

A SINCERE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN
TO BRETHREN DALE STONE AND MALCOLM YOUNG,
ELDERS, SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

October 16, 2006

Beloved brethren Stone and Young:

We, the undersigned, know of your history of dedication to the Truth of God's Word, to personal integrity, and to righteous behavior in yourselves and in others. Most of us have observed this first-hand from our visits with you at Southside during one or more of your annual lectureships and/or on other occasions. While some of us have only been privileged to observe this dedication from afar, we are nonetheless convinced of it.

When the list of your speakers for the 2006 lectureship began circulation, we were shocked, amazed, perplexed, and disappointed. (To conclude that these reactions had anything to do with the fact that none of us was included is both unwarranted and false.) The list of speakers includes men whom your preacher (and the director of your lectureship) would not have even thought about inviting to fill the Southside pulpit only a year ago, and for good reasons. He did not associate with them, he hardly knew them, and he was even suspicious and critical of some of them. Now he has inexplicably decided to embrace them. We fear that you men may not be familiar with some of these men and have allowed them fill your pulpit without sufficient information concerning them. We realize that you had never heard of many of us, as well, until your preacher invited us to speak on your lectureship. There is an important distinction that must be stated relating to matters, however: Your preacher since July 2005 is not the same preacher you had until July 2005, although he still goes by the same name and lives in the same house. He has changed his convictions, and consequently his circle of fellowship and friendship significantly since that time. Consequently, the "kind" of men he chose for your lectureship this year is very different (in emphasis, direction, those with whom they cordially associate, etc.) from the "kind" of men who appeared on the Lubbock Lectures in all previous years. The inclusion of a large percentage of this year's roster signaled, if nothing else had done so, a remarkable and dramatic change of emphasis and direction in your preacher—and of the Southside Congregation, and it is not the right or a good direction and emphasis.

Let us be more specific:

1. Eleven of your speakers signed the Apologetics Press "Statement of Support," issued in June 2005, as part of the damage control resulting from the Bert Thompson scandal (see enclosure). In the wake of brother Thompson's removal as AP's Executive Director, brother Dave Miller was appointed "Interim Executive Director," a position he has occupied for more than a year. Brother Miller is a false teacher, concerning which teaching he has not repented. Brother Tommy Hicks is well aware of this fact, as indicated by his statement on July 26, 2005, in an e-mail message to brother Kent Bailey: "Specifically, regarding the false doctrines in which Dave Miller involved himself (i.e., elders "re-evaluation" doctrine and the marriage/divorce "intent" doctrine a la Everett Chambers), we stand with you and every other sound brother—in opposition to them." All of those who signed the AP "Statement of Support" have **implicitly** endorsed Dave Miller and his errors (although some of these opposed both him and his errors **before** the AP scandal). Moreover, some of those on your lectureship who opposed brother Miller's errors **before** they signed the AP "Statement of Support," have, **since** signing the statement, been **explicitly** endorsing and defending him, in spite of his errors. The eleven men on the Lubbock Lectures who signed the AP "Statement of Support" are: **Curtis Cates, Jim Dearman, Barry Gilreath, Barry Grider, Sean Hochdorf, Tom Holland, Joseph Meador, Jason Roberts, Paul Sain, Robert Taylor, and William Woodson.** If brother Hicks still stands opposed to Dave Miller and his errors, he has acted hypocritically in inviting eleven men who

