

The Public Square
Nee, Lee & the Church of Recovery

The Thread of Gold Chronicles
The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

“The Public Square” is an Internet forum hosted by The Bereans Apologetics Research Ministry (<http://www.thebereans.net/>). A sub-forum of the Bereans Forum is “Nee, Lee & the Church of Recovery”. The “Nee, Lee” sub-forum contains years of debate among current and former Local Church members. As all of us know, information control by Witness Lee and the Local Church leadership has been developed to an art. This public forum contains a great deal of information that has been under the control of many who were afraid to speak out about the abuses and misdeeds of Witness Lee and the men (elders) who served him. These people are no longer afraid to speak, but many do so under cover of an anonymous “moniker”. Following is a topic created by Matt Anderson who is not afraid to speak.

Matt is the son of Jane Carole Anderson who wrote her testimony and published it in book form, titled *The Thread of Gold, the Cross, God’s Purpose and Me*. Read chapter 1 online at (<http://www.thethreadofgold.com>). Read Jane’s experience of church discipline at the hand of Dan Williams (fictitious name). In this topic is the account of how Dan Williams outs himself by revealing his true identity in front of about 3,000 people. Dan also reveals that, after 30 years, he believes he was right to do what he did to Jane.

The format of this document is a public discussion. The speaker’s name or moniker is **bold** followed by the date and time the post was entered, a line (-----), then the name of the topic. For example:

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:30

[The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips](#)

As public discussions go, there are frequent “rabbit trails” and other off-topic commentary. This superfluous prattle and banter has been edited out of this document but all can be read in its entirety at:

<http://www.thebereans.net/forum2/showthread.php?t=36762>

Jane Carole Anderson writes under the moniker “Thankful”.

The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

PREFACE

Special Note to Local Church members: It can be shown that what Benson said at the 2005 winter training concerning my mother and others is false.

Here is the applicable teaching from the Word on how an accusation against an elder (in this case, against Benson for speaking falsely) should be made:

1 Timothy 5:17-21 - Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of my mother's book, The Thread of Gold, (www.thethreadofgold.com) there has been a significant amount of communication among those who have met (or continue to meet) with the Local Churches of Witness Lee. There have been a number of inquiries about various historical details relating to key events over the past 30-plus years.

Due to the practices of the Local Church leadership, many details about events have been covered over and the facts are not known.

This chronicle addresses matters related to the events that occurred in 1977 to which Benson Phillips recently referred in the 2005 winter training.

BACKGROUND

1. In Chapter 1 of The Thread of Gold, an elder (aka Dan Williams) "dealt" with my mom as part of a "sister's rebellion" in 1977 in Houston, Texas. (The terms, "sister's rebellion" and "sisters' flow" have been used interchangeably over the course of the past 29 years when referring to what happened with some sisters during that period of time.)
2. In the 2005 winter training, Benson Phillips referred to The Thread of Gold and the "dealing" that occurred against the author (my mother) in 1977.
3. Benson Phillips bore false witness in the 2005 winter training when he spoke about this matter.
4. Benson Phillips' statements resulted in members of the body of Christ beginning to ask questions. Their questions led to the uncovering of additional facts regarding the events of 1977.

CONTENTS OF THIS CHRONICLE

POST #1

A. Excerpt from Benson Phillips' Message from the 2005 Winter Training

B. Questions Resulting from Benson's Message

C. Answers, Discoveries, and Conclusions Resulting from These Questions

POST #2

D. Open Letter to Benson Phillips Regarding Offenses Against the Body of Christ, of Whom I Am a Member

POST #3 - #9

E. Supporting Emails and Phone Calls Between Some of Those Involved in the Events of Memorial Day Weekend, 1977

POST #10

F. My Questions

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:31

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 1:

A. EXCERPT FROM BENSON PHILLIPS' MESSAGE FROM THE 2005 WINTER TRAINING

2005 Anaheim Winter Training

Crystallization-Study of the Building of God

Message 11 - Discerning the Destroyers of the Divine Building
to Remain in the Lord's Recovery of the Divine Building

Benson Phillips:

"A factious man is a heretical (and I'm using the word 'heretical' here; he may be one who is preaching heresies (heretical also means sectarian), sectarian man who causes divisions by forming parties in the church according to his own opinions.

In order to maintain good order in the church, a factious, divisive person should be refused, rejected after a first and second admonition. Brothers, we may see such ones—a brother or sister. I'd like to tell you a couple of stories in the recovery. In 1987 [sic], we had some sisters out on the west coast. They started building up a kind of group around themselves. They were inviting sisters, and they were getting into the Word and were talking about doctrine, and they were getting clear on the church, getting clear on everything. Then it spread to Texas. I don't know where else it spread to, but anyhow, some sisters in Texas got into the same flow. And because it had happened here in Anaheim and there in Texas, we brothers had to do something. And even Brother Lee, I remember, in a conference ... Brother Lee, he was so distraught and so grieved (I don't know what word to use). In one meeting he said, 'You three holy

sisters, would you stand up?' (I think he asked them to stand up.) Well, I learned a lesson there he did not mess around with factious people. And he said, 'You three holy sisters,' and he asked them a question. Would you do that? Would you have the boldness to do that? Well, maybe one day you will have to do it. Then, in Texas, let me tell you this: They had their so-called, you know, party. It really was a party. They didn't call it a party, but that's what we're talking about, a factious party, built up in the church. It may be sisters, it may be brothers, it may be young people, it may be co-workers, it may be anyone. But to form a group around yourself is factious and sectarian because it keeps others out, and you become special. That is factious. Well, this one sister that we had to deal with, she was the leader. That was over 30 years ago by now. You know what she just came out with? A book against the recovery! Was she the right kind of person? Did we do the right thing? Absolutely, we did the right thing! If she can write a book against the recovery today, that seed was in her even then. Isn't this something? Brothers, these kind of people, the factious people, those who form parties within the church, they have to be dealt with. Why? Because they are destroyers of God's building."

Factual Correction: Benson refers to 1987 in this excerpt but then says, "That was over thirty years ago by now". The fact is that it was 1977.

B. QUESTIONS RESULTING FROM BENSON'S MESSAGE

Some who heard this account by Benson have inquired about his statements. Some have been generally interested and inquisitive about various events over the past 30 years.

From 1/9/2006 thru 2/16/2006

1. Jane Anderson (my mother) received inquiries from interested members of the body of Christ who heard Benson's statements. (Jane Anderson is the person Benson was referring to as the "leader" in Texas.)
2. Jane Anderson responded to the questions about Benson's statements.
3. Jane Anderson corresponded with Sandee Rapoport about dates and about the reference to the "three holy sisters." (Sandee Rapoport is the person who was recognized as the "leader" of the "sister's flow" in Anaheim.)

