

**A GENUINE LETTER OF CONCERN TO ALL ASSEMBLY of GOD CREDENTIAL HOLDERS**  
**FROM REV. RAYMOND M. BARNETT**

February 28, 2006

To All of My Esteemed Brothers and Sisters in the Assemblies of God,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is with some reluctance, and a fair measure of apprehension that I write to you. Reluctance, for fear that I will once again face the burning brand of man's judgment. Apprehension, because I do not want any further spurning by the brothers and sisters beyond that which I have already suffered. Yet, by the grace of God I write. I write regardless of my hesitation, in the hope that my continual cry for exoneration, uttered before God each morning in prayer, is objectively considered by the unbiased hearts of the ministers that remain in the Assemblies of God.

It is not a badge of honor to be a dismissed minister in the Assemblies of God. As you know, dismissal as a minister presumes guilt, with the stigma of asserted wrongdoing permanently applied. However, I respectfully announce to you that I am not guilty before God of any moral, doctrinal, ethical, or criminal failure. I am only culpable of one fault - telling the truth.

Thus, I politely beg you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to test the legitimacy of my reputed misconduct in the court of public opinion – your opinion. Fair treatment has not taken place with my dealings with the Presbytery here in the New York District, or in Springfield.

On my status as a dismissed minister– it is irrevocable. Even though as a pastor of 23 years of unblemished service to our Lord in the Assemblies of God, my ministry never had any incident or happening like the one that you are about to read. In any case, I present my requests.

First, that you might pray for me, that these periodic bouts of miserable depression that has settled on me like a recurrent nightmare may die out.

Second, that you would petition God for His protection that my good reputation is spared from the implications of that shameful label of being "dismissed." Especially, when I had clearly communicated to the Presbytery that I was resigning.

Third, that you would read these events for your own protection, and the welfare of the churches and people that you serve. With all of this in mind, I ask for your kind attention in the following matter.

Please examine the following documents that I have provided. It will take the average reader about 30 minutes to review. There are seven original, unedited texts.

If you will give these texts a fair reading, you will find that collectively they spell out a clear and present danger for all who are credential holders in the Assemblies of God. I only ask that you pray for me, and watch yourself, when finished with the texts. My hope is that what has happened to me does not happen to you.

I Am, For the Sake of the Kingdom,

You're Brother in Christ,



Pastor Ray Barnett

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- The syllabus for this treatise is as follows -

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**SUMMARY OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE COERCED RESIGNATION OF FORMER SUPERINTENDENT IN THE NEW YORK DISTRICT of the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD - SAIED ADOUR, & THE SUBSEQUENT DISMISSAL OF REV. RAY BARNETT**

- i. On DECEMBER 15TH, 2004 – an “Emergency Meeting” was held with the full New York District Presbytery – 20 Presbyters in all [one being absent] – chaired by Assemblies of God General Superintendent Thomas Trask and General Secretary George Wood of Springfield Missouri.
- ii. In that meeting, New York District Superintendent Saied Adour was told by Thomas Trask that the New York District Presbytery was going to restrict his oversight of the New York District of the Assemblies of God [NYDAG], handing him a list of said 14 “restrictions.” All are violations of what a Superintendent is legally elected, empowered, and expected to do, being so authorized by the voting constituency that selected him, by ballot, in a duly called meeting. The rights, privileges, and duties granted to him, are in direct accord with the requirements of the Assemblies of God Constitution under Article 20 of New York State law. The New York Presbytery had no constitutional or officially authorized grounds to “restrict his duties.” Especially, without the knowledge and expressed consent of the voting membership - the NYDAG credential holders. Such restrictions rendered him effectively powerless as District Superintendent. Among such restrictions was the right to chair and officiate all duly called, lawfully held meetings of the NYDAG, including the yearly sectional meetings, and the annual District Council.

