

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

*The letter to the right of this column is the first of several printed in the October CFTF. (See the Editorial for more about said letters.) They reveal the continued efforts of certain brethren to justify fellowshiping an unrepentant brother and his supporters as they go about persecuting faithful brethren for refusing to fellowship these unrepentant brethren.*

*We commend the Galimuyod Church of Christ and the brethren who stand with them in the Philippines as they contend for the Truth of the Gospel regarding Christian fellowship.*

—Editor

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Galimuyod Church of Christ

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June 26, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to inform you that we, the members of the Galimuyod church of Christ, have withdrawn our fellowship from the Capitol City church of Christ/Metro Manila School of Preaching (CCCC/MMSOP) with address at 31 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City, Philippines because of their association (they are in fellowship) with those who are fellowshiping a marked false teacher, Dave Miller, which is a clear violation of the Biblical principle on fellowship (2 John 9-11). We want to emphasize that our withdrawal of fellowship was neither because we are “seeking bigger funds or support” as our preachers, brothers Samuel A. Bagsangi and Reynaldo A. Guerrero have been accused of, nor we blindly follow the dictates of American brethren who have “divisive teachings.” We have come to this decision after studying the documented materials about brother Dave Miller and his doctrine, provided to us by faithful brethren upon our request. (We are pleased to share or provide those who desire with sincere heart and motive, a copy of this material, in CD. This is on a first come, first serve basis due to limited copies we have). Since fellowshiping false teacher is sin and fellowshiping those who fellowship false teacher is sin and Dave Miller is a marked false teacher, and CCCC/MMSOP is fellowshiping those who fellowship Dave Miller, a marked false teacher, therefore, CCCC/MMSOP is in sin as those whom they fellowship. Thus, restoration of fellowship between Galimuyod church of Christ and the CCCC/MMSOP can only be done if CCCC/MMSOP acknowledges and repents of their sin and stop fellowshiping those who fellowship marked false teacher, Dave Miller. We also want to accentuate that we love the CCCC and her work MMSOP. We pray for them to bring to an end their having fellowship with those who fellowship a marked false teacher and repent and return to sound Biblical fellowship. Some (if not all) may ask, “Who are those fellowship Dave Miller?” We will let the documents speak and answer you. (contact us now for a copy or if you reside outside the Philippines, you may contact: *Contending For The Faith*, P.O. Box 2357, Spring, TX 77383-2357 or email at: [cftfdpb@gmail.com](mailto:cftfdpb@gmail.com)).

This also serves as light to the brethren who are sincere, honest and having good motive in asking why Galimuyod church of Christ no longer in fellowship with CCCC/MMSOP that they may know our stand and where we stand.

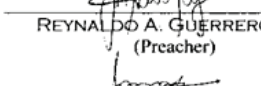
Brotherly,  
THE MEN OF GALIMUYOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

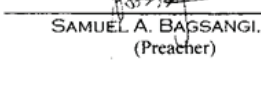
  
SAMUEL B. BAGSANGI, JR.

  
GABRIEL T. BAYAN

  
GILBERT GAMBON

  
DIONISIO ASTRERO

  
REYNALDO A. GUERRERO, JR.  
(Preacher)

  
SAMUEL A. BAGSANGI, SR.  
(Preacher)

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

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**Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder**  
August 3, 1917-October 10, 2001

## Editorial...

### A WORD TO THE READER

The letters printed in this issue of *CFTF* speak for themselves. Some of them were originally written in the Philippine brethren's native language and then they translated them into English.

We only changed the appearance of the letters in order to fit them to the pages of the paper. We made no changes in the punctuation, grammar, spelling, syntax, idioms, etc. of the English of the letters. Neither has the content of the letters been altered at all. We think that the letters are very readable for those interested enough to take the time to read them.

We have known brother Gideon Rodriguez, the preacher for the Capitol City Church of Christ (CCCC) and director of the Metro Manila School of Preaching (MMSOP) for many years. Gideon graduated from the Memphis School of Preaching (MSOP) many years ago. In academics he is very scholarly and has been a diligent worker. His financial support for the most part comes from the U.S. and he is exceedingly close to the MSOP. He was a student in MSOP with Barry Grider, the preacher for the Forest Hill (FH) congregation. Brother Rodriguez is tied closely to MSOP and his U.S. financial support.

Brother Samuel A. Bagsangi is a faithful Gospel preacher, a graduate of MMSOP, and has taught in the school. As is made clear in the letters herein printed, brethren Bagsangi and Rodriguez, along with other Philippine brethren, were given the proof of brother Miller's errors of which he (Miller) has not repented.

Brethren Bagsangi, Reynaldo Guerrero, and other faithful brethren chose to study the Miller matter closely. They made their decisions based on what the Bible teaches and the facts in evidence (Col. 3:17; 1 The. 5:21; John 12:48). They reached their conclusions without regard to loss of funds and friends. But, by taking the stand for the Truth, which stand put them in direct opposition to other brethren in the Philippines, Gideon being one of them, they have certainly lost monetary support. Nevertheless, they continue to stand for the Truth of the Gospel on the matters discussed in said letters (1 Cor. 15:58; Jude 3).

Gideon had the same opportunity to study these matters as did Samuel and Reynaldo, et al., but he chose to ignore the facts regarding Miller, et al., as well as the Truth bearing on said case. Further, Gideon chose to keep the Philippine brethren associated with him ignorant of the "Miller Mess." Thus far Gideon is walking hand in hand with MSOP, et al., through the wide gate and down the broad way—the blind leading the blind to destruction. We were persuaded better things of Gideon than this, but he has disappointed us as have certain American preachers and brethren.

We continue to plead with Gideon, the CCCC, and other brethren in and out of the Philippines to repent and stand with the faithful regarding the Biblical doctrine of Christian fellowship and opposition to all fatal false doctrine. The Bible has the solution to these and all other spiritual problems, if men will but only abide by them.

—David P. Brown, Editor

# CAPITOL CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

HOME OF THE METRO MANILA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

37 Tomas Morato Ave., near corner E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

August 7, 2011

To concerned brethren:

This is in response to the letter sent out by the Galimuyod Church of Christ (GCC), dated June 26, 2011, announcing their withdrawal of fellowship from the Capitol City Church of Christ (CCCC) and the Metro Manila School of Preaching (MMSOP). The letter asserts that the action taken against the CCCC/MMSOP is *“because of their association (they are in fellowship) with those who are fellowshiping a marked false teacher—Dave Miller which is a clear violation of the Biblical principle on fellowship (2 John 9-11).”* Based on the assertions contained in the letter itself, we declare that Galimuyod Church of Christ is guilty of committing an action that is **unscriptural, unchristian, unjust and hypocritical.**

The action taken by the Galimuyod Church of Christ is **unscriptural** because they have totally ignored clear scriptural guidelines and principles pertaining to withdrawal of fellowship. The Scriptures provide that prior to any punitive action, such as withdrawal of fellowship, ample warning and admonition must be given to the erring one. This is clearly set forth in Matt. 18:15-17, II Thess. 3:6, 12, 14, 15; Titus 3:10. **Let it be known by all concerned that none of the Galimuyod members ever gave any prior admonition or warning to any of the members of the Capitol City congregation.** The members of GCC themselves admit that *“We have come to this decision after studying the documented materials about brother Dave Miller and his doctrine, provided to us by faithful brethren upon request.”* Notice that GCC members are not saying, *“We have come to this decision after giving admonition and warning to the Capitol City brethren, but they have refused to listen to us.”* This should have been the scriptural thing to do, but GCC did not and obviously would not follow scriptural procedure. Notice also that based on their own statement, the GCC has decided to withdraw fellowship from the CCCC based on the *“documented materials”* from USA, in other words, they have pronounced us guilty of sin based on what is happening in USA and not on what is happening here. Where in the Bible does it say a congregation may be withdrawn from fellowship based on what people thousand miles away are doing? What Scripture teaches that a congregation may be withdrawn from fellowship based on evidence of which said congregation has never been informed?

