

Meetings A Culture of Rape

****Permission to share is granted, because the coverups need to stop! Sunlight sterilizes all things!****

To the very few decent workers still out there,

(This letter was originally intended for one kind worker who seemed to hear our cries but had no voice. I decided instead to write it to all such workers, few as they may be. This letter was written the day after we had a visit with workers in our area and those on the traveling 'visit' tour. Written on July 18th, 2023.)

You're not likely going like this letter... it is a thank you, though that will be hard to find.... It is a call to action, but the brow beating might deter your participation... but we need you. This is a disjointed, passionate letter but here's the main theme: We need someone... and it can't be those who are in power now.

Last night was a chance for us to ensure that our children would be safe from abuse (all types) if they were to attend this church's services again. Emphasis on 'if'. Kelvin Naef treated me so poorly that I think he, individually, drove the last nail into the coffin of my time with this church. After taking part for 30 years, I was at the threshold of the door looking out and he shoved me! Two hands to my back, and with all of his strength, he shoved me away from this church.

As a result of y'all's visit, and Kelvin Naef's treatment we will not be attending. For me, likely forever. For my family, likely forever if there is not substantial change in policy, doctrine, and leadership.

Last night, yalls visit was tainted by an email Kelvin Naef sent hours before. An email that lacked any humility, apology, or recognition of the pain he has caused. He doesn't care and apparently you and your coworkers are ignorant of his incredibly harmful actions. I do not blame you for being unaware. He seems adept at manipulation and, what I would deem, setting up plausible deniability. He is not a Shepard, Kelvin Naef is The Wolf!

Last night, in the home of one of your church's repeated rape victims, your coworkers did not listen. Every request, every concern, every suggestion, every one... was immediately refuted or delegitimized. Every solution was deemed to be 'not spirit led.' When people are truly concerned and are eager for change for the better... they listen. Your coworkers did not! They argued, blamed victims, blamed bad parenting, labeled other Christians as likely following false Christs, and further legitimized the exclusivity doctrine (something you all denied hearing but I've yet to meet a member who hasn't been taught that). They did not listen.

A code of conduct was out of the question per Carl Nelson. It would not/could not be 'spirit led.' This is absurd! Requiring church leaders (deacons and bishops and their wives) to take the Ministry Safe course was not/will not be mandated. This is disturbing! A policy (somehow spirit led when a written code of conduct isn't... 🤖) is apparently being produced but no one can tell us who is authoring the policy or when we can expect it. Carl Nelson refused to share that info. He said 'No!' This is scary! No one is ensuring that the members or leaders are learning, acknowledging, and understanding the terrifying impact of abuse and how to prevent or handle such issues. This is concerning! We asked if y'all would require acknowledgment sign offs and Carl Nelson said 'No!' Your visits aren't mandatory, so there's a very good chance that many elders aren't receiving a thorough education on this topic. We asked if an objective third party could be included to audit the church to ensure safety. This was rejected outright!

Other than attending visits on request, your leadership team has done nothing. Your leadership team plans to do nothing!

When I asked, "If a person (and remember, I was repeatedly raped and abused by members of this church) can no longer stomach being in this church, where should they go?" Yalls response? Silence with some shoulder shrugs.... This wasn't a rhetorical question! So much for Shepards... If a sheep needs leave the fold, there is no attempt to help them find safety! (Hint: it's because our church teaches that only our church is sufficient! Exclusivity!)

Again, your team is doing nothing! Not really...

More kids will be raped. More people will be abused spiritually, sexually, and emotionally. It will be on y'all's hands! This will not change without change.

Suicide... is a frequent thought for abused individuals. That is the outcome your team is satisfied with. A life burdened with shame, guilt, doubt, self hate, want me to add to the list? I feel it all! We feel it all! This needs to be addressed! Now!

I'm writing this to you. Only you (among those present). Because despite the anger in my tone (and it should be read as anger), you seemed to listen. We noticed. You made us feel heard. When Carl Nelson argued and Janet Wilson laughed (yes, Janet Wilson laughed at me twice in this meeting!), you seemed to listen. You were seen. You are appreciated. Thank you!

I firmly believe that, like I do not have a voice as made evident by Carl Nelson and Kelvin Naef, you likely don't have much of a voice. Serving under Janet Wilson must be a heavy burden to carry.... She is disconnected and lost. And having to yield to Carl Nelson and Kelvin Naef must be a test of your patience but, and for no good reason.... men lead this church. And they suck at it! We need you!

We need you to step up! We need you to speak up! We need you to advocate! We need you to champion this change!

They will not. They said they would not. They refused! They laughed! My rape, my pain... it was met with laughter. Mention of Kelvin Naef's hate was met with silence. Carl Nelson's refusals were met with obedience and complicity on y'all's part. They will maintain the status quo and the church's culture of rape will continue to thrive!

It's time! Please step up! Read the stories. I'll send you as many as you want, there are hundreds or thousands. Or you can join us on Facebook. They are terrifying! They are sick! They cannot be ignored!

If you will not force the change, no one will! They won't listen to us!

Please help if you love your Sheep! Your coworkers... do not...

Sincerely Spirit Led,

AH

Ripon, WI · Posted Wed, July 19