- iii. Rev. Adour, under the duress of sitting alone without any witnesses or counsel on his part in a room filled with 20 Presbyters, reluctantly agreed to abide by the 14 restrictions. He knew that such an agreement would strip him of all legal rights, responsibilities, and privileges as District Superintendent granted to him by the official electors – the voting constituency.
- iv. Next, in a manner, means, and method that can only be described as unscrupulous and suspect, Rev. Adour was shocked to learn that the 14 restrictions are *immediately* rescinded as soon as he agrees. He is then asked to - "voluntarily resign" - even though he had just agreed to abide by said restrictions, drafted and presented to him by the New York District Presbytery, under the direction of Thomas Trask and George Wood. No reason or rationale is given to Rev. Adour as to why the restrictions were instantly taken off the table - directly after he agreed to them. Rev. Adour had not violated any A/G polity, practice, or principles; nor had he violated any A/G Constitutional laws, doctrinal precepts, moral laws, or New York State criminal codes. No grounds, Biblical or otherwise, were submitted to him to justify such a sudden request for his resignation, let alone give good reason for the illicit "bait- and-switch" occurrence, an inexcusable and disgraceful act that violates every universally accepted ideal of ethical and reputable behavior. Not to mention the standard judicial procedures that are required of Elders whenever they must adjudicate important matters in the church of the living God. The imperative statute of Christ's Love and God's laws were clearly jettisoned in favor of a more spiteful and partisan approach, one that clearly revealed a preexistent spirit of unadulterated vindictiveness, reminiscent of the disturbing mind-set of vigilantism, however cleverly veiled and hidden it was from the general population of credential holders.
- v. Next, the Presbytery votes for Rev. Adour to resign his position as NYDAG Superintendent by a 17-3 margin. However, the A/G Constitution makes no such provision for the Presbytery to "vote" for a resignation that is ultimately presented to Rev. Adour as being - "voluntary." Such a suggestion of a resignation being "voluntary" after a vote is accomplished, is both contradictory and incongruous in its very nature, since all lawful votes assume that such voting privileges are properly granted, and by necessity must be considered as absolute in their implementation, and obligatory in execution. This then begs the question: "If the Presbytery voted, why was Rev. Adour requested to 'voluntarily' resign?"
- vi. After that, Rev. Adour was offered financial remuneration by General Superintendent Thomas Trask if he will accept the NYDAG verdict to "resign voluntarily." He was told that he will receive money in the form of enhanced severance pay if he will resign. This, by the way, was the second such offer to receive money in exchange for a "voluntary resignation" made by Thomas Trask. The first one coming by a telephone call from Thomas Trask from Springfield on December 13th 2004, just a few days prior to the meeting on December 15th . Further, that offer of money was placed up against the solemn threat of being disfellowshipped as a minister in the Assemblies of God if Rev. Adour did not accept the proposition. Once again, no reason, rationale, or charges are submitted to substantiate such actions. Most importantly, no Biblical passages are ever cited, at all, as grounds for actions to be taken against Rev. Adour.
- vii. Subsequently, the 68 year old Rev. Adour, with 48 years of unblemished and untarnished ministry, resigns as District Superintendent under the unbearable coercion,
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not for the money, but for fear of being disfellowshipped from the Assemblies of God and "cut off" from all of his long times friends, some of which, are even family.

vii.1. **PLEASE NOTE:** Dismissed ministers must be avoided and shunned by all A/G ministers according to the A/G Constitution and By-Laws as stated here –

vii.2. **Article IX Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship** In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

viii. Every credential holder in the New York District received the following letter from General Superintendent Thomas Trask, dated January 4, 2005 which reads in part –

*Brothers and Sisters, the New York District officers, staff, and the presbytery of the District love Brother and Sister Adour. They have an appreciation for the qualities that your District recognized, thus permitting the election of Brother Adour as superintendent. It is recognized he is a godly man and that he has a love for the work of the Lord. He was generous in this service to the work of the Kingdom of God. I want to commend your elected brethren, fellow officers, and presbytery for a most generous compensation being provided to Brother and Sister Adour. It is full salary and benefits until July 31, 2005.* Sincerely, Thomas E. Trask General Superintendent

ix. On December 27th, 2004 Rev. Raymond Barnett sends an e-mail to the New York District Presbytery concerning the "resignation" of Rev. Adour, asking for grounds and charges.

x. On the morning of December 28th, Thomas Trask calls Rev. Barnett at his home to explain why Rev. Adour resigned. He informs Rev. Barnett the he, Thomas Trask, was against the resignation of Saied Adour, and had advised the New York District Presbytery **NOT** to oust him. Then, he further adds that - *"What it all breaks down to Ray, is a difference of opinion about styles of leadership."* Further he informs Rev. Barnett of the following as disclosed in an e-mail that Rev. Barnett sent to the New York District Presbytery, and reads, in part, as follows –

*"On the morning of December 28, at 11:20 a.m. both following, and subsequent to my first communication to all of you on December 27, I received a personal phone call from our General Superintendent – Thomas Trask; who having also received a copy of my communiqué' to you, courteously obliged himself to disclose to me the general details of your immoderate meeting of December 15, a meeting which he himself chaired accompanied by Brother George Wood. During our conversation, Brother Trask assured me that Brother Saied Adour, our duly elected Superintendent, has in no way committed any act of immorality or criminality, and is still a credential holder in good standing with the Assemblies of God."*

xi. However, it was Thomas Trask who offered Rev. Adour the money – not once, but twice – as stated above. Therefore, I was not told the truth of what actually transpired during

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the December 15th meeting, but conversely, I was intentionally misled by Thomas Trask and made to believe that he had no bona fide part in the coercion, intimidation, and bullying of Rev. Adour that ended in Rev. Adour's resignation from his position as District Superintendent. This is pointed out in the following remarks from that same correspondence by Rev. Barnett to the New York District Presbytery, again quoting Thomas Trask –

*“Furthermore, he benignly and considerately disclosed to me his prudent recommendations to all of you, [judicious and compassionate counsel in my estimation that came from our well-regarded General Superintendent], in which he proposed to all of you, both prior to your meeting and again at some point during your meeting, concerning how the situation should be handled, i.e. – to permit Brother Adour to finish his term of office. Advice, you obviously chose to ignore, discount, and disregard. Therefore, I respectfully submit the following remarks and requests.... ”*

This was emphatically – not true. In a discussion with my own District Presbyter who was present at the December 15th meeting, he assured me that **NOT ONE** NYDAG Presbytery remembers hearing Thomas Trask make that statement to them. To wit, I was intentionally misled by Thomas Trask to believe that he was against the resignation, and that Rev. Adour was not, nor would be formally charged with any disciplinary actions.