- are on record as endorsing, upholding, and defending, to one degree or another, brother Miller and his errors. Do brother Miller's errors not matter any more to your preacher? Are brother Miller's errors no longer errors? If your preacher no longer opposes brother Miller or counts his errors worthy of opposing, it is incumbent upon him to make this known to the brotherhood.
2. Besides the eleven men named above, you invited brother **Brad Harrub** to speak on your lectureship. Brother Harrub is a prominent employee of Apologetics Press and is co-editor with brother Dave Miller of the periodical, *Reason & Revelation*, published by Apologetics Press. The same things stated in the previous paragraph relating to your preacher's opposition to Dave Miller and his errors applies in the case of Brad Harrub. Either your preacher no longer opposes brother Miller and his errors, or if he still claims to do so, he has acted inconsistently and hypocritically by inviting one of brother Miller's closest associates at AP to speak on your lectureship. Again we ask, do brother Miller's errors not matter any more? In addition, brother Harrub recently engaged in fellowship with several liberals, including brother **Truitt Adair**, Director of Sunset International Bible Institute (Lake Tahoe Family Encampment [7/22–28] and a Spiritual Growth Workshop, Fresno, CA [9/27–10/1]). If brother Harrub were consistent, he would have no problem speaking on the Sunset campus itself, without reproving Sunset for its numerous doctrinal errors of the past and/or present, if invited to do so. By having him on the Southside Lectures, your preacher is within an inch of extending fellowship to Sunset itself, an institution he has for many years rightly exposed and opposed because of its errors. Are there no longer any restrictions on fellowship in this new "unity-in-diversity" behavior?
 3. Brother **Mark Hanstein** is among your speakers. He is Academic Dean of Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver, Colorado (formerly, Bear Valley School of Preaching). Those of us who have known your preacher much longer than you men have known him, know that he would not have entertained the idea of inviting a representative of that school into your pulpit this time a year ago, and with good reason because of question marks that have surrounded it for several years. Furthermore, the Bear Valley Congregation (location of the school) engaged in its own elder reaffirmation/reconfirmation procedure about four years ago similar to the one brother Miller engineered at Brown Trail in 1990 and defended when Brown Trail repeated the procedure in 2002. We all wonder if your preacher still opposes this procedure as he stated he did as recently as July 2005.
 4. Brother **Freddie Clayton** was among your speakers. He is a defender of the para-church organization, "Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.," headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. In the 1999 Lubbock Lectures, your preacher gave to brother Marvin Weir the assignment of exposing the American Christian Missionary Society, founded in 1849, which institution eventually played a major part in the disastrous division of 1906. Brother Weir also dealt with present-day institutions **that are parallel to the missionary society** in structure, particularly citing the "Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.," as a case in point (*Looking Unto Jesus*, pp. 336–338). Your preacher apparently agreed with brother Weir's conclusions, because he printed and published this material in the lectureship book and commended the oral lecture that included this material. Does your preacher now believe the "Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.," which he once agreed was unauthorized, is now authorized? His invitation to brother Clayton implies as much.

The Apologetics Press scandal, resulting in the appointment of brother Dave Miller as its Executive Director in June 2005, led to the questioning of how brethren Curtis Cates and Joseph Meador, both TGJ Board members, could sign the AP "Statement of Support," thereby implicitly endorsing its Director, a false teacher. These questions were especially germane since *THE GOSPEL JOURNAL* had earlier published brother Marvin Weir's article (October 2002) exposing brother Miller's participation in the elder reaffirmation/reconfirmation program at Brown Trail, not only in 1990, but again in 2002—which article was applauded by various TGJ Board members and concerning which no Board member (including your preacher) expressed any reservations. The aforementioned questions led to the ouster of brethren Dub McClish and Dave Watson from the editorial staff of *THE GOSPEL JOURNAL*. Since those

two events (June and July, 2005, respectively), an astounding realignment of relationships has taken place that some have fairly characterized as a new “unity-in-diversity” movement on the part of some of those once considered sound and faithful men. The list of speakers on your lectureship this year is a prime example of this radical new approach to fellowship. Among your speakers are men who have been critical of each other for years (harshly so in many cases), if not out of fellowship with each other, but who apparently have rather suddenly decided they can “go along” in order to “get along.” Some of the men on your lectureship have rarely, if ever, been invited through the years to speak on lectureships considered to be sound and faithful (e.g., Annual Denton Lectures, MSOP Lectures, Bellview Lectures, Spring Lectures, Power Lectures, and **Lubbock Lectures**) and for good reason—because of the question marks concerning them and those with whom they have been willing to associate in an approving way. Some of them must have been surprised (and perhaps even a bit confused) to receive an invitation to speak at Lubbock. These facts demonstrate enormous inconsistency and hypocrisy, and all because of one principal aim—to justify supporting a human institution, Apologetics Press, even if it means supporting an impenitent false teacher. Men who have for many years applied plainly and correctly such pivotal passages on fellowship as Romans 16:17–18, Ephesians 5:11, and 2 John 9–11, have inexplicably forgotten their meaning.