Key questions Jane was asked:

1. Did Jane understand the reason, as put forth by Benson in the 2005 winter training, that she was disciplined in the church in 1977?
2. Did Jane know what happened with the "holy sisters" in Anaheim?

C. ANSWERS, DISCOVERIES, AND CONCLUSIONS RESULTING FROM THESE QUESTIONS

Detailed communications that support the following statements will be presented later in chronological order (in several subsequent posts).

1. My mom was dealt with in May 1977. Until recently she has believed that Sandee Rapoport was dealt

with in the fall of 1978 (because that was when the Texas brothers announced that Max and Sandee had left the recovery and also when she heard about the end of what they referred to at that time as the California sisters' rebellion.) However, she has now discovered that her original understanding was wrong. What happened to her and what happened to Sandee Rapoport did not occur at different times. They actually occurred on the exact same weekend in separate localities. When?: Memorial Day weekend, 1977. These two events appear to have been organized in advance.

a. Witness Lee spoke out against the sisters' flow in Anaheim.(Sandee was requested to be at this meeting in advance of the meeting.)

b. The Texas brothers spoke out against a sisters' rebellion in Houston.
(Jane was requested to be at this meeting in advance of the meeting.)

2. At the 2005 winter training, Benson presented a false witness before thousands of members of the Local Churches. His statements were also presented to more members during the subsequent video trainings:

a. False speaking: Benson spoke as if he was present to hear Witness Lee when he supposedly called out the "three holy sisters".

Truth: This statement is extremely questionable because the same weekend that witness Lee spoke out against the sisters in Anaheim (Memorial Day weekend,1977) Benson was in Houston, Texas.

b. False speaking: Benson claimed that Witness Lee used the terminology "holy sisters" and claimed that he called out the three sisters publicly and asked them to stand up in a meeting.

Truth: Witness Lee did not use the term "holy sisters." (Phillip Lee was known to have used this term.) Witness Lee did not call the three sisters out and ask them to stand up. This fact is corroborated by multiple participants in the meeting to which Benson referred.

c. False speaking: Benson claimed that the sisters' flow started in Anaheim and spread to Texas. This is not true.

Truth: There was no communication between Jane Anderson and Sandee Rapoport until after the winter 2005 training. Before this, they briefly met only one time after the Memorial Day weekend in 1977. There was no connection whatsoever between what was happening with sisters in Anaheim and my mom in Texas.

d. False speaking: My mother came out with a book "against the recovery."

Truth: the book is my mother's testimony of her experience of the Lord. The focus is Christ and the believer's freedom to follow Him, the Lamb of God.

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:31

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 2:

D. OPEN LETTER TO BENSON PHILLIPS REGARDING OFFENSES AGAINST THE BODY OF CHRIST, OF WHOM I AM A MEMBER

Benson,

You continue to slander my mother and others and bear false witness; therefore, I am speaking the following verse into the record before God. I am asking you to give account for your actions:

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. Will you repent for bearing false witness? Your slander was public. Your repentance should match.

You should repent specifically for bearing false witness on the points mentioned above. Your repentance should be made to the members of the Local Churches, to my mother, and to the ones you referred to as the "three holy sisters."

You may contact me easily through this forum. I am readily available to address this matter with you. You may click on "Personal Message" under my name and send me a message.

This open letter addressed to you is kept simple so that the issues are not confused. If you require further discussion to help you acknowledge your error and clear up this matter, I am available to assist you in clarifying the facts surrounding this situation. Given some recent occurrences within the Local Churches, I would believe it is essential to be clean before the Lord so that the enemy would not have any advantage against the Lord and His church among us.

If you are concerned about the open manner in which I am addressing this matter, please contact me directly and I will provide you with the support for my choice of this means of communication.
Your brother in Christ,

Matt Anderson

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:32

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 3-9:

E. SUPPORTING EMAILS AND PHONE CALL NOTES BETWEEN SOME OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, 1977 [Note: When necessary, emails have been slightly edited for accuracy and readability.] [b]

POST 3: A Question For Sandee Rapoport

1/9/06 - After hearing about what Benson had said at the 2005 winter training, my mom sent the following

email to Sandee Rapoport. She had Sandee's email address because Sandee had purchased my mom's book off the internet:

Subject: FW: Your book mentioned in the training.

Hi Sandee,

Did you and Max leave the Local Church in mid to late 1978? I have been asked about that period of time by some who have read my book and are seeking the truth about what happened during those years. This date is what I remember. Could you verify or correct it for me?

Thanks so much,
Jane C. Anderson

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:32

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 4: Email correspondence with a brother:

1/9/06 - A Local Church brother who had read my mom's book attended the 2005 winter training.

Afterwards, he sent her a question:

Did you realize this was the reason you were disciplined in the church? Can you give me more details about it? From your book, I got the impression that what was going on in Texas was unrelated to the west coast, but BP said it came from the west coast.

1/10/06 - My mom responded to him with the following email:

Dear Brother,

Just recently I was informed by several others about what Benson said at the winter training. I will do my best to answer your question. My experience with the "sister's flow" was as I wrote about it in the book. I did not say much about the sisters' flow in the book because I had zero involvement with the Anaheim sisters' flow or the Texas sisters' flow. Here is a brief overview of the actual sequence of events related to the sisters' flow at that time, showing where I fit in the picture:

In early 1977, I heard rumor that God was doing something with the sister's in Anaheim from someone locally and mentioned this in a corporate sisters' meeting.

In May of 1977, I was condemned as the leader of a sisters' rebellion in Texas. The sisters' flow in Anaheim (led by Sandee Rapoport and two other sisters) was underway (and sanctioned by Witness Lee) until the summer/fall of 1978, when Witness Lee "exposed" Max and labeled the sisters' flow as a "sisters' rebellion."

What Benson said at the Winter Training left the impression that I was dealt with in Texas after Brother Lee dealt with the "three holy sisters" in Anaheim. He represented to the thousands of listeners that this was done after watching how Brother Lee dealt with these "fictitious" sisters in Anaheim. I am sad to report that in his statement to the trainees, Benson bore false witness. What he represented is, plain and simply, not true.

What is the truth? I was dealt with in May 1977. Max and Sandee Rapoport (she was the main “holy sister”) were dealt with by Witness Lee and left the Local Church in the fall of 1978. The Anaheim sister’s flow then became known as the “sisters’ rebellion.” (The Lord used Sandee and some other sisters to start this “flow”—one that I now believe helped marriages and families...as your own experience with it testifies.) This flow did not come from Witness Lee, although for a period of time he sanctioned what these sisters were doing, probably because Max was at that time his new “right-hand man.” Brother Lee allowed this until he turned against Max when Max began to confront him about Phillip and the sin in the LSM office. Then, Witness Lee dealt with the “three holy sisters.”