- xii Rev. Barnett e-mails entire body of credential holders, telling them that Thomas Trask was not in favor of Rev. Adour's resignation etc. et al, as Rev. Trask had told him.
  - xiii After that, Rev. Barnett receives a blatantly hostile and belligerent second phone call from Thomas Trask and Secretary George Wood that lasts for one hour and twenty two minutes. In said phone call, the tenor, tone, and words are **RADICALLY** different from Thomas Trask's first call, as he shouts so loudly that Rev. Barnett cannot even respond. During the course of that conversation, Rev. Barnett is berated, intimidated, and strictly warned to stop **ALL** activities concerning mailing my friends and fellow ministers, being told that I am - "dividing the body of Christ," with implied references to me being in danger of the judgment of God.
  - xiv Rev. Barnett refuses to comply with Thomas Trask's demands, and continues to e-mail District Presbytery and fellow A/G ministers.
  - xv Rev. Barnett is contacted again by Thomas Trask and George Wood, along with acting New York District Superintendent Duane Durst and New York Secretary Mearle Grossglass. Rev. Barnett is again berated by Trask, and there are inferred threats of "discipline" if I do not stop asking questions and corresponding with A/G ministers. Many of these men and women were my friends for 20+ years.
  - xvi Finally, on July 28th 2005, Rev. Barnett is brought up on charges, and attends a hearing before eight New York Executive Presbyters and one District Presbyter, and is not allowed to have any witnesses at his trial. My wife and board secretary
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are not permitted to accompany me. They are told they must wait outside. At said meeting, I am told that I am not allowed to resign my credentials, as so stated by Secretary Mearle Grossglass. Rev. Barnett leaves, stating that he resigns his credentials anyway, regardless of their statement to the contrary.

- xvii On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 acting NYDAG Superintendent Duane Durst and Mearle Grossglass contact Calvary Assembly of Gods' board and request to meet with them on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the "transition" of Calvary's "vacant" pulpit, since Ray Barnett is **officially** "dismissed."
- xviii On July 31st, on the Lord's Day, a District Presbyterian is sent to Rev. Barnett's church, prepared to read a letter drafted by the New York Presbytery. It is to be read in front of my wife, five children, and 300+ friends without my permission OR knowledge of its contents, stating that I am dismissed as a minister by the Assemblies of God, and that the pulpit is declared "vacant." This is a **DIRECT** violation of the Assemblies of God By-Laws [see below], which states that **ONLY** the Executive Presbytery in Springfield can approve such action. Furthermore, every A/G church is **SOVEREIGN & AUTONOMOUS**, and only the local church can determine who will be or not be its pastor. The Presbyterian is escorted out of the sanctuary.
- xix Rev. Barnett advises Calvary Assembly of God, his pastorate of eighteen years, to leave the Assemblies of God.
- xx New York Superintendent Duane Durst informs Calvary's board that if the church decides to leave the Assemblies of God, the New York District will "fight" [sue] to retain the church as an Assemblies of God church.
- xxi Calvary Assembly of God contacts attorney Dennis Brewer Sr. of Irving Texas. In a two page letter, attorney Brewer, one of the U.S. leading Christian attorneys, and Jay Sekulow's chief counsel in the state of Texas - an Assemblies of God elder himself - explains that Assemblies of God Districts throughout the U.S. are "dismissing" pastors in lieu of resignations, and explains that our situation as a church is "brutal." He further amplifies this statement by informing us that the New York District will gobble up our assets like "a thief in the night."
- xxii On October 2nd 2005, Pastor Barnett resigns Calvary Assembly of God rather than involve its' congregants in lawsuits and litigation. He contacts New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer requesting an independent investigation of the Assemblies of God, citing numerous, egregious breaches of New York State Religious laws and criminal laws, as other ministers with similar experiences contact him with their own stories of religious abuse at the hands of the Assemblies of God.

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II **AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL CREDENTIAL HOLDERS FROM SAIED ADOUR WRITTEN JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

Saied Adour  
7554 Sugarwood Lane

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North Syracuse, NY 13212

*Dear Credential Holders of the New York District,  
Greetings in Christ Name!*

*By now you have received two letters relative to my resignation as Superintendent, which was requested by the full District Presbytery by a vote of 17 - 3. As you know, one letter was sent by Thomas Trask, and the other by Duane Durst. I appreciate the expressions of love in both letters, but love demands truth, and truth is not served by my remaining silent. My only concern is that I speak the truth in love, and that I would maintain a clean heart and a right spirit. God help me to do both.*

*The first thing that I want to do is to express my deep appreciation to Brother Trask, for stating that Saied Adour is "a godly man and that he has a love for the work of the Lord." He also stated that I was "generous in my service to the work of the Kingdom of God." These statements were precious and appreciated and they should dispel any concern that my resignation may have been due to a moral failure on my part. The vagueness of the initial letter from the District gave rise to such questions on the part of some. Apparently, that vagueness is being portrayed as an attempt to "protect our brother [myself] from any further pain and embarrassment." Be assured if that was the goal, it did not succeed.*

*Since December 15, I have been living with much, much pain and a measure of embarrassment also. Brother Durst also states in his letter that "due to the current e- mail campaign by one of our credential holders, further clarification to our credential holders will be forthcoming." Let me say my precious brothers and sisters that I invite and welcome such a clarification. It should and must be done! Moreover, I do not fear the truth, the whole truth – for it sets us free. A lack of truth does otherwise. Dear ones, the December 15 meeting was clearly a travesty of justice. Let me explain.*