We love and appreciate you men because you have been stalwart and strong in the faith. This lectureship’s roster was incompatible with those great virtues. Please do not consider our expressions of concern as any attempt to interfere in the autonomy of the Southside Congregation. Our appeal to you is just that—an appeal—for you to reconsider carefully the direction in which your preacher is now leading the great Southside Congregation, as evidenced by the men on this year’s lectureship. It is decidedly not the strong, uncompromising direction in which you have been going for many years. Your geographical area, like so many others, has few congregations that faithfully hold to the Old Paths. Those congregations are getting fewer each year. We know that you men at one time had full confidence (and we pray that you still do have) in those of us who have affixed our names below and that you will therefore soberly consider our plea that you look diligently into the issues we have raised. We earnestly pray that Southside will not—has not—become another casualty in the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. We beg you to carefully consider our earnest expression of genuine concern.

Kent Bailey	Danny Douglas	Lynn Parker
Jerry Brewer	Dennis (Skip) Francis	Roelf Ruffner
Darrell Broking	Gary Grizzell	Gary Summers
David Brown	Michael Hatcher	Don Tarbet
Frank Carriger	Terry Hightower	David B. Watson
Ken Chumbley	Lester Kamp	Marvin Weir
Darrell Conley	Dub McClish	Jess Whitlock
Harrell Davidson	Lee Moses	Paul Vaughn
Daniel Denham	Johnny Oxendine	

The 2006 Lubbock Lectures—Support of Dave Miller/AP Connection

The names highlighted below are of men who were invited to speak on the 2006 Lubbock Lectures, Oct. 8–12, 2006. These 11 do not count another speaker, brother **Brad Harrub**, not on the list below, but who is still a prominent part of the AP operation and is co-editor—with Dave Miller—of *Reason & Revelation*. Thus, 12 of 35 (over 1/3 of the Lubbock Lectures speakers) are “on record” as supporters, endorsers, defenders of AP and of Dave Miller and his doctrinal errors.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We, the undersigned, wish to announce that we have complete confidence that Apologetics Press is on a firm footing that will insure its continued work of excellence. We commend AP to the brotherhood and recommend that it continue to be the recipient of financial and moral support.

Jody Apple	Tom Holland	Basil Overton
V.P. Black	Dale Hubbert	Kevin Patterson
Maxie Boren	Wayne Jackson	Max Patterson
Ted Burleson	Dan Jenkins	Denny Petrillo
Curtis Cates	Jeff Jenkins	David Pharr
Frank Chesser	Jerry Jenkins	Neal Pollard
Winford Clairborne	Edwin Jones	Jason Roberts
Bill Clary	John Kachelman, Jr.	David Sain
Glenn Colley	Andy Kizer	Paul Sain
Marlin Connelly	Drew Kizer	Phil Sanders
Jim Dearman	Scott Lambert	Billy Smith
Earl Edwards	Roy Lanier, Jr.	Lonnie Smith
Raymond Elliott	Mac Lyon	Robert Taylor
Barry Gilreath	Cliff Lyons	James Watkins
Barry Grider	Gary McDade	Allen Webster
Dennis Gullede	Don McWhorter	Chuck Webster
Ronnie Hayes	Joseph Meador	Dan Winkler
David Hester	James Meadows	Wendell Winkler
Alan Highers	Tom Miller	William Woodson
Sean Hochdorf	Hardeman Nichols	Gary Workman