

Dear brother Dan,

I have read over, and studied, the website contendingforthefaith.com, in which a compelling and clear argument is made on behalf of the Local Churches and Living Stream. Often you pointed out your attempts and desire to come to a peaceful resolution with “your brothers in Christ,” saying, for example, “...we ask you to meet with us to discuss the serious inaccuracies and misrepresentations of us in your book, the offense and damage it caused, and to seek to resolve the problem as Christian brothers.”

Dear brother, I have spoken similarly to you and to other brothers, to no avail. You have treated me in the same way Harvest House has treated you.

You stated to one of the authors, John Ankerberg, that “Mr. Hawkins, of Harvest House, has ignored our offer to come and to meet with him regarding the book. Instead, he has turned our appeal over to an attorney, bringing this matter into the legal realm. Before we proceed in that direction, we want to ask you to come together to find a simple and peaceful way to resolve the problem. We are open to meet with you at a place and time of your convenience.”

This is very conciliatory language, and appropriate.

Yet, when I attempted to have fellowship with you, I too was turned over to a “legal system”, by you. The way of removal was taken instead of the way of fellowship, which I requested of you. To quote from my initial letter to you in January 2001, I said that I felt it was “safe” to come to you “for fellowship” over the booklet I wrote called *In the Wake of the New Way*.

You not only did not answer me at that time but four months later when I tried to fellowship with you by phone, you hung up on me within thirty seconds. There was no fellowship or help from you. You considered the subject I presented to you as being closed, which many feel is not closed. Of course, my attempts to fellowship with others on this subject also failed. There is no opening or cooperation in spirit, in love, or in practice.

In more recent attempts to call brothers together for very meaningful dialogue based on a study I began in August 2000, I was ignored. I did hear from three brothers, who were uninterested. So the subject seemed to be thoroughly ignored by every brother. The need remains to come together to open to one another concerning our own history of defamation and misrepresentation of others established by the leadership in the late eighties and promoted and propagated to this day.

However, you have not cooperated to even consider that such condemnation of others might be wrong. The documents, letters and emails I have collected will make clear the discrepancy between the facts and what we have been told in the churches and have written in our books, especially one book.

Do you consider this “harassing”, Dan. I consider this another appeal to you! Your respect for me is as low as Mr. Hawkins’ is for you. I know that Mr. Hawkins’ non-response to you is a frustrating experience to you because your non-response to me is equally frustrating to me, a frustration that I have had since contacting you the same month you initially contacted Harvest House.

My efforts will now be focused on presenting the whole story of a turbulent period that saw us lose hundreds of dear brothers and sisters from the recovery. My hope is to expose our hidden history which led to division and shame among us in the recovery.

Repentances should take place if only hearts among our leadership can be softened. Brothers should be restored to one another in the Body of Christ; the Lord's name should be cleared from all unrighteous matters and activities among our leadership and the Living Stream that was not of Him during that turbulent time.

Finally, His name should be glorified among us and the way made for His return. I encourage you, brother[s], consider a proper resolving of matters from our past. Let us come together. We have our own serious case of defamation in the book, *Fermentation of the Present Rebellion*. Let us take a look at this libelous book, dear brothers, that was not authored by God and is not a representation of His thought. The bearing of false witness throughout the pages of this book have gone unchecked. Truth is the best defense, brothers, and I believe I have discovered the truth. If you think not, then maybe I have something to learn by our coming together as, not only brothers in Christ, but also as those constituted with Him and with the rich New Testament ministry from which I speak and make my appeal. In other words, may we have fellowship together?

God, grant us mercy, and spiritual understanding, and grace. In His peace, Steve Isitt