*I was anticipating an open and honest exchange between myself and the Presbytery. The meeting was set for 1 p.m. at the District office. At just about one o'clock, I was preparing to leave my office and go to the conference room when the phone rang. It was Mearle Grossglass informing me that Brother Trask wanted to meet first with the Presbyters without my being present. I registered a slight protest but obviously, I acquiesced.*

*Much to my chagrin, I was excluded from the meeting for over two and one half hours. In those two and one half hours, "facts" were conveyed and discussed by those present. After two and one half hours, I was invited into the meeting. Immediately it became obvious to me that "the die was cast. " Rather than a fair inquiry, the comments and questions were accusatory in nature. Finally ,I agreed to fourteen severe restrictions to the function of my office as Superintendent. These fourteen restrictions were drawn up by Duane Durst and Mearle Grossglass, restrictions that the Presbytery had not seen until that moment. I left the meeting expecting to be allowed to remain in office at least until the District Council in May. I also left the meeting and awaited the verdict with my wife Esther. Then Brother Trask and Brother Wood came out and reported to us that by a vote of 17 – 3, the Presbytery was requesting my immediate resignation. Brother Trask also reported to Esther and me something that I consider important. He said that he had advised the Presbytery to allow me to continue in office until May.*

*However, the overwhelming vote against me convinced him not to press it any further. Just so, you know, that advice that I be allowed to continue until May, was also told by Brother Trask to two New York pastors. Brother Trask called one, and the other called Brother Trask himself. The Presbytery obviously chose to "ignore" that counsel and advice by the General Superintendent.*

*In his letter, Brother Trask lists six highly negative matters that supposedly warranted my removal. Let me say clearly that I do not fault Brother Trask. His judgments were based on the information conveyed to him*

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*by men in the New York District, some who are on the Presbytery and some who are not. Those six points need to be and can be answered, especially the most offensive concerning my "disclosure of confidential information on numerous occasions."*

*I do not know where all this is leading, but I am confident of the goodness and direction of the Lord. Even since receiving the information about my forced resignation, a number have invited me to minister in their churches. That too has been heartening.*

*In closing, both Brother Trask and Brother Durst expressed a desire to "move on." However, to really move on will require the correction of some injustices. Beyond this letter, I will leave that totally in the hands of God. My love for you is deep and your love for me warms my heart beyond measure.*

*Your Brother in Christ, Saied Adour*

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III **A HEARTFELT LETTER FROM SAIED ADOUR TO ALL CREDENTIAL HOLDERS  
WRITTEN MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

Saied Adour  
7554 Sugarwood Lane  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

*Brothers & Sisters in Christ,*

*I consider this letter to be of the utmost importance. Forgive me if you do not, but I am trusting God to help me with every word as I proceed for the cause of truth.*

*The Word of God says that we shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. It also says that love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. A witness in court affirms that he or she will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*

*Sectional Councils are over but unfortunately, the whole truth has not been told. A masterfully manipulated version of the truth has been presented and sadly, it has been believed by many.*

*I struggled with writing this letter because in my spiritual upbringing I have been taught that one never defends himself but he leaves the truth of a situation with the Lord. However, what very few realize is that spiritual harm is being done to this district, which I love, by the whole truth not being told. Even if this letter changes nothing, the truth needs to be spoken, especially in the light of the vigorous attempt being made to prevent my access to the entire constituency. That fact was made abundantly clear in at least the Central Sectional council. When a pastor asked if I would be able to answer what was being said about me, the moderator said emphatically "NO"! Keep in mind, I was sitting right there. I say again, whether it is received or not the whole truth must be spoken.*

*Friends, here are the facts. What you do with them is totally between you and God.*

*First of all, let me quote from a letter that I sent to the presbyters on February 4th of this year.*

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LETTER TO DISTRICT PRESBYTERY DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2005

*Dear Brother Presbyter,*

*Greetings in Christ. Since I have had no direct communication with the presbytery since the fateful meeting on December 15, 2004 this letter is probably long overdue. It is intended to be very honest and forthright, so my statements will be very straightforward without apology. It will also provide an accurate written record of at least some events from December 15th until now. What I have to say will, I hope, surprise and perhaps shock some of you as you may not have heard some of the things I will mention. However, you need to know my heart which has never been fully expressed.*

*The ill-advised decision of the presbytery, by a majority vote, to ask for my immediate resignation as District Superintendent has brought serious negative consequences to the New York District. It is to save just such serious consequences from happening that I agreed to abide by the fourteen stipulations drawn up by Duane Durst and Mearle Grossglass, which would have seriously restricted my ability to function as District Superintendent. My thinking was "better to be restricted than to see the District torn apart". The word that I have received is that my "body language" indicated that I would not, in fact, do what I said I would do.*

*How sad and even childish that is. Of course, it led the lop-sided vote against me and what I feared concerning negative consequences came upon us. Furthermore, the "damage control" being employed by some since then is magnifying those negative consequences. It is a fair question to ask, can such a large majority be wrong?*

*As men of God, you know that they can be wrong and in this case, they were wrong. Keep in mind that the clear counsel of the General Superintendent was that it would be wiser if I were allowed to remain in office until the District Council in May. As you know, that counsel was ignored.*

*Incidentally, I want to thank the three presbyters who did not vote with the majority on December 15th. Even though it was a secret ballot, it still took a certain amount of courage for you to vote the way you did God will honor your wisdom, foresight and courage.*