The action taken by the Galimuyod Church of Christ is **unchristian** because a true Christian simply would not do such a dastardly act. A true Christian would follow the example of Christ. The example of Christ shows that He would not withdraw fellowship from any of His blood-bought congregations without prior admonition and warning. This we see in Revelation chapters 2 & 3. Five of the seven churches whom Christ had found sinning or lacking in fidelity, received words of warning before they would receive any form of punitive discipline (e.g., Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:2, 3). Jesus even gave Jezebel *“space (or ample time) to repent of her fornication”* prior to her being cast into her punishment (Rev. 2:21-23). The men of GCC have arrogated upon themselves authority that is higher than that of Christ, the head of the church! Even Christ would not do what GCC has done.

That the GCC’s action is **unjust** is already established in its being unscriptural and unchristian, because God’s Word would prescribe only that which is just and a Christian would only do that which is fair to his fellowmen (Phil. 4:8). But their being unjust is even magnified by their claim that their action against CCCC is based on what they found out from some *“documented materials.”* If fairness is in their vocabulary, why have they not furnished CCCC those *“documented materials”* to this very day? **They accuse us of sinning and are asking us to repent based on “documented materials” which they have never shown us.** They even say, *“We are pleased to share or provide those who desire with sincere heart and motive a copy of this material in CD.”* How come—they are pleased to share it with others, but they would not share it with us first whom they accused as guilty of the sin dealt with in the CD? Or they have already judged us of not having a *“sincere heart and motive,”* hence, undeserving of a copy of this material? If so, what is the basis of such judgment?

In a special men’s meeting on July 17, 2011 to discuss the Galimuyod letter, the men of Capitol City church were asked about Dave Miller. Of the 14 present, 11 replied that they have not even heard of Dave Miller. The rest said they know of him via some brotherhood journals. If Galimuyod men believe in fairness, they should have asked us first about Dave Miller and what is our knowledge of him. And if having some knowledge about Dave Miller is already a sin, Galimuyod should have withdrawn fellowship from only 2 or 3 individuals and not the whole congregation. Again, Galimuyod church does not follow the example of Christ who would take punitive action only against the guilty within the congregation and not the entire congregation. Galimuyod members fail to abide by the words of Christ in Rev. 2:24; 3:4.

If Galimuyod church believes in fairness, they should have also announced their withdrawal of fellowship from other congregations who are in fellowship with CCCC/MMSOP. Why withdraw fellowship only from CCCC? Why don’t they withdraw also from all congregations who have fellowship with CCCC? **We challenge them to do exactly this, because until they do this, they themselves are guilty of the sin of which they accuse us.** And to be consistent with their practice, Galimuyod church should withdraw fellowship from the other congregations, and that without giving them any prior notice as they (GCC) did to us.

The Galimuyod congregation claims, *"We also want to accentuate that we love CCCC and her work MMSOP."* This statement is nothing but **hypocritical**. This is hardly loving "in deed and in truth" (I John 3:18), because genuine love causes one to be patient and longsuffering (I Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:2). Galimuyod church did not have any patience nor was longsuffering to their brethren, if they had these, they could have easily called our attention to the sin they are accusing us of doing. They could have asked us for a dialogue about the "documented materials" they have been provided by those whom they call "faithful brethren." With patience and longsuffering (elements of love), they should have exhausted all the means within their power and within the bounds of the Scriptures to enlighten us about the cause for which they say they stand.

One of their preachers, bro. **Samuel Bagsangi, Sr.**, had all the opportunity to approach any of the MMSOP faculty members or any of the men of the Capitol City congregation within the two years he was in the school. The school director, bro. Gideon Rodriguez and other teachers, bros. Roger Agustin and Clay Balsa have treated him as a brother and a friend. He could have talked with any of them, any time about the Dave Miller issue. **Instead bro. Bagsangi took the path of treachery and dishonesty**, in fact, **he lied to the director and to the student body when he asked for a leave of absence in October 2010**. He stated as the reason for his leave was that his children were getting sick and that he needed to attend to them personally. We at the Capitol City church sympathized with him and prayed for him and his family in all of our services. Yet, it was found out sometime in the first week of December 2010, by a brother who was browsing the internet that during the dates bro. Bagsangi was not teaching in MMSOP, he was actually busy traveling with a visiting American preacher and also hosting a 4-day lectureship (Oct. 14-17, 2010) in Galimuyod which featured the said American, **Danny Douglas**. (See article Work in the Phillipines by Danny Douglas, Defender magazine, Vol. XXXIX, No. 11, November 2010, <http://www.bellviewcoc.com>). Take note also that in the same article, Danny Douglas is raising funds for Bagsangi, *et al.*

In their letter, Galimuyod men state, *"We want to emphasize that our withdrawal of fellowship was neither because we are 'seeking bigger funds or support' as our preachers, brothers Samuel A. Bagsangi and Reynoldo A. Guerrero have been accused of..."* Bro. Bagsangi's dishonesty about his real reason for his leave of absence and the accompanying fund raising effort by Danny Douglas for him and for Rey Guerrero blatantly belie their above-mentioned statement. Thus, we declare without any fear of contradiction that their action against us is indeed because they are *"seeking bigger funds or support,"* an expression that came from their very own letter. By the way, let it be known by all that during the time that Bagsangi has already been working with and in fellowship closely with Danny Douglas (who denounces Dave Miller to high heaven), he was still receiving support from MMSOP. He received his support in October 2010 because the MMSOP director wired him money believing that his children were sick. He continued to receive financial support from MMSOP until December 2010. This two-timing, moon-lighting activity of bro. Bagsangi clearly demonstrates his dishonesty and lack of integrity.

