



**Western
Conservative Baptist
Seminary**

Office of the President,
Earl D. Radmacher

November 7, 1983

Mrs. Ruth Gabriel
10560 - 62nd Place West
Everett, WA 98204

Dear Ruth:

It was good to talk with you and Larne, as well as Sandi Baugher and Gary Smalley, in our extensive conference call. I think it was good for all of us to hear the presentations of the others personally.

As I mentioned to you in our conversation, this is my 22nd year on the faculty here at Western. Not only have I taught here at Western during all of those years, but I have spoken in churches and Bible conference situations almost weekly during those same years across the United States and in overseas ministries.

I have watched the development of the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts from its inception. From the very beginning, I have expressed in my classes grave concerns over the unbiblical nature of the concept of "chain of command" (similar concerns to those expressed by Dr. Sam Schultz to the Board of IBYC upon his resignation after 15 years of service). I have shared repeatedly with Bill Gothard that this concept is utterly foreign to the Scripture and exactly the opposite of that which is presented by Jesus Christ in a passage such as Matthew 20:20-28. The concept may fit the "Gentiles" and the military, but not Christ's Church. Early in the history of IBYC, I warned that the "chain of command" way of thinking would lead to disaster, which disaster was exposed in 1980.

The appalling thing, however, was that even after it was exposed in 1980, the pastors and Christian leadership in America did not seem to be concerned enough to investigate IBYC from the inside or even consult with the numerous staff members who had served for so many years to see what the real problem was. The Institute continues to accumulate vast sums of money and add to its list of supporting pastor alumni so that they now boast a list of 90,000 pastors as alumni of the Advanced Pastors' Seminar.

As I have talked extensively with many of the former staff and some of the present staff over the last several years, I have become increasingly concerned over the lack of any serious investigation of

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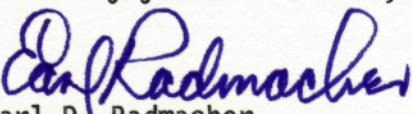
IBYC. Hebrews 13:17 lays a heavy responsibility on the pastoral leadership when it says, "They keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account." Little wonder that the Apostle Paul said to the Ephesian elders, "Therefore, be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears." His reason was, "I know that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them." What a solemn responsibility belongs to pastors and church leadership to protect the portion of the flock God has given them charge over.

The Scriptures lay down high standards for men in Christian leadership. First Timothy 3 and Titus 1 spell these out very specifically. Bill Gothard needs to be brought to accountability with respect to these standards and to the Church of Jesus Christ. But, if this is going to happen, Ruth, we need to have help from you and the other young ladies who served on the staff. I realize that it is difficult for you to repeatedly rehearse specifically some of the depressing details, but I believe that the suggestion that Sandi made is a very valid one -- namely, to make a composite report from a significant number of the girls and then circulate the report to each of them for their signature, affirming that the report is true to the facts as they experienced them or witnessed them.

Ruth, it may be that you would be interested in having a copy of the resolution passed unanimously by the 95 pastors present at the conference where I spoke about this concern. Thus, I am enclosing a copy. Frankly, I am even more concerned about the hermeneutical abuse of the Scriptures than I am the moral impropriety inasmuch as the former leads to the latter. However, the moral improprieties are more vivid, obvious, and graphic. In order to cause people to see the danger of wrong thinking, therefore, we need to confirm that which has become the lifestyle of the leadership and those within the structure of IBYC. I know that this is a painful process for you, and I would rather not have to ask you to do it. But I promise you that I am not doing it flippantly or without commitment to the cause of Christ's Word and His Church.

Looking forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Earl D. Radmacher

EDR:nlv

Enclosure: Pastors' Resolution