*It is sad to hear the explanations being given for the rejection of the General Superintendent's counsel. Some are saying that they did not hear him make such a suggestion. Others are saying that it was only one option among many. I cannot speak to the hearing problem of some of the presbyters. What I do know is that the General Superintendent told Esther and me that it was his clear suggestion to all those present on December 15th that I be allowed to remain in office until the District Council in May. As far as it being one option of many, it was clearly the "God option" and should have been followed. Had it been followed, we would not now be facing the negative consequences we are now facing?*

*Isn't it also sad that those who are asking questions and insisting on answers are the ones being branded as those who are "sowing seeds of discord". It is the majority decision made on December 15th that actually started the sowing of the original seeds of discord.*

*I have heard that the January Presbytery meeting was peaceful and productive. As wonderful as that may be, the problems that were created on December 15th, and since, will not go away so easily.*

*I mentioned that since December 15th some have been engaged in "damage control". I would also call it "spin control". What is happening is an effort to further discredit me in*

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order to make the action to ask for my immediate resignation look more appropriate and necessary. Apparently, the General Superintendent's letter wasn't considered damaging enough. What about the spin control that is out there?

First of all my brothers, "spin" is appropriate in the political realm, but not in the House of God especially when the "spin" becomes untruthful. Let me share some of that spin. As I said, I hope it surprises and shocks you. These are not put in order of importance. The first concerns the impression being given by some in the District Office that my resignation was uncoerced. Here's the story.

On December 13th, the General Superintendent called and offered me the opportunity to voluntarily resign so I would not have to face the meeting on the 15th. Esther was present with me when the call came. I told him I would have to be given time to consider the offer. Before hanging up he kindly said to me that if I did not resign the severance package that would be offered to me by the New York brethren would likely not be as generous as if I did resign. Much to my shock, he also kindly said that if I did not resign it was possible that I could lose my credentials. He did not tell me what the possible charges would be but he did say that the charges had already been drawn up, presumably by the New York brethren. Since he declared my integrity in his January 4th letter to our constituency, I am puzzled to know what those charges could possibly be. Be assured, my brothers, because I love the brethren that I have served faithfully for over eight years if my credentials were ever in jeopardy I would appeal that to the highest levels of our fellowship.

I called the General Superintendent back on Tuesday morning the 14th, again in Esther's presence. I told him that I could not, in good conscience, resign before the Presbytery meeting the next day because I wanted to "face the music". Keep in mind that I thought the meeting on the next day would be open and fair. You, of course, know that it was not, at least not my brief part in it. I also told him that I was offended by the suggestion that I would receive a better severance if I resigned. I said that in my over eight years as superintendent, I have never been influenced by money and I did not intend to begin doing so now.

On the 15th, after the lopsided vote against me, the General Superintendent came to Esther and me and gave the same rationale as to why I should go back into the meeting and resign. Again, it was said that if I would resign I would probably be given a better severance than if I did not. He also repeated that, if I didn't do so, charges could be leveled against me, which could result in losing my credentials. I told you my response to his first statement. Let me share with you my heart response to the second.

As I said, though I hardly can imagine what the charges could be, I envisioned a scenario where I would be forbidden to fellowship with those that I loved and to whom I had ministered faithfully as Superintendent for over eight years. That unimaginable thought brought me to a point where I offered my "voluntary" resignation. A dear precious brother and acknowledged leader among us has suggested to me that I should not have even then resigned. He may be right but how does one undo what is done. If God, in His sovereign grace and mercy, gave me another opportunity to serve, I would do so with joy.

END OF LETTER TO DISTRICT PRESBYTERY DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2005

No, my brothers and sisters, it cannot be said that my resignation was truly voluntary or if I had not resigned I would still be the district superintendent. I'm not sure how it

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would have been handled, but be assured that if I had not agreed to resign, I would have been forced to do so.

Concerning my supposed refusal to publish an open church list, that statement is absolutely false. At the time, certain churches that were without pastors requested that they not be placed on a published open church list.

We assured them that they would not be forced to do so.

A major factor in my requested resignation was the "Hudson Falls Situation" which was alluded to in the Sectional Councils. One of the presenters at the Central Sectional Council made a revealing statement. He said that - "based on the information we were given we did what was best for the district." Concerning Hudson Falls, that is exactly the problem..

Four detractors in the Hudson Falls church presented written documents to the Executive Presbytery in a November meeting, which were highly destructive to the pastor who was guilty of - "a moral failure of a non-sexual nature." Those words are from Bro Trask's letter to the entire constituency dated January 4, 2005. These documents, in turn, were presented to the full Presbytery for the December 15, 2004 meeting that resulted in my being asked to resign immediately from my position as District Superintendent. There is no doubt that what happened in Hudson Falls was very tragic in and of itself, and definitely needed to be dealt with.

However, if you want to know the whole truth of what happened at Hudson Falls, from the beginning to the end, you need to ask the former pastor for documents from him and his wife. Documents are also available from an individual who was a board member at the time and from the wife of a board member at the time. They are sadly revealing about the events of that time. They are also revealing about how our District Officials handled the congregation during this time - yes, events in which I refused to participate. Hence Bro Trask's indictment that I "refused instruction to protect a General Council Assembly of God church when an attempt was being made to take it from the Fellowship."

Truth may be painful but if you want the whole truth, request these documents. The pastor's e-mail address is randygross@juno.com. His cell phone number is 518-307-6574. Both are used here with permission.

In conclusion, let me say that the allegations leveled against me have been false. And especially the ones that concern the open church policy, and that my resignation was not forced. There is so more that could be said but I will leave it here.