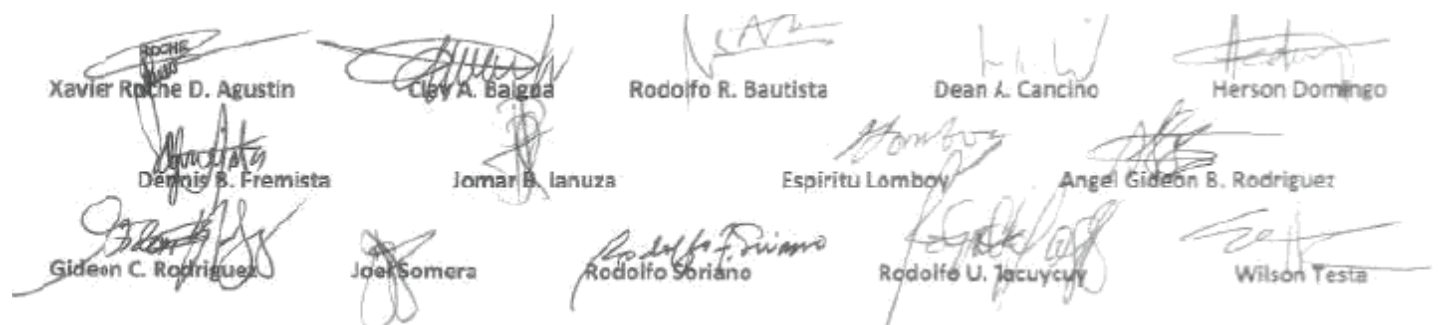
Galimuyod church members say they love CCCC and MMSOP. Then why did they not invite even one member of the CCCC or a faculty member of MMSOP to attend their lectureship in October 2010 in which the issue on Dave Miller was discussed (as we were later informed)? If that lectureship was really a forum for the truth, why would Bagsangi exclude CCCC and MMSOP to which at the time of the lectureship he was still connected and from whom he was still receiving support? Should he not be concerned for the congregation and the school that were so genuinely concerned about him? Such behavior is nothing but dishonesty in partnership with ingratitude. This ingratitude is also displayed by bro. **Reynaldo Guerrero**. He was supported by the Capitol City church since he graduated from MMSOP in 2004 to 2010. Grateful heart, if he had it, should have compelled him to admonish even one of us of the issue that could (and that already did) negatively affect our fellowship. Indeed, "perilous times" come with perilous people such as the "unthankful" (II Tim. 3:1, 2).

Having proven that the action taken by the Galimuyod church against the Capitol City church of Christ is **unscriptural**, **unchristian**, and **unjust** and is characterized by **hypocrisy**, **dishonesty**, and **ingratitude**, we earnestly call upon all truth-loving and faithful brethren not to honor the said action. The attitude displayed by the Galimuyod church would only sow discord among brethren. This attitude, of course, is an abomination unto the Lord (Prov. 6:16-19). It is the Galimuyod church that needs repentance before God. With the Lord, we stand ready to forgive them if they will repent and yield "fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:8).

Your brethren in Christ,

**CAPITOL CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Represented by the men and heads of families:



Xavier Roche D. Agustin  
Clay A. Balsa  
Rodolfo R. Bautista  
Dean A. Cancino  
Herson Domingo  
Dennis B. Fremista  
Jomar B. Januza  
Espiritu Lombay  
Angel Gideon B. Rodriguez  
Gideon C. Rodriguez  
Joel Somera  
Rodolfo Soriano  
Rodolfo U. Tacuycu  
Wilson Testa

# SAMUEL A. BAGSANGI'S REPLY TO CCCC'S "RESPONSE TO THE LETTER SENT OUT BY THE GALIMUYOD CHURCH OF CHRIST"

THE CAPITOL CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Represented by the men and heads of families)

37 Tomas Morato Ave., near corner E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City  
Metro Manila, Philippines

Brethren,

This is in response to your letter dated August 7, 2011 which you described as "*response to the letter sent out by the Galimuyod Church of Christ (GCC), dated June 26, 2011.*" We are saddened because you have totally and willfully ignored the real issue and cause of our withdrawal of fellowship from you. Instead you made different appeals to cloud your sinful practice, that is, fellowshipping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher, Dave Miller. You are correct in quoting that our withdrawal of fellowship from Capitol city Church of Christ/Metro Manila School of Preaching (CCCC/MMSOP) is because of your association (you are in fellowship) with those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher, Dave Miller. Our question for you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) is this, Are you denying the fact that you are fellowshipping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher, Dave Miller? Your final statement in the first paragraph of your letter is far from your preceding quotation.

Your second and third paragraphs are nothing but an **Appeal for Admonition** from us in order that our withdrawal of fellowship from you would be Scriptural. Restating the two paragraphs would say, "*Admonish us first of our sin, being in fellowship with those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher, Dave Miller, before you withdraw fellowship from us.*" Your repeated appeal for admonition proves your ignorance of the sin you are continuously committing, that is, fellowshipping those who fellowship a marked false teacher. Well, maybe most of you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) are truly ignorant of your sin but is brother Gideon Rodriguez also ignorant of it? Is he also ignorant of Dave Miller being marked as false teacher? Is he also ignorant that he and the CCCC whom he works with are fellowshipping those who fellowship a marked false teacher, Dave Miller? If so, brother Danny Douglas is correct when he wrote "*...it has to be a willful ignorance ...*" (refer to his attached reply to you, paragraph 8). And you want us to say to you "We have come to this decision after giving admonition and warning to the Capitol City brethren, but they refused to listen to us." This is foolishness, brethren (men and head of families, representatives of CCCC). You failed (or willfully failed) to grasp what we mean when we say, "We have come to this decision after studying the documented materials about brother Dave Miller and his doctrine, provided to us by faithful brethren upon our request." These documented materials prove that brother Dave Miller is a false teacher. These documented materials also prove that MSOP, Forest Hill COC, Barry Grider and others (all are in close fellowship with CCCC/MMSOP, especially to brother Gideon Rodriguez) are in support and in close fellowship with Dave Miller, a marked false teacher. If some or most of you brethren (men and head of families, representatives of CCCC) are ignorant of these facts, brother Gideon Rodriguez is NOT but if he insist that he is, then "it has to be a willful ignorance." Within your appeal for admonition, is your "distance argument" saying "*they have pronounced us guilty of sin based on what is happening in the USA and not on what is happening here.*" Our question regarding this brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), Is your fellowshipping with MSOP, Forest Hill, Barry Grider, Curtis Cates and others "happening in the USA?" You are good in slanting statements to appear that you really need admonition, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC). Maybe you want to complain also about the distance from where the Bible originates, Heaven, which is immeasurable in distance from the earth.

You are correct in saying that "*A true Christian would follow the example of Christ.*" However, you used this statement in a way to support your appeal for admonition saying, "*The example of Christ shows that He would not withdraw fellowship from His own blood-bought congregation without prior **admonition** and warning*" (emphasis mine). A more logical statement should be "Christ did never fellowship false teacher. Therefore, as true Christian following Christ, I will not fellowship a false teacher." But you are doing otherwise. Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), you are being continuously admonished (even to this day). The documents there at MMSOP library, namely, the 1997 Bellview lectureship (particularly pp. 83-103); Fellowship – From God or From Man and the scores of copies of Contending for the Faith magazine are shouting their admonition to you. Sadly, one of the copies of the book, Fellowship – From God or From Man was hidden and locked by somebody (was it not you brother Gideon Rodriguez who hid it?) inside the closet of the podium at the CCCC worship hall. But the good news is that a copy of this book was incidentally displayed in the bookshelf of brother Edward Manimtim there also at MMSOP library. If the books were not there "admonishing" not only you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) but every member of CCCC whom you are representing, then ask the Direc-

tor of MMSOP: Where are these materials? And where are the materials left by brother Danny Douglas to brother Gideon (one of the men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC where he preaches) sometime in 2007 (refer to brother Danny's reply paragraph 7)? Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), you have ample time to study those materials but your preacher (who is also one of you) chose to be "willful ignorant" and keep silent of the real issue because according to him what was happening in the brotherhood thousand miles away does not affect the brethren here in the Philippines. However, when dollar devalued because of the economic crisis USA is facing, brother Gideon (one of the men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) said the fund of the school was affected and we are affected; but when the brethren in the same place were being rocked by the entrance of false teaching in the church, brother Gideon said we are not affected because they are "thousands of miles away." Now, who is interested only in dollars, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC)? One time brother Gideon Rodriguez told me and Roger Agustin that our support was affected by the financial crisis in America. Why is it that when it comes to dollars, brother Gideon and you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) and the MMSOP are concerned but when it comes to problems of false teacher and false teaching rocking the brotherhood in America where the bulk of dollars Gideon and MMSOP are receiving comes from, you, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) are unconcerned? What a disgusting attitude! Then you keep on mocking at us saying, "*Ang problema nila sa America ay problema ng Galimuyod church*" (The problem in America is also a problem to the Galimuyod church the nearest translation I know).