I am 100% certain that I was disciplined in May 1977, because this happened a day or so before my husband’s mother suddenly died on June 1, 1977. That date is a matter of public record. To the best of my knowledge Max and Sandee R. were “exposed” in the fall of 1978. The only written documentation that I have found which provides a date when Max and Sandee left the Local Church is the God-Men, by Neil T. Duddy. That book says they left in November 1978. (I am planning on sending an email to Sandee for date confirmation and will let you know what I learn. I do not know her personally but I have her email address. I emailed another question to her a month or so ago, and it took a long time for a response. I don’t think they do much emailing. Anyway, I hope I hear from her.)

I have three independent memories that further confirm the sequence of events for me.

1) Not long after Dan Williams dealt with me, the leading brothers in Texas welcomed the sisters’ flow from Anaheim to the Texas churches. It was sanctioned by them.... I was never involved in this sanctioned Texas sisters’ flow.

2) In July of 1977 (shortly after my “discipline” in May), John decided that because we were in such bad shape, we should attend a special July 4th weekend church conference in Anaheim and maybe get help from Witness Lee’s sharing. At this point, I believed that the problem in the Texas churches was with the elders in Texas misapplying or wrongly implementing whatever they heard from Witness Lee. One day while we were there, the sister in whose home we were taking hospitality told me that we had been invited to lunch at Sandee Rapoport’s house. The sanctioned sisters’ flow under Sandee’s guidance was underway in Anaheim. (i.e., Witness Lee had not yet stopped it.) After lunch, Sandee, whom I had never met before, took me aside into a private room and talked with me. She was warm and loving and seemed to be someone I could talk to about what we had been through. Yet as she talked to me, I had a strong feeling not to mention my own situation at all. I had a witness that what she was sharing was of the Lord. I knew she was waiting for a response from me, but I said only a few words to her, just acknowledging I was listening. Afterwards, when I left, I had a tremendous sense of peace. As much as I wanted someone’s sympathy and help, it seemed this wasn’t what the Lord wanted for me at that time.

3) Approximately a year later, I heard about the “three holy sisters” being singled out in a meeting by Witness Lee. I remember this because being in the meetings at that time was such a suffering to me. When they began to “expose” Max in the meetings in Texas and announced the end of the sister’s flow, calling it a “sister’s rebellion,” I clearly remember thinking that what had happened to me was now happening to Sandee R. and the other sisters there with her.

I still marvel that I didn’t talk to Sandee that day at her house in 1977 and tell her everything. She certainly gave me the opportunity. (Matt, knowing me well, had a good laugh when I told him that he no doubt would realize that my silence at that time was probably one of the most powerful testimonies of Christ he

would ever hear from me!) I remember thinking, after being at Sandee's home that day, how wonderful it would have been to have been able to fellowship freely with those sisters. They were seeing and experiencing together many of the things I had been realizing from the Lord.

But the point of all this is that Benson reversed the sequence of events when he talked about it in the winter training. I can only surmise that he may have felt the need to legitimize the action taken towards me by linking it to Witness Lee's action, indicating that it was according to Witness Lee's example. You asked if I realized this was the reason I was disciplined in the church. So, if by "this" you mean the Anaheim/Texas sisters' flows as Benson indicated, the answer is I did not get in trouble for being part of these. All I understood then was that they suspected me of some kind of subversive activity--starting from the time I made mention of hearing about a sisters' flow in Anaheim. However, as I explained in the book, I now believe that the real reason was that Satan was targeting my individual experience of the Lord. This is supported by the fact that their public condemnation included statements about seeking to be a spiritual giant and about reading books about "spiritual giants" (pp. 310-311). Sandra (my fellow "rebel") was asked to burn her Madame Guyon book for this reason...

One other point: It is also noteworthy that Benson used the words "factious" and "sectarian" in his condemnation of me at the winter training. These are not words used at all when I was dealt with in Houston. Rather, I was labeled as the leader of a sisters' rebellion. I consider his current emphasis on forming parties and being sectarian to be a re-writing of history colored by his memory of the Anaheim sisters situation. I also wonder if he purposely avoided the use of the word "rebellious" because of Witness Lee's footnote on Matthew 5:22 which I had pointed out in letters I wrote in the early 1990s (pp. 257).

I hope this answers your question satisfactorily. Now, I have a question for you—are you positive you heard Benson say at the Thanksgiving conference that he was actually reading my book? I do hope that is so. I have heard reports that he never read my long letter to him written in the early 90s.

Your sister in Christ,
Jane

1/10/06 The brother wrote my mom back with this question:

I was also considering writing to Sandee for her testimony, but now I will wait to hear what she says to you. Can you ask her what meeting or conference it was that WL had them stand up and what he said to them?

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:33

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 5: An email from another brother:

1/11/06 My mom received the following email from another Local Church brother:
By the way, Dan Williams mentioned your book at the last Winter Training (of course, he did not mention your name). Whatever regrets he had for dealing with you harshly in the past, he dismissed them now. He said that they had dealt with you rightly, because if you were able to write the book against the recovery

now, you must have had the seed of it then. I am sorry to tell you such unpleasant things. This brother did not read your book and still had liberty to judge you. He had no thought that he himself planted the seed and watered it. But I am happy that this seed, nonetheless, by the Lord's mercy produced sweet fruit. Your book doesn't have any bitterness. So it is not against the recovery, it is for the recovery. It recovers many wounded souls.

May the Lord bless you richly

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:33

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 6: Email correspondence between my mom and Sandee Rapoport:

1/11/06 Sandee responded to my mom's question about the date they left the recovery:

Subject: FW: Your book mentioned in the training.

Hi Jane, Yes we left Sept. 1978. Would love to stay in touch with you. Are you in Oklahoma or Texas. I will answer any questions you would like to know. I bet you're getting lots of feedback on your book. I'm praying for you . What did they say in the training? They still talk about us event to this day. Strange. God bless. Hi to your family. Sandee

1/12/06 In her reply to Sandee's email, my mom wrote:

Thanks for the information, Sandee. We are in Plano, Texas (a Dallas suburb). Thanks for offering to answer other questions...

I would like to hear about the "three holy sisters" incident if you wouldn't mind sharing it. That might be a job by email, so if you prefer, we can talk by phone when it is convenient for you. Let me know when a good time for you is. Weekends, probably Saturday, are the best time for me.

Thank you for your prayers,

Jane

Sandee responded on 1/14/06:

....Max and I left in Sept. 1978 but the trouble started on Memorial Day, May 1977. I would be more than happy to share with you all that we passed through. The name "holy sisters" was given us by Philip Lee because of Max talking to Witness about the Living Stream trouble concerning Philip. He was very upset with us. I will call you and would very much love to spend time with you regarding all the Lord has done. Your book was right on, for I found the Lord through it all even though those many years was a nightmare. Thank you again for sharing your experience. We have been able to touch the lives of many, many saints who left the LC and other groups with similar experiences. Sandee

1/15/06 My mom wrote Sandee again and sent her a transcript of what Benson actually said about the holy

sisters at the training. She also asked Sandee another question:

Thanks for the reply, Sandee, and thanks for being willing to share the details of your story with me. One question now—approximately when did Witness Lee publicly call you all out as the three “holy sisters” in the meeting Benson referred to? I have guessed it was in mid to late 1978. Since I wrote this in my email to a brother, I would like to know that date if you know it, so that I can verify (or correct) my correspondence with this brother.

