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Taking a Stand

This past Sunday as I waited for the few to arrive at our little Sunday morning meeting there were two empty chairs where my mom and dad usually sit (we DON'T actually have a strict seating plan). This was the first Sunday where they would be driving across town to another Sunday morning meeting in which the elder and his wife recently took a stand that they could not support a ministry that as of yet has not fully acknowledged the seriousness of the crisis nor acknowledged the systemic issues in the structure of the church and ministry that foster these things. My mom and dad are 85 years old and have been professing for 60 years. We miss them in our little meeting. But we support their courage to do the little they can do in taking a stand and we support others who are doing the same. We continue to have our meeting in our home, and will continue to do what we can in our place. Many are being used in different ways through all this. Some have been called to battle, some haven't. Some have responded to the call, some haven't. It's always been that way. Many are scoffing at the ones taking a stand, just as Eliab and Saul initially scoffed at David for his willingness to take on Goliath. I suspect they thanked him later.

Below is the letter that mom and dad sent out to inform of their decision. I have their permission to post it here, hopefully to encourage others who are taking stands, and to shine a light on the elephant in the room of the depth and root of the crisis.

Dear family and friends,

Following is an attempt at an explanation of some of our thoughts and feelings, and of the change we're making to join with John and Darlene Pelton in their Sunday morning meeting. We have loved our little meeting at Shelly and Tim's, but we feel moved to stand in solidarity with our good friends the Peltons who have taken a

stand for truth. This is what belongs to our peace.

Above all we want to assure you of our deep love of God, and our belief and trust in Jesus as our hope and refuge. We believe He is the way and the truth and the life.

Our hearts were saddened as we learned of the horrendous crimes of abuse by some in the ministry. We understand that many good and honest workers remain, but a little leaven leavens the whole lump and we're unable to trust the ones that have contributed to lies and coverups, or trust the ones that are unwilling to speak out strongly against these things. There has been little compassion shown for victims and survivors and the typical reaction of doubt or unbelief towards courageous survivors breaks our hearts. We've been encouraged by the recent show of care and compassion by our two sister workers in the city and we hope they continue to find courage.

We have supported the ministry in the past, but as the authoritative hierarchy has grown, the transparency has reduced, and the questionable and secretive management of finances has increased, we can't in good conscience say we support the ministry any longer. The refusal to work transparently and cooperatively with the laws of the land in establishing a registered organization for tax purposes, is simply dishonest and in many cases illegal.

We can no longer support doctrine that is not scriptural, whether it's preached outright or not, it's there. Silly rules about dress, what we should or shouldn't have in our homes, meeting format, treatment of divorced/remarriage with the disparities between "east" and the "west", and much more.

We do not believe there is only one true Christian church, or that our salvation needs to be sanctioned by man.

We've been greatly disheartened to learn of how sister workers have been treated, and are still treated, and the general patriarchy in the church.

We understand that not everyone will agree with our stance, or with some of our opinions, but because of our common love for Jesus we trust we can continue to love

and respect each other and that we can feel free to talk about the issues at hand and acknowledge the crisis in our midst.

We are so thankful for God's gift of salvation in and through His son Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. May the God of all peace who is rich in mercy help us all to finish with honour the race we've begun. He is our peace, and we can trust Him.

Sincerely,

Don and Connie Borys

Winnipeg, Canada-Posted Today, September 25



Tim Borys