BROTHER SAIED ADOUR

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IV SUMMARY OF REV RAY BARNETT'S HEARING AT THE NEW YORK DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

- i. CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD DEACON AND BOARD SECRETARY, AND MY WIFE LYDIA ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE MEETING. THE PURPOSE OF THEIR PRESENCE WAS TO CORROBORATE MY TESTIMONY ABOUT WHAT WAS SAID BOTH **BY ME** AND **TO ME** BY THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY.
- ii. WE ARRIVED AROUND 1:10 P.M. CALLED INTO THE BOARDROOM A FEW MINUTES LATER, I WAS IMMEDIATELY TOLD THAT MY WIFE AND DEACON WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO COME IN WITH ME. I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE EXCEPT TO GO IN ALONE OR LOSE MY RIGHT TO

ANSWER THE CHARGES AGAINST ME. AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT I WENT IN ALONE. I NOW I WISH THAT I DID NOT.

- iii. PRESENT AT THE MEETING WAS DUANE DURST, MEARLE GROSSGLASS, BILL KIRK, JERRY STEWART, JERRY TERRY, RAY SULLIVAN, RANDY CZYZ, RANDY ANSON, AND RAY RICHARDS.
  - iv. RANDY CZYZ SAID THE MEETING WAS TO BE REDEMPTIVE AND RESTORATIVE. IT WAS NOT. YET, SINCE I HAD NO WITNESSES ON MY BEHALF, ALL POINTS OF VIEW OF HOW THE MEETING WENT IS NOW STRICTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESBYTERY.
  - v. DUANE DURST TOLD ME THAT WE WERE NOT THERE TO DEBATE BUT THAT I WAS CALLED THERE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. I AGREED TO THE DEMAND.
  - vi. FOR OVER ONE HOUR, IN MY ESTIMATION, THE QUESTIONS AND SPIRIT OF THE MEETING WAS CHARITABLE AND FAIR BY RANDY ANSON, RANDY CZYZ, BILL KIRK, AND RAY RICHARDS. RAY SULLIVAN AND JERRY TERRY NEVER SPOKE A WORD.
  - vii. HOWEVER, AFTER THAT HOUR, MEARLE BEGAN TO OBJECT THAT NONE OF THE CHARGES HAD BEEN ANSWERED. THAT REMARK WAS DIRECTED TO ME.
  - viii. I REPLIED BY SAYING THAT I WAS ANSWERING EVERY QUESTION ASKED OF ME BY THE PRESBYTERS. THAT DID NOT SATISFY HIM. I FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT I COULD ONLY ANSWER WHATEVER QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF ME, WHICH I HAD.
  - ix. THEN I SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS I COULD HELP, STATING THAT ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS TO GO BACK TO A LIFE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING THE WORD AND REMAIN AS PASTOR OF CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD.
  - x. RANDY ANSON ASKED IF I WERE SUGGESTING THAT I WANTED TO KEEP MY CREDENTIALS. I ANSWERED: "YES." THAT IS WHEN THE MEETING TOOK A DECIDED TURN FOR THE WORSE.
  - xi. JERRY STEWART WHO SAID NOTHING UP TO THAT POINT BEGAN TO PEPPER ME WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT "HOW COULD I REMAIN A PART OF A FELLOWSHIP IN WHICH I WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO LEADERSHIP."
  - xii. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD ALREADY SETTLED THAT AND THAT I WAS NOT A REBEL AND DID NOT WISH TO CARRY ON ANY MORE "CRUSADES." YET HE CONTINUED TO ANTAGONIZE AND BAIT ME.
  - xiii. FINALLY I WAS SO FRUSTRATED THAT I TOLD HIM THAT HIS BEHAVIOR WAS THE VERY THING THAT PROVOKED ME TO ANGER BY THE PRESBYTERY – ACCUSATIONS ABOUT MY CHARACTER, ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT MY MOTIVES, COUPLED WITH A CONDESCENDING AND HOSTILE TONE OF VOICE.
  - xiv. THEN DUANE TOLD ME THAT I NEEDED TO SHOW A REPENTANT HEART TOWARDS THOMAS TRASK AND OTHERS. THAT IS WHEN I HAD ENOUGH. I STOOD UP IN ANGER AND TOLD THEM THAT I RESIGNED MY CREDENTIALS. MEARLE THEN TOLD ME THAT I COULD NOT RESIGN BECAUSE I WAS UNDER "INVESTIGATION."
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xv. I REPLIED STATING THAT HE DID NOT ANOINT ME OR CALL ME, AND THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEIR DECISION MAY BE IN THE FUTURE, I REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THEIR DECISION SAYING THAT THEY CANNOT DISMISS ME BECAUSE I QUIT. I LEFT THE ROOM ANGRY AND DISAPPOINTED.

xvi. CONCLUSION: THE DIE WAS CAST BY SOME OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK DISTRICT PRESBYTERY BEFORE I ARRIVED. THAT IS OBVIOUS TO ME NOW. BUT IT DIDN'T BECOME OBVIOUS UNTIL THE SUBJECT OF RETAINING MY CREDENTIALS CAME UP. MEARLE GROSSGLASS, DUANE DURST, AND JERRY STEWART BECAME AGGRESSIVE, BELLIGERENT, AND INSISTENT TOWARDS ME WHICH PRECIPITATED MY ACTIONS TO LEAVE.