Paragraph 4 through 6 of your letter points only to your **Appeal to Ignorance** in your bid to vindicate yourselves from guilt by association. This is very clear as seen from your very statements. Note the following statements from you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC):

1. Why have they not furnished CCCC those "documented materials" this very day?
2. They accuse us of sinning and are asking us to repent based on "documented materials" which they have never shown us.
3. How come they are pleased to share it with others, but they would not share with us first whom they accuse as guilty of the sin dealt with in the CD? (We have a question for you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) regarding this statement: who accused you of the sin that is being dealt with in the CD?)
4. If the Galimuyod men believe in fairness, they should have asked us first about Dave Miller and what is our knowledge of him.

Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), your claimed ignorance does not excuse you from guilt by association. As earlier pointed out, you have ample time to study the materials you have. Brother Danny Douglas is correct when he wrote you concerning brother Gideon, "*As a gospel preacher and director of a preaching school, surely one such as yourself would be expected to be capable and willing to know of error being taught in the brotherhood and to defend the truth against it, while informing the membership and students of dangers facing the Lord's church.*" (see brother Danny's reply to your letter paragraph 11). You complained of having not the CD "first" then posted question saying, "Or they have already judged us of not having a 'sincere heart and motive,' hence undeserving of a copy of this material? If so, what is the basis of such judgment?" Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), you have judged yourselves and the basis of that judgment is that "you did not **desire** to have a copy of the CD." The favorite expression of brother Gideon applies to you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC): YOU HAVE NOT BECAUSE YOU ASKED NOT. Now, ask him about that.

In paragraph 5 of your letter, you asserted your appeal to ignorance but this will not help you, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) because again, you have ample time to study the materials within your compound, within your library as earlier noted in this letter. But you willfully ignored the "admonition" shouted by these materials that Dave Miller is a false teacher and fellowshiping a false teacher is sin. Out of the 14 men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC, 5 were former students (4 are alumni), 2 are members of MMSOP faculty (the other is the director). It is very strange these 7 men are included in the 11 who claimed to "have not even heard of a Dave Miller." I was also a former student and former member of MMSOP faculty and I know that every old student heard and have knowledge about Dave Miller. The fact is, there is liar (are liars) among you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), if your statement that "Out of the fourteen present, 11 replied that they have not even heard of a Dave Miller" is true; and if it is false, you all brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) lied. Examine yourselves, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC). Prove yourselves and you will find out that either you lied or there is a liar (are liars) in your camp!

One more thing brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), in our (me and the director Gideon Rodriguez) conversation last December 2010, we have touched on passing the Dave Miller issue and I asked him about it. He answered me “it is irrelevant to us” then he stated his favorite expression “what is happening in America is not our problem.” Note that he uttered that statement in the context of Dave Miller issue and not any other event. When I asked what is wrong with brother Danny Douglas, he answered saying that brother Douglas is bringing in “divisive teaching” but he did not elaborate what he meant. By saying that the Dave Miller issue is irrelevant proves that he is not ignorant of it. He knows the real issue but pretends he does not know.

Your “challenge” in paragraph 6 of your letter cannot help you. This paragraph only reflects how narrow your understanding about what Biblical fellowship is. There is no need for the Galimuyod church to issue withdrawal of fellowship letter to those who will and will not fellowship you because we have furnished a copy of our withdrawal letter those individuals and churches who have email address on our record. If they have the same understanding on Biblical fellowship as yours, then they will ask us to send them withdrawal of fellowship letter. And we will send them. But we appreciate very much if you provide us email addresses of churches whom you have fellowship with and further appreciation is given if you would provide us email addresses of the members of CCCC so we can send the withdrawal of fellowship letter. We will wait. Our letter of withdrawal of fellowship from you serves as admonition to them. Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), our withdrawal from those who fellowship you (as you begged us to do) does not alter the fact that you are fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. That is the real issue you should address.

The first four paragraphs of the second page of your hardly read letter only demonstrate your **Appeal to Emotion** or Feeling. In the first paragraph you accused us of not showing patience and longsuffering to you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC). You are wrong! We have suffered you and exercise patience in having fellowship with you in the past years only to find out that you, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) and MMSOP are fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. And now that we have known that and have withdrawn our fellowship from you, you Appeal for Admonition, then to your (willful) Ignorance and now to Emotion that others might sympathize with and believe you but the truth of the matter is that you are fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. We are certain that you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) know that action is sin. Had we discovered this earlier, we would have withdrawn our fellowship from you earlier than we did.

The first three sentences of the second paragraph of the second page of your letter assert the ignorance of the director and the two faculty members of MMSOP about the Dave Miller issue. I slightly believe that brother Clay Balgua knows less about Dave Miller issue but asserting that the director Gideon Rodriguez and MMSOP Dean of Student Affairs Roger Agustin know nothing about Dave Miller issue is but a comical claim. The errors of Dave Miller was still in a hot (or hottest) stage of discussion during the time brother Agustin was studying in MSOP while the director of MMSOP is in close association with the MSOP. In fact during our (me and the director) last conversation, brother Gideon told me that “we cannot leave MSOP because two of the faculty members of MMSOP are alumni of MSOP especially the director.” Brother Gideon wants me to believe that their being alumni of MSOP is the main reason why they cannot leave MSOP. I believe the main reason is FUND because if Gideon will leave MSOP, part of the bulk or the entire bulk of dollars he is receiving will be gone!

The remaining part of the second paragraph of your letter is another demonstration of your **Appeal to Emotion** spiced with lies. You, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) wrote, “*Instead bro. Bagsangi took the path of treachery and dishonesty. In fact, he lied to the director and to the student body when he asked for a leave in October 2010. He stated as the reason for his leave was that his children were getting sick and that he needed to attend to them personally. We at the Capitol City church sympathized with him and prayed for him and his family in all of our services. Yet it was found sometime in the first week of Dec. 2010, by a brother who was browsing the internet that during the dates when bro. Bagsangi was not teaching in MMSOP, he was actually busy travelling with a visiting American preacher and also hosting a 4-day lectureship (Oct. 14-17, 2010) in Galimuyod which featured the said American, Danny Douglas*” (emphasis yours). Your source brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) in judging me that I lied was “a brother who was browsing the internet.” How could that “brother” know that my children were getting sick by “browsing the internet?” You, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) are fond of funny reasoning. Then you mentioned our 4-day lectures to prove that I lied. I have question for you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) regarding this: Did the hosting of the Oct. 14-17, 2010 lectures by the Galimuyod church prove that my children were not getting sick? Did the hosting of the Oct. 14-17, 2010 lectures prove that I was not with my family? I refer you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) to the attached letter from brother Reynaldo Guerrero who knows better (if not best) than your source who was a brother “browsing the internet.” Your claim that when I was not teaching in MMSOP, I

was actually busy travelling with a visiting American preacher because it was reported to you by a brother who was browsing the internet is a pure lie. I am certain that you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) know what will happen to those who believe lies. Now, who lied? By the way I have herein attached the Defender November 2010 issue

