

May 21, 2013

Dear Elder Ryan,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me once more.

In spite of the weakness of human agents, God is blessing Gospel Ministries International with many souls which are being brought into the church every year. Church members are not leaving the church, but strengthened to work and support the mission. Yet, it has been painful to us that the results of our work in benefit of the church does not appear to be part of your evaluation process.

I would appeal to you to prayerfully consider the following:

1. Biblically the tree has to be judged by its fruit (Mathew 7:17–20; 12:33; Luke 6:43–45). I am respectfully requesting that a re-evaluation be made of my ministry which will include the impact on church growth, revival and reformation, otherwise our brethren around the world will not understand your position.
2. The Apostle Paul went where the Spirit led him. So did our early Adventist pioneers. The closing work will also be done in the same way. I do my work as a work of conscience and calling. It is as a fire burning in my bones. Yet I know there is ample room for improvement.
3. As a denominational worker, I have been hijacked, imprisoned, assaulted by gangs and badly beaten. So far I've never turned back from the work assigned to me. Pressure and difficulties do not easily affect my behavior when I'm under conviction that God's Spirit has called me to do a work. Offering me the chance to join together in evangelism would thrill me.
4. It is my and our board's conviction, that the statement I issued clearly reflects my love and loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist church and its mission. It is in harmony with the principles laid down for God's workers in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy
5. Policy K 05 deals with supporting ministries. In part 4 it states that they "...shall clearly and explicitly state...that they support the spiritual mission of the Church but are independent supporting ministries ***not controlled by or legally affiliated with the Church.***" In part 6 it states that they "...shall consult with, and ***secure approval from, the division administration concerned regarding the nature, extent and duration of services rendered*** within that division." There seems to be a clear

conflict between these two parts which require legal attention before any arbitrary interpretation is made.

6. In my written statement I have agreed to work in harmony with Policy K05. Because of the contradiction between parts 4 and 6, it seems inappropriate to single out either. Both must be balanced to the best of our abilities.

7. I have explained to Elder Ng in my response to him on March 4, 2013 that “the many ministries I visit and encourage...are all administered by persons local to their divisions. They are not run as extensions of GMI working overseas. ...Thus Policy K 05 05 6 is not being violated.” May I ask why you have ignored my explanation?

8. As a church member in good standing and a regular member of ASI and OCI I would hope to be treated like one of them. As to my knowledge none of them observe nor are required to comply with K 05 05 6 while traveling the entire globe. May I ask why I’ve been singled out to be treated differently?

Dear Elder Ryan, I appeal to you to please consider the possibility of developing a joint working program which would allow us to follow our conscience of working freely and follow where Jesus is leading, and at the same time do it in line with a joint strategy of evangelism. We will use every resource we have, and will receive, to work in harmony with this joint strategy. I will be praying with all my heart for such a possibility.

Please know that regardless of what decision is made by the administration, I will continue supporting our church and its mission.

May God give you wisdom and clear vision as you and the admin team consider your next step.

Your brother and coworker in Christ,

David Gates