1/15/06 Sandy wrote back this surprising response:

Jane, There was no such calling out, about holy sisters. Benson must be speaking about the mid-age [middle-aged people] conference. That’s when everything changed, and we stayed a year after that, but those were very strange times. Ann and Harriett and Max and I went to talk with Witness about how he lied about us and that our spirits were offended. He never came to talk face to face with us. He discredited us when we had been in fellowship with him and the elders through it all. He just listened and did not say a word. That was his way. Max and I were very close to Witness. It was not our choice to leave. We thought we would be there forever until the Lord came back. We were pushed out through lies that were brewing over that time. A brother has a short testimony from each of us, but it’s not the whole story. In His love, Sandee

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:34

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 7: Another question from a brother and a phone call with Sandee:

1/17/06 On this morning, my mother received another question in an email from another Local Church brother:

I have one question. At the last winter training, Benson told the story of how Brother Lee openly had dealt with three “holy” sisters at one of his trainings. Were you present at that meeting? Can you tell me the details?

1/17/06 That evening Sandee called my mom and they talked for about an hour and a half. The following is from notes my mom took during their phone conversation. It also includes her thoughts about what she learned from Sandee and a surprising discovery.

Sandee told her that Benson’s statements at the winter training could only have referred to the Memorial Day weekend conference in 1977. While the young people were at a conference in Berkeley and Max was at a conference in Chicago, Witness Lee held a special conference for middle-aged saints in Anaheim. Sandee said that at that conference, out of the blue, Witness Lee began to speak disparagingly of the sisters. Sandee was positive that Witness Lee did not call them “holy sisters” (this was the only time he spoke about them publicly). He also definitely did not address them directly nor ask them to stand up.

My mom was struck by the date Sandee told her. She told me that she could hardly believe that this could be the correct date (Memorial Day weekend, 1977) and repeatedly asked Sandee if she was sure it was

1977. Why was my mom shocked by this date? This was the exact same weekend that she was dealt with as the leader of the sister's rebellion in Texas! (My mom said it happened to her on Saturday night. Sandee said Witness Lee did this to them also on Saturday night.) My mom had always thought that the "sisters' rebellion" in California was dealt with in late 1978 because that was when the Texas brothers announced the end of the sisters' flow in Anaheim and called it a "sisters' rebellion."

Sandee was positive about this date (Memorial Day, 1977). She said it was the same weekend as the notorious Berkeley conference where the young people went wild and did a number of crazy things. Sandee remembers clearly that on that same weekend, when Max was at a conference in Chicago, he received a call telling him to come home quickly because of what Witness Lee had said publicly about the sisters. Whoever called him was concerned for Sandee.

Witness Lee did not say anything about a sisters rebellion. He only spoke in a way to put a question mark over what had been going on with the sisters, mainly by saying that those involved should not sit together but take care of other sisters and sit with them. This came as a complete surprise to Sandee, Ann, and Harriet because Witness Lee had been completely supportive of what they were doing with the sisters for several years prior to this. He was fully informed, as were all the local elders, about whatever was happening. He constantly encouraged Sandee to do whatever she felt led by the Lord to do with the sisters. He even allowed her to minister the Word in sisters' meetings. Sandee, Ann, and Harriet were fully one with Witness Lee and were praying about and practicing whatever he ministered. They were all stunned that he would speak publicly and critically about things related to the sisters in the church without having first talked to them in private. From that time forward, Sandee said everything became really strange. (My mom also asked Ann about this conference meeting, and she said exactly the same thing as Sandee. She said they were not singled out, nor were they called "holy sisters" by Witness Lee. Ann said she also remembers him saying something about the fact that he had not appointed them.) Sandee said she was stunned when Witness Lee began speaking like this. She said that God's grace came upon her while this was happening. She heard what Witness Lee said, but she felt shielded from the hurt of it.

At the end of the meeting Sandee stood and said she was sorry that there were some people that were upset with them. (She didn't "repent" because she could not repent for something of which they were not guilty.) Sandee continued saying that she was one with Brother Lee and the ministry and would make any turns Brother Lee made and support whatever flow was happening.

Sandee told my mom some more background regarding the time prior to this conference on Memorial Day weekend, 1977. She said that the elders in Anaheim made Ann, Sandee, and Harriet leading sisters in 1974. They encouraged them to pray for and get with sisters who were struggling. The elders, in particular Max, were doing the same for the brothers. These three sisters met with the elders weekly and told them whatever was happening with the sisters. Everything they did was fully "covered" by the elders in the Church in Anaheim. This went on for several years with Witness Lee constantly very supportive. There was never any such thing as an independent "sister's flow". What happened with the sisters there (clearing up problems with one another, etc.) was normal and spontaneous over a period of time and was done in conjunction with Witness Lee's ministry. Sandee had not one clue there was any problem whatsoever until Witness Lee spoke disparagingly about the sisters publicly. She told my mom that she and Max were very, very close to Witness Lee. They were with him many times during the week eating and fellowshiping with different brothers and sisters. They were always with him when bringing important people into the church from other groups. Sandee found his first apartment for him in Anaheim and helped him move in to his new place. She took him to the eye doctor and hospital, etc. He asked her to pray for his wife and

anoint her with oil when she was sick. He asked her to talk with his daughter before her wedding and have those close to her help with the wedding. Max and Sandee loved doing these things for him. Witness Lee called Max every morning at their home and was with him every day for fellowship about church and family matters. (This made what he did to them starting Memorial Day Weekend, 1977 even more painful.) A few weeks after what Witness Lee said at that weekend conference, Sandee, Ann, and Harriet went to talk to him about this. Again, he did not say such a thing as “holy sisters” to them or treat them in a bad way. Sandee said that they later realized the change toward them which he first demonstrated at the Memorial Day, 1977, mid-age conference was a result of Max having talked to Witness Lee about Philip Lee being caught with a sister in the LSM offices. (Max had done this not long before the Memorial Day 1977 conference.)