Further **Appeal to Emotion** is seen in the third and fourth paragraph of the second page of your letter by means of continuing attack and denigration of the credibility of the preachers of Galimuyod church apparently to gain the sympathy of the other readers especially your cohorts. But this act has nothing to do with your sin, that is, fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. In the third paragraph of your letter, you stated “*we declare without any fear of contradiction that their action against us is indeed because they are seeking bigger funds or support...*” Your reason for this declaration is your claimed “*bro. Bagsangi’s dishonesty about his real reason for his leave of absence and the accompanying fund raising effort of Danny Douglas...*” These assertions were answered in the preceding paragraph of this letter and by brother Douglas himself (please refer to brother Danny’s attached letter). You mentioned also my receiving of “support” from MMSOP. I would rather term that as salary. I worked full time with even the most time (mostly 12 hours a week compared to either the director-Gideon Rodriguez or dean of students-Roger Agustin who have mostly 9 hours a week each) of teaching in that school. I finished and ended my teaching there November 2010. In fact, I have worked double time during my last days at MMSOP at almost 6 hours daily to replenish the days of my leave of absence. Is that not worth receiving a salary? Is it not the responsibility of MMSOP to give my salary? In fact, that was the offer given to me by the director, Gideon Rodriguez when he talked with me to teach at MMSOP. And that my support (as preacher for the Galimuyod church) will be transferred to brother Christopher Borromeo. Your complaint actually is the December support which the director, Gideon Rodriguez, gave me after our talk last December 2010. He was to be questioned not me. Before leaving the MMSOP library where we had a talk (actually he was then at the door), he asked me, “Paano yung support mo ngayong December?” (What about your support this December?). I answered him, “Kung para sa akin yon, pwede ko bang makuha?” (If it is really for me, can I take it?). And he said, “Sige, punta ka na lang mamaya 5pm.” (Okay, just come at 5pm). Brother Danny Douglas’ effort in raising for the work here in the Philippines is very commendable. No American brethren, not even those allied to MMSOP where I worked attempted or planned to do such. Brother Danny Douglas’ response to this is sufficient to quash your moonlighting accusation (refer to his attached letter, paragraph 16). Also in our conversation with the MMSOP director, Gideon Rodriguez last December 2010, I told him face to face that I have never sought and have never had regular support from outside the MMSOP during my stay at that school, neither I sought sideline jobs that might affect my teaching. Unlike the MMSOP director Gideon Rodriguez who has other job that needs for him to attend with to the extent of not attending his regular class at MMSOP but, instead, he gives his students workbooks downloaded from the website of David Padfield. His additional work outside his work as Preacher of CCCC and director of MMSOP gives him additional money. Now, tell me brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), who is “seeking bigger funds.” Further, he permitted his wife to work in a Language School just opposite MMSOP few years back which mean additional fund for his family. Who is “seeking bigger funds?” Or were these dual acts of working by the husband and wife (Gideon and Angie) not a manifestation of discontentment despite the fact that the director, Gideon Rodriguez is receiving bulk of dollars from his supporters?

Your complaints in paragraph 4 of the second page of your letter are but exemplification of your appeal to emotion and do not alter the fact that you are in sin for fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. Being not invited does not mean being unloved. When we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Ilokano Christian Youth Camp, we did not invite you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) and your youth but you did not complain. The exclusion of CCCC/MMSOP from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ilocos Bible Lectures and Forum does not mean the forum is not for the Truth. The fact is that the forum is not for CCCC/MMSOP but for the faithful churches at Ilocos. Because of your exclusion from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ilocos Bible Forum, you charged me of “dishonesty in partnership with ingratitude.” Thus, if Galimuyod church invited you, I am not guilty of “dishonesty in partnership with ingratitude.” That is another ludicrous logic. Then you accused brother Reynaldo Guerrero of being “ingratitude” and “unthankful.” This is nothing but to defame his character and credibility as you have been doing to me. Your accusation against him arose when he was not compelled to admonish even one of you of the “*issue that could (and that already did) negatively affect our fellowship.*” Is it not funny that you brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) who have all the means and capabilities to hear, know and study the materials you have and those materials provided by brother Danny Douglas to the MMSOP director Gideon Rodriguez, are now accusing a brother who have no means and capability as you have, of being “ingratitude” and “unthankful?” You, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) are the ones who are hypocrites. You pretend not to have heard brother Reynaldo’s expressed gratitude in all support you have extended to him. For your mind to be refreshed, please read his attached letter.

The final paragraph of your letter brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) is but an another appeal. This time an **Appeal for Support**. You claimed to have proven something you have not proved. Then, you appeal to



“truth-loving and faithful brethren not to honor” our withdrawal of fellowship from you. If those whom you appealed to are really truth-loving and faithful brethren, meaning they are determined not to have fellowship with those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher, I believe they will honor our withdrawal of fellowship from you because you are fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. Nearly at the end of your letter you wrote, “The attitude displayed by the Galimuyod church would only sow discord among brethren.” The attitude we have displayed toward those (such as CCCC/MMSOP) who are in fellowship with those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher is that we have withdrawn our fellowship from them. Would that attitude “sow discord among brethren?” Is that attitude an abomination unto the Lord? Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), you are really fond of comical claims.

Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC), in the first part of your letter you cry for admonition but we proved that tremendous materials as brother Danny Douglas described it within your reach have been admonishing you but you (willfully) ignored. Your appeals cannot help you and do not alter the fact that you are fellowshiping those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher. But it is not yet late for you brethren, we admonish you to repent and bring forth fruit of repentance. We pray that you will do this before it will be eternally late!

Brotherly,

SAMUEL A. BAGSANGI

Preacher, Galimuyod Church of Christ

Rubio, Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur

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P.S.

Brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC) what is your agenda or purpose of sending secretly (but was revealed to me by his son, bro. Paul) a separate copy of your letter delivered personally by Oscar Locaberte, one of the students of MMSOP, to brother Baltazar Gambon, one of the members of Galimuyod church of Christ (GCOC), last Aug. 14 where in fact you have already sent me and brother Reynaldo copies of your letter? You are the ones sowing discord to Galimuyod church, brethren (men and heads of families, representatives of CCCC). Please stop your **traitorous** activity



*When the report went around that Rudyard Kipling was getting a shilling a word for his writings, some Oxford students decided to play a joke on him. They sent him a shilling, accompanied by this message:*

*“Please send us one of your best words.” And right back came the unexpected answer:*

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# REYNALDO A. GUERRERO'S REPLY TO THE CAPITOL CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST'S PERSONAL ACCUSATIONS

August 15, 2011

To: The men and heads of families representing CCCC and all sincere and faithful brethren,

The Capitol City Church of Christ did not face and answer the real issue about their association and fellowshiping a marked false teacher and other compromising preachers. They diverted the real issue by attacking and destroying our credibility as well as the Galimuyod Church of Christ. In our withdrawal letter there is none any word indicating that I am denying that Capitol City Church of Christ supported me since I graduated from MMSOP in 2004 until 2010. However, in 2010, I received support only for 9 months. I have not received support in May 2010 and the last the last two months of the same year.