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**V SELECT PORTIONS OF A/G CONSTITUTION CONCERNING DISCIPLINE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH WITH MY COMMENTS EMBEDDED IN THE TEXT**

**1. ARTICLE IX Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

- 1) THIS SECTION OF ARTICLE 9, IS USUALLY INTERPRETED AS – HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH DISMISSED MINISTERS. THAT IS – “SHUN THEM.”
- 2) GOOD READING AS PROOF OF THIS WOULD BE EX-A/G EVANGELIST AUSTIN MILES, FORMER RINGMASTER WITH BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS, IN HIS 1988 BOOK ENTITLED “DON’T CALL ME BROTHER.” HIS EXPERIENCE AS A DISMISSED MINISTER IN THE A/G WAS THE SAME AS MOST DISMISSED MINISTERS, INCLUDING ME.
- 3) I AM “DISMISSED” ACCORDING TO THE A/G. BROTHER ADOUR IS “RESIGNED,” HOWEVER; BEFORE HE RESIGNED HE WAS “CENSURED” BY THE NEW YORK DISTRICT PRESBYTERY. THAT CENSURE IS IN WRITING.

**2. ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline**

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration. Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be

redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

- 1) I WAS SHOWN NO MERCY. ATTORNEY DENNIS BREWER COMMENTS HERE WILL HELP. THIS IS A DIRECT QUOTE FROM HIS LETTER TO ME, ADVISING ME HOW TO PROCEED WITH OUR CASE AT CALVARY A/G, AMSTERDAM.
- 2) HE DID NOT KNOW HOWEVER, THAT MY HEARING HAD ALREADY PASSED. YET, IT PLAYED OUT – **EXACTLY** AS HE OUTLINES!!!!
- 3) **HOW** DOES AN ATTORNEY IN TEXAS KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN NEW YORK? ANSWER – THIS IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE U.S. AND ABROAD, IN THE A/G. PORTIONS OF ATTORNEY'S LETTER STATES FOLLOWS - s

**Brewer, Asiatico, and Associates**

**Irving, Texas**

**August 8, 2005**

**Via E-Mail**

*Dear Pastor Barnett:*

*Greetings in Jesus wonderful name!*

*Thank you for your response declining to engage our firm to represent you and your church per my proposal and recommendation. I must very respectfully advise you and your board that you and your board have made a regrettable decision if you wish to preserve for your congregation the assets of Calvary Assembly; the New York District is going to gobble them up like a counterfeit thief in the night. Districts throughout the nation are commandeering churches to an almost epidemic number. The General Counsel, at least for the most part, doesn't approve, but feels that if it (the General Counsel) is going to retain its congregational rather than hierarchical position, its "hands are tied" and the same applies to the epidemic of certain districts declining to accept resignations in favor of a kangaroo trial and conviction to punish the local pastor that dares buck the "Sanhedrin" (extreme emphasis mine). I was saved 31 years ago in Don George's Assembly of God church in Irving, Texas and continue to serve on the Board, Finance Committee and teach and represent the church and the North Texas District from time to time. I wish wonderful District was the template but such is not the case; the situation is brutal in your case. A number of members of the General Counsel are extremely upset with a sizable number of districts that are attempting to commandeer the local churches that refuse to bow and scrape to their every wish and command. You should not tender your papers to the District. The District would have a hearing at which they will not permit you to have council and you would simply hear them out and not make any defense in the same manner that Jesus did and offer to tender your papers if they will accept them but make it clear that you are not relinquishing the churches property as it belongs to the congregation and not the District or General Counsel. The District will then declare that you are not permitted to resign but that they are taking your papers and effectively "kicking you out". The New York District claims*

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*to be to be congregational. There is a possibility that we would advise you to file a lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgment. Under Article 20, there are two separate paragraphs guaranteeing you autonomy, self government, independence and sovereignty which are fatally inconsistent with the actions of the New York District.*

### **3. Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God**

(Constitution Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all certified, licensed, and ordained ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of rehabilitation are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

- 1) SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE 10 CLEARLY SPELS OUT THE PROTOCOL WHEN A MINISTER IS TO BE DISMISSED. IN OTHER WORDS – ONLY SPRINGFIELD COULD DISMISS ME. AND THAT, ONLY AFTER A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY.
- 2) YET, **MY BOARD SECRETARY WAS CONTACTED** BY ACTING SUPERINTENDENT DUANE DURST **24 HOURS** AFTER MY HEARING, AND EMPHATICALLY TOLD THAT I WAS **"DISMISSED,"** AND THAT HE WAS CALLING TO **"HELP"** THE BOARD WITH THE **"TRANSITION."**
- 3) THIS IS A **FLAGRANT** VIOLATION OF THE A/G CONSTITUTION, NOT TO MENTION THAT **MY BOARD HAD ALREADY NOTIFIED THE DISTRICT – IN WRITING- THAT THEY WANTED TO RETAIN ME AS THEIR PASTOR REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE PRESBYTERY'S DECISION WAS.**
- 4) FURTHERMORE, ON SUNDAY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> A PRESBYTER SHOWS UP, **AGAINST THE STATED WISHES OF THE ENTIRE DEACON BOARD OF CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** TO READ A LETTER OF MY DISMISSAL, AND TO DECLARE THAT CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S PULPIT "VACANT."
- 5) ALL OF THESE ACTIONS ARE A **COMPLETE** VIOLATION OF **EVERY** A/G CHURCHES AUTONOMY, SOVEREIGNTY, AND RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AS STATED IN ARTICLE XI, SECTION 1C, LISTED HERE IN ARTICLE XI –

