

Jim Holt and Ray Hoffman letters of apology

Jun 19

From: NC/VA/MD/DE <email redacted>

Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2023 8:00:30 PM

To: NC/VA/MD/DE <email redacted>

Subject: Letters from Jim and Ray

Dear Friends,

I will share the attached letter from Ray which I wholeheartedly agree with. We are very sorry for the pain, sorrow and misunderstanding that victims of Child Sexual Abuse have faced, and we want to do what we can to help them. As Ray mentions they are planning to have some open dialogue with friends in different areas, and we will try to do the same. We are still working on some of the details about where and when we will have them.

Your brother, Jim

Dear Friends,

It seems best to me to just speak from my heart in this letter.

We all have been distressed by the recent disclosures of criminal and immoral offenses by our fellow workers and also friends. I acknowledge that our ignorance and lack of education and awareness on CSA has allowed perpetrators to continue to victimize innocent children among us. And we condemn this. Victims have suffered more because of our lacks and I deeply apologize for this. I am deeply sorry for the betrayal of trust that has caused many to doubt the integrity of the ministry and those in positions of responsibility.

More recently we have become much more aware of the various aspects of CSA, the lifelong damage to the victims, the ways of the perpetrator etc., and we are so thankful for those who are helping us to become more educated.

The CSA victims are 100% innocent in every case. They have been made to feel guilty and ashamed, when actually the opposite is true. We have failed to meet the victim's great

need for understanding, compassion, and care. I have a deep respect for the victims among us. They have fought and are fighting a lifelong battle, and in many cases, without the understanding of workers, friends and sometimes even family members. They have been deprived of enjoying the fellowship among us, and even their fellowship with God could be affected. Through this many have endured the suffering and continue plodding on. We so much admire them.

Going forward we want to be open to have dialogue with our friends who would like to talk about this troubling issue amongst us. So we will make a plan for each field for workers to visit to have some open dialogue, likely bringing two or three meetings together for this opportunity. We hope to have brother and sister workers present, and a moderator or facilitator to guide the discussion, coming from one of the friends in the area that is respected for their wisdom. Attendance would be on a volunteer basis. More details will be forthcoming as far as when.

We are a forward moving people, keeping our eternal goal in mind. The Master is purging His family and we know He wants us to care for the victims. We want to be willing for this purging and remain on the Vine so the fruit of His efforts could come forth to make us more ready for our Bridegroom's return. We want to be part of the solution not part of the problem, as we have been in the past.

Your brother,

Ray