is true and has been helpful and what is untrue and damaging to the body of Christ that you say you love.

We would bring a representative group of 3-4 Elders. Our hope is to meet in confidence and come to a mutual understanding that may or may not be appropriate to publicize.

Please let us know if you are willing to meet under these circumstances, as this would be the best outcome for all involved. We ask to hear from you by end of day Friday, October 5, 2018.

On behalf of the Elder Board of Harvest Bible Chapel,

Ron Duitsman, Elder Board Chairman