Sandee said that the “sisters’ flow” continued in Anaheim after the Memorial Day weekend, 1977, until the next year when she and Max were eventually forced to leave. However, she said that after that weekend, things were never the same as they had been during the years before. She said that one time after the Memorial Day weekend conference, a sister whom she was close to came and sat by her in the meeting. Sandee, remembering what Witness Lee had said about not sitting together, turned to the sister and said, “You had best not sit beside me.” The sister moved. Sandee said that immediately the Lord spoke to her that this was wrong! She went and told the sister she was wrong to have told her where she could sit. She said that night after the meeting, she went home to Max and cried saying something to the effect that she was having a big problem because Witness Lee was saying one thing, and the Lord was saying something different to her. She also said that some of the sisters became upset by what Witness Lee said at the mid-age conference and stopped coming to some of the meetings. After that weekend, Sandee spent much of her time trying to help with all the problems that were begun as a result of what Witness Lee said. She also told my mom that a very strange thing happened after that conference. Witness Lee asked Max to box up all of Sandee's books and bring them to him! Sandee could not believe this. She told my mom that after being saved, she read three books that had a big impact on her walk with the Lord: Rees Howells, Intercessor; Madame Guyon; and Song of Songs by Watchman Nee. Sandee learned about other biographies of ones such as Amy Carmichael which were out of print. She had them reprinted for the sisters there to read. These kinds of books were what Max took to Witness Lee. After about a week, he returned them. Sandee believes he wanted to see what other books the sisters were reading, though this was never said to her.

After the phone call with Sandee, my mom was very bothered.

My mom told me that she simply could not quit thinking about the fact that what Witness Lee began to do to Sandee, and what happened to her, were on the very same weekend! How could this be? Intuitively she knew that this was significant. It certainly was not as Benson portrayed in the winter training—that he saw Witness Lee call out the “holy sisters” and that they then had to do something in Texas. No, it was not that way at all. What was done was done on the same weekend!

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:34

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 8: Benson's statements in print:

2/16/06 – My mom discovers that Benson's false statements are in print.

On this date my mom received the edited and printed version of Benson's statements which appeared in the LSM Ministry Magazine shortly after the 2005 winter training. When she compared the transcript of Benson's spoken words to the printed version (pages 291-292, Ministry Magazine) she noticed some differences. The printed version was edited, but remain basically the same. Some differences are:

1. The printed version no longer has Benson saying "I remember" nor does it have Benson saying, "I think he said for them to stand up."
2. The printed version also contains one additional piece of information that was not in the transcript my mom received in January. It now says that Brother Lee "was distraught even grieved, because of this situation. Eventually, at the 1977 Memorial Day conference in Anaheim..."

Interestingly, the added information is: "at the 1977 Memorial Day conference in Anaheim." So thus, my mom received confirmation of the date which Sandy thought Benson must be referring to—confirmation directly from the Living Stream Ministry. Benson was definitely referring to the 1977 Memorial Day conference in Anaheim. Sandy said it was on Saturday night that Witness Lee began to discredit the sisters. On the same Saturday night in Houston my mom was labeled as the leader of a sisters' rebellion. It is incomprehensible that what happened to my mom and what happened to Sandee were not planned in advance and carried out simultaneously. The Texas brothers did not learn from what they saw Witness Lee do in Anaheim and then repeat it in Texas. No. There appears to be advanced planning and certainly advanced knowledge of what was to be done. So, what was really going on here? Maybe Brother Lee was distraught, even grieved as Benson said, but maybe his upset was about Max coming to him about Phillip, his son.

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:35

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 9: More communication from Sandee Rapoport:

2/17/06 –Sandee Rapport sent another email with further clarification after reviewing my mom's notes on their January 17th phone call. She then talked with my mom on the phone the next day. The following is a summary of what Sandee shared in these two times:

The matter of sisters being factious was false. We built everything around how the Lord was leading according to Witness Lee's ministry. He shared over a long period of time about the relatedness needed in the body of Christ—about knowing who you were joined to—like the members of the physical body. We were absolutely one with his teachings regarding this matter of relatedness. We did not choose who would be related to whom but prayed much daily—and GOD was the One connecting us all. Our intention was to reach all the sisters in Anaheim. We were given authority by Witness to care and minister to the sisters. We were in shock from what he said at that conference. That meeting was like a bomb that went off in the recovery. Nothing was the same after that. The work with the sisters came under strong legal control. I was placed in a position to choose between following man or the Lord. A year of undermining us went on until we left in 1978. As I told you before, it took many years of unveiling and seeking God's face to get clear.

Matt Anderson 02-25-06 21:35

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

POST 10:

F. MY QUESTIONS

1. Is it just coincidence that in Anaheim at the exact same time my mom was being deal with in Texas, Witness Lee was making a similar move against the sisters in Anaheim?
2. Was Witness Lee in a position to need to save his son after Max talked to him about Philip's sin in the LSM office?
3. Did Witness Lee need to discredit and undermine Max's support base so he started by beginning to humiliate Max's wife?
4. Where did Benson learn the term "holy sisters" ... from Philip Lee?
5. How could what happened to my mom and what Witness Lee did to Sandee on the same day regarding the same apparent issue(s) be unrelated?
6. According to the book, Speaking the Truth in Love (written ten years after this), Benson was a key person responsible for promoting Philip Lee in the Living Stream Ministry (LSM) office after 1977. Did Witness Lee's need to help his son and his desire keep him in the LSM business office afford the Texas brothers the opportunity to gain favor with Witness Lee?
7. Was what happened to my mom a result of extra-local control?

Bill W 02-25-06 23:48

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Ro 16:1 - I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchræa: Matt or anyone, was this sister's move in Anaheim related to the "fighting Phebe's in the late 70's? I remember Brother Lee sharing about the need to have "fighting Phebe's "in the church life, and this spread all over California. Sisters in the church in Berkeley were tremendously influenced by this teaching. I know somehow Sandee was involved with this matter that was initially sanctioned by Brother Lee. Later it fizzled as most of those flows came and went in those days. Was this the same sister's move that Sandee was involved in that you mentioned? If it is, then it was surely initiated by Brother Lee.

Matt Anderson 02-26-06 20:08

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Quote from: Bill W Ro 16:1 - I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Matt or anyone, was this sister's move in Anaheim related to the "fighting Phoebe's in the late 70's? I remember Brother Lee sharing about the need to have "fighting Phoebe's "in the church life, and this spread all over California. Sisters in the church in Berkeley were tremendously influenced by this teaching. I know somehow Sandee was involved with this matter that was initially sanctioned by Brother Lee. Later it fizzled as most of those flows came and went in those days. Was this the same sister's move that Sandee was involved in that you mentioned? If it is, then it was surely initiated by Brother Lee.

Bill W,

I am not familiar with the fighting Phebes being used in the same context as the "sisters flow". I will do some checking to find out and leave it open to others to provide inputs. What else can you tell me that you heard about the fighting Phebe's? I know that some topics changed shape over time or across localities. Much like Benson's reference to "the three holy sisters" which was never specifically stated at the time mentioned above, but it became the reference they used over time.