I am not ingratitude as you have accused me. Beginning from the first time I receive support from CCCC, I always express my gratitude to brother Gideon and to the Capitol Church through cell phone text. Brother Gideon always answer in this way, "UR WELCOME BRO" (06-26-2010, 11:24am); "UR WELCOME BRO. GOD BLES UR WORK N FAMILY" (08-15-2010, 3:41pm). The problem is he didn't relay my gratitude to the CCCC.

I wonder why CCCC have also forgotten that not only once I expressed my gratitude to them personally. When I was given the opportunity to deliver a message sometime in July 15, 2009, I expressed first my gratitude for all the support that the CCCC have given to me. When I attend a forum hosted by CCCC in February 27, 2010, I have again expressed first my gratitude to CCCC for all the support, monetary and spiritual, they have extended to me and my family. Did the entire membership of CCCC who were present in that forum including the director, Gideon Rodriguez never hear my expressed gratitude? Where were they at that time? Brethren, it is clear that your definition of "gratitude" and "gratefulness" is remaining to be in fellowship with you regardless of whom you have fellowship with (like those who fellowship and support a marked false teacher). We preferred to withdraw fellowship from you and stay in fellowship with Christ.

Concerning the accusation of CCCC against brother Samuel A. Bagsangi that he lied when he reasoned for a leave during his last quarter of teaching in MMSOP that his children were getting sick, the Galimuyod Church of Christ members are living witnesses that his family was then suffering sickness especially his kids. I wonder why brother Gideon believed easily in a false report given to him by his liar "agent" whoever he is. The Galimuyod Church is ready to face his liar "agent" to prove that his report was false. Brethren, do not make stories just for you to destroy us. Have a little shame on yourselves.

CCCC seems to forget the principle of local autonomy. That this involves autonomy in decision making. Thus, no other autonomous congregation can dictate Galimuyod church as to whom she would invite to attend and speak in a forum or lectureship she organized or hosts.

Bear in your mind that solution for **SIN is forgiveness and FORGIVENESS demands REPENTANCE**. Sinning willfully is violation of Heb.10:26; Exo.32:22; neglecting responsibility and the opportunity to help and the is violation of Gal.6:10; Efe.2:4; Witnessing and approving false witness is violation of Exo.20:16; **Fellowshipping and associating with false teacher is violation of 2Jn.9-11; Rom.16:17; 2Tes.3:13-16; Efe.5:11.**

My earnest prayer is that the Capitol City church of Christ would come to repentance.

In Christ,  
Reynaldo A. Guerrero

Preacher, Galimuyod Church of Christ  
Rubio, Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur

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# DANNY DOUGLAS' REPLY TO GIDEON RODRIGUEZ

August 10, 2011

Dear brother Gideon Rodriguez,

As you can see, I am sending this reply to all known recipients of your: "Reply to Galimuyod church's action against CCCC."

Brother Gideon, I do not propose to answer for brother Bagsangi and the Galimuyod brethren, because they are fully capable of answering for themselves. Furthermore, I do not know everything that was said or done in connection with brother Bagsangi and MMSOP or the Capitol City congregation.

In fact, I have not even been in communication at all with brother Bagsangi, brother Guerrero, or any of the other Galimuyod brethren since receiving your "reply" late last night.

However, it is my sincere conviction that it is needful for me at this time to answer your message with certain factual information which I do know.

First of all, before the letter from the Galimuyod church of Christ was sent to you and the brethren at Capitol City, efforts were made on your part to visit the members of the Galimuyod congregation. In fact, you were in contact with one brother in that congregation and had revealed your plans to come and talk to members of the congregation as you did in at least one other place in the northern Philippines, contradicting various things that faithful brethren had been teaching. Efforts such as visiting the houses of the members of the Galimuyod congregation, which you had indicated in your plans, instead of approaching the leadership of the congregation, would be a work of division. It is interesting that you would travel several hours journey to the Candon City area from Manila, for such an effort. Who can blame the faithful brethren of the Galimuyod congregation for opposing such efforts on your part?

Everyone needs to know to begin with, that such efforts of your part, which could have endangered the spiritual welfare of the Lord's church at Galimuyod, occasioned the prompt response of the leadership of the Galimuyod church of Christ. This you did not include in your reply.

Secondly, brother Gideon, I am surprised and disappointed in your statements regarding the ignorance of the Capitol City brethren concerning brother Dave Miller. I know for a fact that you and the brethren there were given documented information regarding his errors, and also the compromises of the Memphis School of Preaching, over four years ago, back in April of 2007. I know this because I myself delivered this documentation to you and the Metro Manila School of Preaching, of which you are the director.

As to any ignorance on your part in this matter, it has to be a willful ignorance, in that, when I tried to speak with you of these matters over four years ago, you did not want to discuss it. Moreover, I left plenty of documented information at the school for you and the other brethren back in April of 2007.

The proof of this is brother Bagsangi himself, in that, it was through those materials which were left at Metro Manila School of Preaching, that he came to recognize the error of brother Miller and the guilt by association practiced by the Memphis School of Preaching.

Therefore, if MMSOP and the Capitol City congregation are unaware of the errors of brother Miller, it is because there has been an intentional effort on your part to keep it hidden from them, and / or the fact that brethren there were unwilling to investigate the evidence. The apostle Peter speaks of those who "willingly are ignorant" (2 Pet. 3:5). We know that ignorance is no excuse, and in this case, the opportunity to be informed was abundant.

As a gospel preacher and director of a preaching school, surely one such as yourself would be expected to be capable and willing to know of error being taught in the brotherhood and to defend the truth against it, while informing the membership and students of dangers facing the Lord's church. This is especially true when it involves error that, if followed, would destroy the organization of the church (re: Miller's re-evaluation and reaffirmation of elders doctrine), and the foundation of marriage (re: Miller's marriage intent doctrine), which error must be opposed if we are to please God in heaven. Does (sic) not the Scriptures say: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11)?

I know that you are capable of knowing such things, but sadly, you are not willing to either know or act upon these matters, which are causing division in the Lord's church, and which, in fact, have caused more division among sound brethren than any false teaching has for decades. I include in this, not only brother Miller's errors, but the error of denying guilt by association. Moreover, error cannot be confined to America or any other geographic region, as you imply. Given the many

communications and connections between Filipino churches of Christ and those in America, how could you pretend that doctrinal problems in the USA would not (a)ffect congregations in the Philippines? Just as the gospel knows no geographical bounds (cf. Mark 16:15), error does not either.

Moreover, we are to: “Love the brotherhood” (1 Pet. 2:17). This includes not only the brotherhood in our native land but all over the world. To warn the Lord’s church of false doctrine in another land is to express this love. “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16).

How sad it is, that a few of your students were/are willing to deal with this error, but you as their teacher have not lifted a finger to do so. Like David who took his sling and faced the giant Goliath while king Saul refused to put on his armor, you have stayed in your tent with your sword in its sheath, while a few of your former students have gone out with the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17), and done battle for the truth and against error. Just as king Saul would eventually pursue one courageous enough to do battle for God, in like manner, there are those today who refuse to oppose the “Philistines,” but will oppose faithful brethren who are willing to address the error of a popular brotherhood teacher, but nonetheless, a teacher who is in grave error. Goliath fell and so did king Saul, who pursued the one willing to render courageous service for God. I pray that this will not be so with you.

