

## LETTER TO JAMES SUNQUIST REGARDING CORRUPTION AND APOSTASY IN THE A/G

Dear Brother Sundquist,

I appreciate the stand you have taken concerning Rick Warren's Purpose Driven stuff and some of the other theological and doctrinal errors now overtaking the Assemblies of God. I also appreciate your work with Dr. Opal Reddin regarding the Ecumenical Movement. I am a former student of Sister Reddin at CBC. She was a great and godly lady, and I was very saddened by her passing last year. Dr. Reddin worked tirelessly to defend the faith once delivered to the saints.

For some time after her passing I felt rather hopeless about the Assemblies of God and the Pentecostal Movement in general. After all, the old guard generation of the Reddins, the Hortons, and the Wards is fading rapidly. On top of this, the General Council demonstrated the backslidden condition of the majority of ministers present by taking out the language from our constitution and bylaws that prohibited ministers from being involved in the Ecumenical Movement. Then the Lord reminded me that He has called those of us in this generation who still hold to the absolute reliability and authority of Scripture to take the torch of the Word and the Spirit that those who have gone before are passing to us.

I have pastored two A/G churches here in the Southern Missouri District, and I have sincerely thought about leaving the Assemblies of God because I'm tired of the drift toward liberalism and apostasy. And the ecumenical movement within our ranks is an abomination that is leading us into the camp of the Roman Church. I don't know if we can turn this trend back-I doubt it with the backing this movement has from within our ranks and executive leadership, but we have an obligation to hold on to all the truth of God's Word as long as we can before we either have to leave or are driven out.

Right now I am between ministries, and my wife and I are seriously seeking the Lord as to whether we should remain in the A/G.

We also see leading A/G ministers, teachers, theologians, and executive leaders embracing the Emerging Church Movement (ECM)-the next logical step toward Rome and apostasy. Dr. Earl Creps at AGTS is a huge promoter of ECM, and he apparently operates with impunity and immunity. I recently wrote a letter to Superintendent Thomas Trask about the errors of Rick Warren, ECM, and the Ecumenical Movement. He wrote back to tell me how he and our other leaders were doing everything in their power to preserve and promote sound doctrine in A/G churches. A few days after he wrote that letter to me I discovered that Creps is involved in this stuff up to his eyeballs right under the noses of the folks on Boonville Avenue. I try to give people the benefit of the doubt as much as possible, but I find it impossible to believe that Trask and others at the General Council headquarters are not aware of the activities of Earl Creps. If Trask is indeed aware of this-as I strongly suspect, then he is either deceived into accepting these false teachings, or else he lied to me. I think we're in trouble either way you cut it.

On top of this, Dr. Creps has just published a book titled, *Off-Road Disciplines*, that promotes many of the errors of the ECM. I knew the book was a problem before I read the first word because Leonard Sweet endorsed it and Dan Kimball wrote the Foreword, both of who are major players in the Emerging Church Movement. In fact, Leonard Sweet is as much New Age as he is anything else.

Some time ago when Tony Campolo spoke at Valley Forge Christian College I confronted Superintendent Trask about it, and he told me that I should talk the college president before I talked went to him. Of course, he quoted from Matthew 18:15-17, but I wrote back to him and told him this was not a Matthew 18:15-17 issue. The issue is that a rank heretic was going to speak in one of our colleges, and our leaders had the responsibility to protect the minds and souls of those young people in that college. This put the responsibility back on him to stop it, but he didn't stop it. Yet they have destroyed the ministries of those A/G ministers who did not go along with the political correctness now coming from Springfield, even though they had done nothing immoral, unethical, or unlawful.

Of course, academia has operated without restraint for at least the past 15 years, and I even had opportunity to confront a lesbian who was an Evangel University graduate. At that time she was attending SMS now MSU as a graduate student. We were in a meeting of theologians, students, and researchers at Evangel University (I was invited because I was the Hebrew Editing Assistant, working on the Old Testament Complete Biblical Library project for World Library Press), and she was presenting a paper on "Feminist Theologies." In the paper she also mentioned "Gay Theologies," and this confirmed for me why this not unattractive young lady went out of her way to be as unattractive as possible. During the question and answer period I listened quietly for as long as I could stand it. Finally I asked her a few short questions of my own, and I finished by asking her if her interest in and familiarity with "Feminist" and "Gay" theologies was due to the fact that she herself was a lesbian. She did not answer outright, but she did sheepishly confirm my suspicion. Amazingly, the ones who gave me the most grief for my questions were fellow A/G ministers and professors. However, they found that I was in my usual recalcitrant mood when dealing with wolves that are perverting and destroying the flock of God. I have never been easily intimidated, and the more I am around backslidden and unsaved ministers the worse it gets. I'm just plain intolerant!

I will continue to address these issues as the Lord gives me opportunity, but I suspect that I will find myself in trouble eventually.

Again, I thank you for your work-keep it up! It is an encouragement and a great resource all believers who love the Lord and His Word.

God bless you,

JL  
Missouri