Matt

Bill W 02-26-06 20:48

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Ro 16:1 - I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: Matt, all I know is that this matter of the "fighting Phebe's" came to Berkeley in the 70's from Southern California. Like all other "flows and burdens" that came from Brother Lee at that time, it eventually caused much division in Berkeley. It basically started out with a scriptural basis, but by the time it got implemented in the Bay Area it got polluted. I know we were told that Sandee was involved with this flow with Brother Lee's blessings. I believe her love and devotion for the Lord at that time inspired sisters to follow in her footsteps. Whether she was cognizant of leading this flow or not I am not sure, but this is what we were told in Berkeley.

Futhermore, I think it initiated with this sister Phebes being held up as a role model for sisters to follow in being a "servant" in the local church. Brother Lee stated how we need sisters to "rise up" to be "fighting Phebe's" in the local churches. This was a wonderful concept, but it created division in Berkeley. Some sisters rose up in Berkeley to follow this way, and they judged the sisters who they deemed not being "fighting Phebe's." Eventually, these Berkeley "fighting Phebe" sisters started hanging out with each other, and they frowned upon those ones who weren't part of their gathering. Many weaker sisters were stumbled by this flow, but the elders put a stop to it before any real damage came in. My former wife was part of this group called the "fighting Phebe's", but I told her that I felt it was a divisive thing to separate herself from other sisters. Eventually, she (I hate to use the word) got "clear" that it wasn't right. This is why I was wondering if this is the same so called sisters thing that initiated with Brother Lee's blessing in the 70's, but later was looked upon as an act of rebellion?

Nell 02-26-06 21:59

It's different in Texas

Matt,

This is quite a story...a lot to process. After reading your post from stem to stern several times, I've had an almost unrelated thought. When I was still in the LC whether it be Houston, New Orleans, Austin, Oklahoma City or San Antonio, and when I visited California or anyplace that was not considered a "Texas" church, I knew it was not the same other places as it was in Texas.

When people from other places came to Texas, they would comment that it was different in Texas. I attributed this to a difference in leadership, and didn't think much about it. Now, I'm thinking, it was different, not because of the leadership in a general way, but specifically because of Benson Phillips. Duh... Back then, I gave Benson some credit for integrity and credibility. I never would have imagined the lengths to which he would go to serve up an example to the trainees. Actually, this was his personal testimony.

Well Bro. Benson, you got some 'splainin' to do. It's really simple. Either you admit you were wrong and repent, first to God, then to Jane and Sandee, then to the rest of the "world", or you don't.
Nell

Matt Anderson 02-27-06 00:05

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

I have received a private message from a brother regarding the "open" approach I have taken to addressing Benson. This brother was concerned that I should address Benson privately. I responded to this brother, but I expect this may be a viewpoint that is shared by others.

In my letter to Benson I make reference to the fact that I have support for this "open" approach. In fact, this "open" approach was also my concern prior to posting. After asking the Lord about it, He gave me a set of verses in support of moving forward with an "open" approach without first addressing it privately.

I will share these verses on this forum in the near future. For the time being, I am going to await a response from Benson.

Your brother in Christ,

Matt Anderson

Nell 02-27-06 03:32

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Quote from: Matt Anderson

I have received a private message from a brother regarding the "open" approach I have taken to addressing Benson. This brother was concerned that I should address Benson privately. I

responded to this brother, but I expect this may be a viewpoint that is shared by others.

In the past, I have personally left a message for Benson, at his home, to return my call about getting with him to clear up a serious problem that involved him. I was ignored. I've also asked him in writing for a meeting to clear up the same matter. Again, I was ignored. I also know others who have made multiple requests to meet with Benson. They were ignored. Apparently, this is Benson's way.

Regardless, Matt, if Benson had not spoken so openly and publicly these slanderous statements about your mother, then I would question your approach too. It appears to me that, Benson chose the open forum. Not you. You are responding to Benson, in kind, as near as possible that you can. I pray that the Lord will bless your efforts.

Nell

Bilbodog 02-27-06 04:16

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips
"You are responding to Benson, in kind,"

That really has no bearing on how we as the Lord's own respond.

Roger 02-27-06 06:20

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips
Quote:

Quote from: Bilbodog "You are responding to Benson, in kind,"

That really has no bearing on how we as the Lord's own respond.

WHAT!?

Oh, when it comes to multi-million dollar law suits, to enrich LSM and the Local Churches, then "in kind," or any other way is just fine. But when it comes to Local Church leaders who slander what they consider to be "rebellious" saints, and openly lie about them, then suddenly, "That really has no bearing on how we as the Lord's own respond."

Roger 02-27-06 06:25

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Matt, Don't hold your breath waiting to hear from Benson. I have heard him talking in a conference about how he ignores these efforts to contact him. At that particular time he spoke specifically about a 30 page letter he received from a sister (your mom, perhaps?). He just threw it away.

But he's gonna hear sooner or later. He would be well advised to sit up straight and listen right now.

Mr Smith 02-27-06 10:30

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Quote from: Matt Anderson

I have received a private message from a brother regarding the "open" approach I have taken to addressing Benson. This brother was concerned that I should address Benson privately. I responded to this brother, but I expect this may be a viewpoint that is shared by others.

Yes Matt, I also share this viewpoint. I do believe there should be an effort to contact Benson privately first. If no response, then post an open letter stating you had made an effort to contact Benson, but of no avail. That's just my perspective how the process should have been handled. Either way, I would have been surprised if he'd respond. It's been the way of the brothers to address the positive aspects only and treat the negative aspects as if they do not exist. Having read how poorly your mom was treated and reading how poorly Sandee was handled in Anaheim, I don't hear or read of anyone alluding to the fact mistakes were made and saints were stumbled. Mistakes were made and saints were stumbled in the local churches!

Matt Anderson 02-27-06 18:26

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Quote from: Mr Smith

Yes Matt, I also share this viewpoint. I do believe there should be an effort to contact Benson privately first. If no response, then post an open letter stating you had made an effort to contact Benson, but of no avail. That's just my perspective how the process should have been handled.

Mr Smith,

Here is the full text of what I wrote to the other brother that inquired of me privately. I am planning to let

this rest for a while and give Benson a reasonable amount of time to respond. In the mean time I won't be able to provide any further defense of my approach other than saying that I am simply trying to obey the Lord.

I appreciate you directing your concern to me and I realize that your response will be one that will be shared by others.

I prayed about this matter before addressing it in this manner. I felt led to take this approach, but I too had concern about this approach versus addressing it privately first. The Lord led me to some verses that showed me that an "open" approach was appropriate under certain circumstances.

I am holding these verses back for the time being. I plan to give Benson ample time to respond. If I have offended Benson then I am willing to address this directly with him. If he does not feel I have heard what he is saying to me, then I am willing to meet with others. I am also willing to be before the whole church on this matter if necessary.

If it turns out that my approach was not one that was in agreement with the Lord, then I will have to bear this shame. I can only say that I am before the Lord as honestly as I know how regarding my postings and the "open" approach to addressing Benson.