Thirdly, your message implies a denial of the doctrine of guilt by association, a doctrine which you, no doubt, have taught and practiced in times past, but one which has become exceedingly inconvenient for you to uphold. Your close ties to the Memphis School of Preaching and her supporters, and their close connections with certain brethren who uphold and even promote brother Dave Miller, and as well as the compromise and liberalism of MSOP faculty member and Forrest Hill preacher, Barry Grider, are causing tremendous problems for those who cannot bear parting ways with MSOP, but who also purport to stand for the truth. (If you are unaware of Grider’s errors, it only proves that you either do not read Grider’s writings and articles in the Forrest Hill bulletin, or that you agree with them.) You plead total innocence and distance from Miller, but at the same time maintain a close association with those who uphold him and Barry Grider! Brother Gideon, you are one who is fully capable of making this connection and to say otherwise, speaks of dishonesty. Those bringing false doctrine are to be marked: “17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:17-18).

As to the motive of brother Bagsangi in receiving “bigger support,” it is a fact that he suffered financially and underwent personal sacrifice after departing from MMSOP. He did this without even a promise of regular support from congregations in America. In fact, not until 2011, after departing from MMSOP, did he begin to receive regular support from churches of Christ in America. Thus, the charge that he did the things he did for “bigger support” is to judge his motives unfairly and without evidence (cf. Matt. 7:1). Brethren who make such charges need to be careful that they are not mirroring their own motivations.

Brother Gideon, I say these things to you in love. However, your “reply” to make faithful brethren, such as brother Bagsangi and brother Guerrero and others, look hypocritical and unlike Christ will not work.

My prayer is for your repentance and that of others involved in compromise. Moreover, those who refuse to practice the teaching of the Scriptures regarding those who uphold brethren who bring another doctrine than the doctrine of Christ, are denying the doctrine of Christ themselves: **“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds”** (2 John 9-11).

In Christ,  
Danny Douglas

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*Nothing in this lost and ruined world bears the meek impress of the Son of God so surely as forgiveness.—Alice Cary*

*It is easier for the generous to forgive, than for the offender to ask forgiveness.—Thomson*

*Those who forgive most, shall be most forgiven.—Bailey*

*Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him (Luke 17:3). Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven (Matthew 18:21, 22)—Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God*

# “Mediocre Men”

Roelf L. Ruffner

A once esteemed preacher on the West Coast recently pronounced that preachers, who chose NOT to follow the banner of Apologetics Press/Gospel Broadcasting Network and the Memphis School of Preaching by fellowshiping a marked false teacher, Dave Miller, were “mediocre men”. I believe I am correct in assuming that this brother looks upon brethren (such as myself) in a condescending manner and considers us untalented, intellectual bantam weights and unpolished speakers. For him we are below his notice and off the brotherhood radar screen because we dare to point out the errors of Elder Re-evaluation/Reaffirmation, the Marriage Intent Doctrine, and no longer fellowship those who promote these false doctrines.

Yet, I respectfully adjure this brother to blow the dust off his Bible and examine Christian men of the New Testament. All of the men chosen by the Lord to be His apostles would be considered “mediocre” at first glance. (Some believe that Judas Iscariot was the only one that might be considered an “intellectual.”) Most were Galileans, considered by many Jews to be rough and boorish. **“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus”** (Acts 4:13). But their teachings became the foundation of the early church (Eph. 2:20).

But who is really “mediocre” (“indifferent; ordinary; common place”—Webster)? Mediocre men overlook the sins of others; especially their friends. I have noticed that in the last few years that friendship or “buddyship” has become more important for many than the condemnation of sin in the church. This has long been a trait of religious liberals. Now some self-professed conservatives have crossed this hypocritical line of fellowshiping sin (2 John 9-11; Eph. 5:11). Years ago they stood tall in the saddle and actively denounced those in error, friend or not. But **“filthy lucre”** (jobs, positions, financial support, etc.) seems more important to them than the approval of their Lord and Master.

Mediocre men will not defend **“all the counsel of God”** (Acts 20:27); only selected parts. For example, they will debate those who teach error on marriage, divorce and remarriage (or Atheists—*Editor*) as taught in Matthew 19:9 and other passages, but not those who oppose Elder Re-evaluation/Reaffirmation and Marriage Intent. They will castigate those who oppose these false doctrines as “mean spirited” and “divisive” yet will not meet them on the polemic platform. If they believe these doctrines are from God—defend them! I thank God that Paul, Barnabas, Peter and James were not mediocre men; they defended the Truth (cf. Acts 15:1-31).

Mediocre men seek to silence those they cannot answer. Repeatedly, the supporters of Dave Miller have used intimidation to try to silence their opponents. Although they continue to hold that his teachings are not a fellowship issue for them, their actions show otherwise. They blackball their opponents, shun them and seek to sully their reputations. Others have been denied employment as preachers and some have been fired. Two brothers-in-Christ were publicly **“marked”** (Rom.16:17, 18) by an eldership in Tennessee with no prior attempts at reconciliation or even notification of the marking. These two brethren were marked for two things: 1) having opposed a preacher who at the direction of his elders helped divide a church by publicly teaching that which was and is contrary to sound doctrine 2) for declaring and continuing to declare that such an unrepentant brother ought not to be fellowshiped by faithful brethren. It is a tragedy that these mediocre men have sought and continue to seek to do this in the name of Christ, but fail to love their brethren as He commanded. **“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth”** (1 John 4:18). “Marking” was not meant to be a political weapon to use against our enemies. It is to be used when all attempts at reconciliation have failed. These mediocre men have not even tried to be reconciled to their brethren.

Mediocre men extol the virtues of the past but fail to live up to them. They beat their breasts and refer to the brave brethren of the past who fought tooth and toenail against the missionary society, unauthorized worship, modernism, Premillennialism, Pentecostalism, anti-ism, and religious liberalism. (All paid the price for the faithfulness by being shunned, disfellowshipped, ridiculed, and despised by their opponents.) They scurry to identify themselves with such spiritual giants as Lipscomb, Larimore, Boles, Wallace, Woods, and Warren. But they will not lift the proverbial finger to fight the latest threat to the bride of Christ—compromise!

**Woe unto you, scribes, and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous, and say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them of the blood of the prophets”** (Mat.23:29, 30).

Woe to all mediocre men!

— 2530 Moore Court  
Columbia, TN 38401



# Law And Liberty

Charles Pogue

In his 1940 book, *Smoke Screen*, former congressman Samuel B. Pettengill, a dissenting voice against the creeping in of National Socialism, and a man who switched from the Democrats to eventually become the chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee, quoted a line from the case of “Kesavanada Bharti V. the State of Kerala, and others,” in which the Supreme Court of India weighed the issues of liberty and law. Pettengill, wrote:

Liberty under law remains the hope of the world. It is not liberty alone, nor law alone. An excess of liberty is anarchy, from which all men revolt. An excess of law is despotism, from which free men revolt. It is our great task “to combine that degree of liberty, without which law is tyranny, with that degree of law without which liberty becomes license.”

In our day the pendulum in all three branches of our federal government has on the one hand swung to the side of excess liberty, licensing the sins of abortion and homosexuality. On the other hand, and simultaneously, it has swung to the excess of law, mandating restrictions on the free practice of religion and the right to bear arms, while forcing Americans to purchase commodities such as health insurance and government endorsed light bulbs. Where there

is liberty there should be law, and where there is law, there should be liberty. When those in government, and those who elect them to government do not know truth, or when they embrace a “subjective truth,” the results are at best inconsistent, and at worst, tyrannical. In the case of the voters, it is a welcome mat to both anarchy and tyranny.