#### **a) ARTICLE XI SECTION 1c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights).**

Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General

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Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

#### **4. c. Discipline (3) Administering discipline redemptively.**

If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

- 1) I INCLUDE THIS SECTION OF ARTICLE IX FOR COMIC RELIEF.
- 2) IF ANYTHING WAS PRESENT AT MY HEARING ON JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2005, BE ASSURED THAT IT WAS NOT THE "FEAR OF THE LORD, AND ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURES."
- 3) BY THE PRESBYTERY'S OWN ADMISSION AT SECTIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN FEBRUARY 2005 [I HAVE NOTES], THEY HAD NO BIBLICAL GROUNDS FOR WHAT THEY DID TO BROTHER ADOUR, LET ALONE MY CASE. I WAS GUILTY OF ONE THING – TELLING THE TRUTH.

#### **5. Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee a. District recommendation**

The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

- 1) THIS IS A GEM. ***IT WAS MY BOARD SECRETARY*** THAT WAS TOLD THAT I WAS "***DISMISSED,***" ***ONE SINGLE DAY AFTER MY HEARING*** - AS I STATED.
- 2) I WAS **NEVER** CONTACTED, CALLED, E-MAILED, SENT A LETTER, TELEGRAPHED, OR EVEN **ADVISED** OF THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM, UNTIL THEY HAD ALREADY CONTACTED MY BOARD, AND TRIED TO HIJACK MY PASTORATE BY SENDING A PRESBYTER TO OUR CHURCH SERVICE, WHO WAS WARNED BY CALVARY'S BOARD- IN ADVANCE - **NOT** TO COME.

#### **6. (2) Dismissal.**

When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

- 1) THIS SECTION OF ARTICLE 9 WAS APPLIED **AFTER** I THREATENED TO HAVE ANY OFFICIAL OF THE A/G **ARRESTED** BY THE AMSTERDAM POLICE IF THEY SET FOOT ON OUR PROPERTY AGAIN.
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2) I WAS FINALLY NOTIFIED OF MY "**DISMISSAL**" – IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE A/G CONSTITUTION - ON SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2005, NEARLY **TWO MONTHS AFTER** THEY TRIED TO HIJACK CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD, WHICH, ULTIMATELY THEY GOT BY DEFAULT, SINCE I RESIGNED.

3) I STARTED MY NEW WORK – "THE TIME FOR TRUTH MINISTRIES."

**7. ARTICLE XI SECTION 1b. General Council Credentials Committee action.**

The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the district and shall concur if in its judgment the district was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

1) AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS ARTICLE HERE - ARTICLE XI, SECTION 1B - THAT **NONE** OF THE A/G CONSTITUTION WAS FOLLOWED, AS REQUIRED – BY LAW!

**8. Section 11. Publication of Dismissal**

No publication of a dismissed minister's name shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional 30 days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

1) CONCLUSION: MY NAME, NOW REGISTERED AS "DISMISSED," HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN PUBLISHED IN 2006.

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**VI CHARGES PREFERRED AGAINST REV. RAY BARNETT AS PENNED BY NYDAG SECRETARY MEARLE GROSSGLASS WITH COMMENTS**

*"Upon completion of said review and pursuant to the New York District By-Laws Article XI Section 6, it was determined that charges should be made and filed at the District office charging you with violations of the New York District By-Laws Article XI DISCIPLINE, Section 3 Causes of Disciplinary Action, (b.) "Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct", (f) "A contentious or non-cooperative spirit", (h) "An arbitrary rejection of general and district counsel", (l.) "Violation of ministerial courtesy (Article X, Section 8), and (n.) "An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship (Article X, Section 10). Pursuant to the New York District By-Laws Article XI DISCIPLINE, Section 6 Preparation and Filing of Charges, please consider this letter notice of the filing of these charges."*

**1. My COMMENTS ON CHARGES PREFERRED AGAINST ME:**

1 b.) "Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct",

*1a I have not failed morally, but contrarily, fulfilled my Biblical obligation to speak the truth.*

2 (f) "A contentious or non-cooperative spirit",

*2a I was contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints, not contentious or non-cooperative.*

3 "An arbitrary rejection of general and district counsel",

*3a My rejection of Thomas Trask's and Duane Durst's counsel was not arbitrary. It was thoughtful, based upon sound thinking. I rejected their demands because it would cause me to violate the Word of God and my conscience.*

4 (l.) "Violation of ministerial courtesy (Article X, Section 8),

*4a Courtesy is designed for ordinary affairs, not immoral, unethical, and illegal activities.*

5 (n.) "An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship (Article X, Section 10).

*5a This refers to my communications with dismissed minister Randy Gross, whose story warrants its' own "hearing." My attitude was not improper, but wholly in line with God's Word - to love a hurting, distressed brother.*

Please pray for me and for yourself as ministers in the Assemblies of God, for God will reveal the hidden things of darkness and judge them accordingly, as He has always done in history past.

Raymond M. Barnett

"The Time for Truth Ministries"

***Pro 17:15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both [are] abomination to the LORD.***

***Pro 18:5 [It is] not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.***

***Pro 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and [he that] speaketh lies shall not escape.***

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