For your information, I have sent a cover letter and a copy of these postings directly to Benson. He may or may not receive them. Our past experience is that these types of communications are sometimes filtered and set aside by others.

Before making too many assumptions about my actions, please understand that there is quite a bit of history between Benson and my family. I am not personally angry with Benson, nor is my family, but because of this history we are in a position to hold him accountable for his false speaking where others may not be in the same position. The "open" manner of addressing Benson is in part due to this history with my family.

In addition, please understand that I do not do this lightly or without consideration before the Lord and fellowship with others.

I am open to further questions and inspection in light of the Word. I am aware of many of the verses you could present in support of taking private action first. You won't find me in disagreement with them. What you will find is that I believe that the approach I am taking is in line with the Word and the speaking of the Lord.

Matt

Mike K. 02-28-06 16:24

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Note that bearing false witness in front of the church against a member of your family is not just one sin

that is private between Benson and your family, but it is a very broad sin, since on the one hand, your family is the victim of false witness, but the entire congregation before which Benson spoke has been lied to, they are victims of a lie.

As such, it is appropriate to first make them aware that they were lied to, i.e. everyone individually was sinned against, and then to ask Benson to apologize not only to you for the false testimony, but also to the entire congregation to everyone whom he lied to.

He bears a MUCH greater burden than one small false testimony, he bears the burden of having lied to thousands of people!

And then someone tries to say "it's a private matter that should be handled 1:1"? Next thing I hear is that G.W: Bush should have come to Saddam Hussein to handle the matter 1:1 instead of overthrowing the government that deceived millions of people? oy, what a joke... public sins need to be dealt with in public!

Matt Anderson 02-28-06 20:07

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Mike K.

I agree with you. I have had the realization that this is not just a private matter. It is one that I believe affects the Body. I also believe it is important to be specific so that a matter such as this may be established properly. To be honest with you, I have been a little surprised at the lack of response to my posting so far. I did not expect a large response, nor did I have a specific expectation of a certain kind of response.

Is it appropriate for a leading elder within the body of Christ to do something like this? Does it not lead many into error without their awareness? Having now been made aware of this matter which may require further investigation or research to establish the veracity of my writing does the Body sit back and observe or does it respond? Or has this become so common place that the Body is numb?

I am not an elder or a leading one. Practically speaking, I am NOBODY. But, I know my Lord. He is very bothered by this kind of behavior and from my own personal testimony I can attest to the fact that it is not isolated and it has large implications. It is not some small mis-speaking that can or should be covered over.

I am planning to bring forward what the Lord showed me regarding this matter in the coming week or so. My personal hope is that there will be serious consideration of this matter and it will not be left alone. Each of us has a witness according to our experience. Many on this forum have been faithful to share their witness regarding the local church. For those only viewing and not participating, I ask of you to go before the Lord and request that He shine into your heart and that you would have the boldness to no longer remain silent. This does not mean you have to share with us on this forum. I pray for each of you that the boldness that is in the Lord for the truth and for each member of His body would be your boldness.

Pray for me that I have the time as I have been quite busy with work beyond my ability to control it. Also pray for me that the Lord will give me proper utterance to write what is on His heart and to carve out of it

what is only of me and not Him.

Your brother in Christ,
Matt

Nell 02-28-06 22:43-----

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote from: Matt Anderson
It is not some small mis-speaking

This is what I'm choking on. If there is any way that you could take this information and say that Benson misspoke, then I think you could bring it to his attention, even privately. Any responsible adult, much less one who claims the status of he who is "becoming God" would be horrified at his mistake and correct it immediately, on his own, without being asked. You don't even have to be a Christian to correct a mistake. You just have to have a conscience.

Here is an example of a mistake Benson made: "In 1987 we had some sisters out on the west coast...." In fact, it was 1977-78. He got the date wrong, yet later said 30 years ago, so he corrected himself. This kind of statement can be called a misspeaking.

When a Christian prepares a sermon that includes examples or "stories" about real people, and the effect of the stories will be to prolong thirty-year-old accusation against members of the Body of Christ, what is that Christian's responsibility for accuracy? They must be accurate before God, accurate before those being accused, accurate before the audience of thousands present at their speaking, and accurate before those whom their "stories" will eventually reach through the print medium. If a Christian preacher is going to speak negatively about a book, does he have the responsibility to read the book first? This was no "misspeaking". Benson prepared his stories. He prepared five carefully crafted lies:

#1: Benson indicated that these two events happened at different times, and clearly, they did not.

#2: Since both events happened on the same night, Benson did not receive his "inspiration" in a meeting he did not attend. He did not see or hear Witness Lee discipline these three sisters, he did not hear Witness Lee call them the "three holy sisters"; he did not then go to a locality not his own, Houston, at a later time from his home in Dallas, and do the same thing himself.

#3: Benson indicated that he heard the term "three holy sisters" from Witness Lee, Memorial weekend, 1977. According to Sandee Rapoport, Witness Lee never said this to or about her in public or private, and that Philip Lee was a possible "author" of this statement.

#4 Memorial weekend, 1977 Benson was in Houston doing the deed.

#5 It is disingenuous for Benson to say "we had some sisters out on the west coast. They started building up a kind of group around themselves." As Sandee stated, this was fully sanctioned by Witness Lee and the elders in Anaheim.

You can say it was one big lie. I don't disagree. My point is, it cannot possibly be construed that Benson simply "misspoke."

Nell

Bill W 03-01-06 02:52

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote Mr. Smith:

Either way, I would have been surprised if he'd respond. It's been the way of the brothers to address the positive aspects only and treat the negative aspects as if they do not exist.

Mr. Smith, the reason why Benson Phillips and others never respond to so called negative letters is because Brother Lee taught them to do business that way. How many times did we hear Brother Lee say in meetings that when he received a letter that he read the first few lines to see what direction it was headed. If the letter started out negative in his eyes, then he threw it in the trash can. This way he didn't have to address or hear any problems, and he was able to stay within the bubble of the local church fantasy.

You have to remember that Benson Phillips and others have disposed of any means possible to penetrate the armor surrounding their hardened hearts. They aren't open to any reproof, correction, or instruction based on the Word of God. They were taught this practice as all their practices by Brother Lee. They aren't interested in hearing the truth, but their only interest and goal is maintaining their system of error. To misspeak the truth, or not remember their mistakes is no problem to them. This is why the Lord Himself has been knocking outside at their door, yet they refuse to open to Him. In their pride, they feel that no one can share anything with them that would cause them to deviate or question the ministry of Brother Lee. This stiffneckedness has truly caused them to be in a cold and callous state that won't allow anyone to touch them in their conscience; not even God.

