

Mr. Orchard,

You asked for a letter of resignation Monday evening December 30th and I have put much thought into this decision. It was not really a decision of whether or not, but one of how.

I'll start with a recap of what brought me to this point.

You had been calling people to see if anyone had received a letter from the Roybals. I hadn't, and I had heard nothing about it so I dropped it without inquiring further

The announcement of the disfellowship of Steve Andrews raised a lot of questions.

I couldn't give any answers at that time since I had received no prior information. When I asked you about it you gave no answers other than to say that he was in rebellion against authority and I would not get any truthful answers from someone that had been disfellowshipped. No comment or information came from Pasadena either. In another conversation about it you said that he had tried to "take over the church". Knowing Steve as long as I have, I could understand someone might mistake his approach to things because he can be very direct and forceful, but trying to take over the church or to be outright dishonest, no, he is not that way.

Next was the situation with Peter Nathan. I knew a little of what was going on with this since it began during the last ministerial conference but could not fathom why that would lead to his resignation but still, there was no information from you or Pasadena. Since it became very obvious answers were not going to be forthcoming I had to start digging on my own to find out the details. I asked you about the question of Britain and Ephraim and the book on that subject and you shut that down saying that Mr. Hulme had not done anything about it so it was not going to be discussed. You were not going to be any help in getting information, details, or explanations about any of this.

As the list of Pastors and Elders being disfellowshipped grew, more questions were coming to me wanting to know what was going on. Still no information or answers were given for the questions being raised. As you should be well aware, this causes concern and is disturbing to the peace of God's people.

John 15:15. I see this as being very important.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

If Jesus Himself saw it important to let the disciples know and have information, why is it that we again see the church, or those in authority, taking it on themselves to hide things, to mislead the members, and even go as far as telling half truths? If it isn't the truth what is it!

Again, I see that the subject of authority and government, or more precisely governance, has come up again in this organization just as it did with former ones. I understand authority. My father was an officer in the military during WWII. He raised me to understand the importance of authority and the obedience to it. Something he taught me along with that, is even though authority is to be followed, one should not follow it blindly but be in obedience with open eyes. Know what is going on and ask questions if needed. I think it's time many questions were asked and answered but when someone stands up and does that, it appears they get kicked out of the church.

I was never taught to stick my head in the sand and be willingly ignorant of anything that doesn't fit the mold. I still can't do that to this day.

You have expressed that Mr. Hulme was chosen by God and your view seems to be that he is to be followed without question because of his position. Mr. Orchard, if that is the case, we should all still be members of what is now called Grace Communion International!

Now to address my "unwise actions", as you put it, of last Sabbath which led you to ask for my resignation.

I know that there are members that have been watching me and reporting back to you of everything I say and do. I have not tried to hide anything. Last Sabbath I made it a point to talk to Mrs. Edison. She had been ill the Sabbath before and I had not been able to see her for two weeks. She made the statement to me that she didn't know what she would do if (name omitted) were to be kicked out or leave the church. Then she said "I'd just die if that happened!" I told her that she didn't need to worry about it. He wouldn't just leave us. I then told her that "I think something will happen to clear all this up and things will turn around soon, maybe even this week". According to you that was an "unwise" thing for me to do. Really?

When services started I joined in the song service, listened to the announcement in which Jack Campbell added a short sermonette to the end inferring that those that have been put out are divisive and God hates their actions. After the announcements they introduced the special music and just after the music started I got up from my seat at the back where I normally sit and was leaving when a member stopped me and asked if I was leaving. I told that person that I had already listened to Mr. Keefer's sermon very closely and it didn't address the issue at hand because it was taken out of context. This person's reply was something to the affect of "yes, I have listened to it 4 times". The same person that overheard my conversation with Mrs. Edison was also closely listening to this one.

You asked me if this was a wise thing for an Elder in good standing to doing. My answer was "yes, if that Elder is actually concerned about the members".

These people, God's chosen ones, have been misled and kept in the dark about important issues that can and will affect them spiritually. Some of them have taken your mindset and are backing anything that comes from Mr. Hulme or Pasadena without question. Some have become upset and are sticking their heads in the sand to avoid the turmoil. Then there are those that are realizing that something is wrong and they are still waiting for answers.

With that said, and in accordance to your request for a resignation letter or being publicly denounced (disfellowshipped?), this is my resignation from the "Church of God, aIC. Feel free to have it announced in services if you wish.

Sincerely,

Bill Hendricks