Except men return to the understanding that civil law must have its basis in divine law, the fate of America lies in the frailty and infirmity of the human will in abject disconnect from the enduring wisdom which descends from above (Dan. 2:20-22; 4:17, 32; 5:21; Jer. 18:5-11; Rom. 13). If that dichotomy continues what was once known as the “shining city upon the hill” will be reduced to only a faintly flickering memory in the desperate hearts of a once free people.

All is not lost. It must not be lost! All men who love both freedom and the temperance bound by heaven’s decree upon those who love righteousness, must, in companionship with their prayers, raise their collective voices at city hall, in the halls of congress, and in the voting booth in order that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people vanish not from the face of the earth.

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**Brother Roelf Ruffner drew our attention to the recently concluded 2011 Abilene Christian University Summit. We used some of his remarks and added some of our own. —Editor**

The theme of the 2011 Abilene Christian University (ACU) Summit is “Enough.” For example: *Dating Jesus: The Role of Women in the Church* by Susan Campbell of East Haven, CT, one of several in the “Women in Ministry” category. *The Lost Recordings of W. Carl Ketcherside* (I wish they had stayed “lost”!). *It’s God’s Work (Not Yours): Stories of a Modern Monk* (I wonder if he wears a hair shirt?). *Islands, Feelings and Cell Phones, Discover the Practice of Echoing*, and, of all things this title, *Wolf in Sheep’s Clothes*—How would ACU and friends determine the difference between a sheep and a wolf? The strangeness does not end there. As to activities available to those in attendance at the “Summit” are: *Iron Pour and Exhibit: Spirit Laden Iron* (I wonder if they lay hands on the molten iron?). And, *Come to the Quiet—A Taize worship* (so called) service. One does not have to read all of the list of lecture titles to conclude that the “Summit” is far more than enough. Regarding ACU, it is as “Popeye” said, “Enough is too much!”

One of the “Featured Guest Speakers” at ACU’s 2011

Summit is Rachel Held Evans. She lives in Dayton, TN, home of the infamous “Scopes Monkey Trial.” She says she is a recovering “fundamentalist.” Notice this quote from a review of the book:

Using the highly controversial (at least to most evangelical Christians) theory of evolution, Evans draws parallels to her own journey of faith. “Spiritual evolution explains why Christianity has thrived while other ancient religions have perished,” she says, later adding, “I’m an evolutionist because I believe that the best way to reclaim the gospel in times of change is not to cling more tightly to our convictions but to hold them with an open hand.”



On her blog Evans has the following to say about herself.

I’m a writer, skeptic, and Christ-follower from Dayton, Tennessee—home of the famous Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925.

My first book, a spiritual memoir entitled *Evolving in Monkey Town*, released with Zondervan in July of 2010. My second book, an experimental memoir (tentatively) titled *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* will be released by Thomas Nelson in 2012 (at the earliest).

I enjoy speaking, blogging, traveling, playing poker, and talking theology over coffee (<http://rachelheldevans.com/about>).

I wonder, is she skeptical about her poker playing, belief in evolution, or theology, or, maybe, all three? The truth of the matter is this—these people would not know New Testament Christianity if it jumped up, bit them on the end of the nose, and did not let go—2 John 9-11. ☺☺

<p><i>With This Ring</i></p> <p><i>A Biblical Study of Marriage, Divorce &amp; Remarriage</i></p>  <p>By Don Tarbet and Anne Bell</p>	<p><b>BOOKS</b></p> <p>BY</p> <p><b>DON TARBET</b></p> <p><b>ORDER FROM:</b></p> <p>Don Tarbet 215 W. Sears St. Denison, TX 75020-3054</p>	<p>VISIONS OF <i>TWO JERUSALEMS</i></p> <p><i>A Commentary on Revelation</i></p>  <p>By Don Tarbet</p>
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## Directory of Churches...

### **-Alabama-**

**Holly Pond**—Church of Christ, 10221 Hwy 278, Holly Pond, AL 35083, Sun. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., (256) 507-1776, (256) 507-1778.

### **-Colorado-**

**Denver**—Piedmont Church of Christ, 1602 S. Parker Rd. Ste. 109, Denver, CO 80231, Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. www.piedmontcoc.net, Lester Kamp, evangelist. (720) 535-5807.

### **-England-**

**Cambridgeshire**—Cambridge City Church of Christ, meeting at The Manor Community College, Arbury Rd., Cambridge, CB4 2JF. Sun., Bible Study--10:30 a.m., Worship-- 11:30 a.m.; Tue. Bible Study--7:30 p.m. www.CambridgeCityCoC.org.uk. Keith Sisman, Gospel Preacher. Contacts: Keith Sisman [By phone inside USA (281) 475-8247]; Inside the U.K.: Cambridge (England): 01223-911243]; Alternative Cambridge contacts: Joan Moulton - 01223-210101; Postal/ mailing Address - PO BOX 1, Ramsey Huntingdon, PE26 2YZ United Kingdom

### **-Florida-**

**Ocoee**—Ocoee Church of Christ, 2 East Magnolia Street, Ocoee, FL 34761. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Wed. 7:00 p.m. David Hartbarger, Evangelist, (407) 656-2516,

**Pensacola**—Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526, Sun. 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Michael Hatcher, evangelist, (850) 455-7595.

### **-North Carolina-**

**Rocky Mount**—Scheffield Drive Church of Christ, 3309 Scheffield Dr., Rocky Mount, NC 27802 (252) 937-7997.

### **-South Carolina-**

**Belvedere (Greater Augusta, Georgia Area)**—Church of Christ, 535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841, www.belvederechurchofchrist.org; e-mail belvecoc@gmail.com, (803) 442-6388, Sun.: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m., Evangelist: Ken Chumbley (803) 279-8663.

### **-Oklahoma-**

**Porum**— Church of Christ, 8 miles South of I-40 at Hwy 2, Warner exit. Sun. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. Allen Lawson, evangelist, email: lawson@starnetok.net.

### **-Texas-**

**Denton area**—Northpoint Church of Christ, 5101 E. University Dr. (Greenbelt Business Park). Mailing address: Northpoint Church of Christ, Greenbelt Business Park, 5101 E. University Dr., Box 6, Denton, TX 76208. E-mail: northpointcoc@hotmail.com. Sunday: 9:30, 10:30, 1:00; Wednesday 7:00. Contact: Dub McClish: 940.387.1429; tgjoriginal@verizon.net.

**Evant**—Evant Church of Christ, 310 West Brooks Drive, Evant, TX 76525. Office: (254) 471-5705; Jess Whitlock, evangelist (254) 471-5717.

**Houston area**—Spring Church of Christ, 1327 Spring Cypress, P.O. Box 39, Spring, TX 77383, (281) 353-2707. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:30 p.m., David P. Brown, evangelist. Home of the Spring *Contending for the Faith* Lectures, and the internet school, Truth Bible Institute. www.churchesofchrist.com.

**Huntsville**—1380 Fish Hatchery Rd. Huntsville, TX 77320. Sun. 9 a. m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. (936) 438-8202.

**New Braunfels**—225 Saenger Halle Rd. Sun: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m. Lynn Parker, evangelist. (830) 625-9367. www.nbchurchofchrist.com.

**Richwood**—1600 Brazosport, Richwood, TX. Sun. 9:30; 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. (979) 265-4256.