Mr Smith 03-01-06 10:14

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote from: Bill W

How many times did we hear Brother Lee say in meetings that when he received a letter that he read the first few lines to see what direction it was headed. If the letter started out negative in his eyes, then he threw it in the trash can.

They aren't open to any reproof, correction, or instruction based on the Word of God. They were taught this practice as all their practices by Brother Lee. They aren't interested in hearing the truth, but their only interest and goal is maintaining their system of error. To misspeak the truth, or not remember their mistakes is no problem to them. This stiffneckedness has truly caused them to be in a cold and callous state that won't allow anyone to touch them in their conscience; not even God.

You have spoken it Bill. There is no heart open to reproof, correction, nor instruction. There is no ear to hear the truth. Only to follow their goals. To address anything remotely negative will require one to take a step back. Such an addressing will cause one to be attentive to their conscience. When one is pressing on, even in misspeaking; being inaccurate is irrelevant as long as their goal is attained. Now I'm not trying to

be downplay anything anyone says. I see from my interaction the only thing that matters is being one with the brothers, even if their direction may be in conflict of one's conscience and leading in Christ. Bill, what happens when a brother's leading from the Lord is different than the speaking coming out of Anaheim?

Roger 03-01-06 12:12

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Bill, what happens when a brother's leading from the Lord is different than the speaking coming out of Anaheim?

For the answer to that question, refer to the last "training." He will be labeled, "a destroyer of God's Building." I'm afraid that some of the people who are here on this very forum, believing that they are in the Local Church, and defending LSM, are in fact regarded by the "Blended," as "destroyers of God's building." Poor them.

Matt Anderson 03-02-06 02:16

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

I would like to go ahead and share the verses the Lord led me to regarding my posts about Benson's remarks during the Winter 2005 Training. I am going to start by sharing them without a lot of commentary. I would like to open these verses up for everyone to look at and go to the Lord regarding their application to the current situation with the local churches.

Depending upon the responses to these verses I may add some additional posts to help provide some additional perspective regarding what the Lord was showing me in them.

The verses are in Galatians 2, specifically verses 11-14, but I think the entire chapter may be applicable. Verses 11-14 simply show that there are circumstances under which Paul felt it was appropriate to address certain issues very openly. In this case, He was addressing Peter openly before everyone regarding Peter's behavior towards some of the saints in Galatia. Peter was at fault for withdrawing himself from the Gentile saints when the Judiazers were around. The beginning of Galatians 2 is referring to the council in Jerusalem in Acts 15.

For clarity, I am no Paul and make no claim to be Paul. However, I am not afraid to be obedient to the Lord in addressing a brother who is in error and leading many astray from the core of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe part of the core of the gospel of Jesus Christ is connected to our receiving one another and giving one another full liberty in Christ without treating some believers with partiality because they may disagree on elements that are not fundamental to the Christian faith.

For now, I would like to leave the rest of my thoughts on this out of the way and allow those coming to this forum to go to these verses on their own and be before the Lord regarding these verses in relationship to Benson's remarks during the Winter 2005 Training.

Your brother in Christ,

Matt

Nell 03-10-06 19:58

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips
Matt,

I'm guessing Benson hasn't raced to the phone to call you and repent, or you would have let us know. I am curious about something you posted on the Pot/Kettle topic, but thought it fit better here.

You said: "There is much to share with all of the saints regarding matters that have gone on within the house of the LSM and local churches. I am speaking specifically here of information that I am aware of and that needs to be brought forward according to the Biblical standard and not the court process."

Can you elaborate?

Nell

Matt Anderson 03-13-06 09:13

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

*Quote from: Nell
Matt,*

I'm guessing Benson hasn't raced to the phone to call you and repent, or you would have let us know. I am curious about something you posted on the Pot/Kettle topic, but thought it fit better here.

You said: "There is much to share with all of the saints regarding matters that have gone on within the house of the LSM and local churches. I am speaking specifically here of information that I am aware of and that needs to be brought forward according to the Biblical standard and not the court process."

Can you elaborate?

Nell

No news from Benson.

The statement you quoted above from the Pot/Kettle is pointing to additional information that I am considering posting. They establish a stronger basis for this thread and that this thread is not just

addressing some small "mis-speaking" on Benson's part, but part of an established pattern of behavior that is unbiblical for any Christian, but especially one who is a leader. Most are completely unaware of Benson's established pattern of behavior so I would expect a lot of concern regarding this entire process.

This thread regarding Benson's speaking at the Winter 2005 training is an anchor point for those coming to this forum to begin to witness for themselves this behavior and begin to understand why Benson should be addressed.

It is important that this be done with some semblance of "meekness" as instructed by Gelatins 6:1-3 regardless of how bad someone's sin is against the Body. This is something the Lord has shown me in my own life because it has been a pretty large failure on my part to date.

Gelatins 6:1-3 - "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.? 3 ?For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.?"

The public nature of this address may seem to run counter to any concept of "meekness", but if you were aware of the totality of Benson's failures then my post is a very small thing and in the larger perspective contains a level of meekness. I am only addressing some very small falsities which should be easy to address while there is a much larger context.

Your brother in Christ,

Matt

Mr Smith 03-13-06 10:35

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Quote from: Matt Anderson

part of an established pattern of behavior that is unbiblical for any Christian, but especially one who is a leader. Most are completely unaware of Benson's established pattern of behavior so I would expect a lot of concern regarding this entire process.

Gelatins 6:1-3 - "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. ? 2 ?Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.? 3 ?For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.?"

Based on Matt's words, Benson is not the issue. It is the behavior and pattern of behavior. Benson is not unique in this respect. There is a behavioral pattern throughout the recovery with Benson one example out of many. Personally I do not know Benson, but based on Matt's words and through reading The Thread of

Gold, I know brothers in leadership positions reflecting similar characteristic.

Matt Anderson 03-13-06 18:51

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Quote:

Quote from: Mr Smith Based on Matt's words, Benson is not the issue. It is the behavior and pattern of behavior. Benson is not unique in this respect. There is a behavioral pattern throughout the recovery with Benson one example out of many. Personally I do not know Benson, but based on Matt's words and through reading The Thread of Gold, I know brothers in leadership positions reflecting similar characteristics.

Mr Smith,

Yes, I agree. I have responsibility before the Lord for the specific elements he places in front of me. Others who know of other things have responsibility as the Lord puts it on their heart. I cannot necessarily carry another man's message, but I can be diligent to carry the burden the Lord has on me. I can also be supportive of the truth and speak for it, but as far as taking action I believe there is a strong principle for following the Lord's specific leading one step at a time. Anything more and then I have to wonder about myself regarding whether I am following the Lord or acting of my own accord. So far, I only have this one element that I can address with a clear conscience before the Lord.

Matt

Matt Anderson 03-28-06 02:13

Re: The Thread of Gold Chronicles - The Holy Sisters and Benson Phillips

Status Report: one month...not a peep.

Matt