

RATCHFORD & ASSOCIATES

1531 LAUREL STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE (803) 779-0700
FAX 252-6218

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

DAVID M. RATCHFORD
ORDN O. BRIGGS

DANIEL K. FELKER
EUGENE C. FULTON, JR.*
G. McCHELVEY NESTER**

*Also Admitted to Georgia
** Also Admitted to Colorado

December 21, 1990

Rev. John Stevens
Deacon Board
Northside Baptist Church
7800 Northside Drive
Charleston, SC 29420

RE: Attempted unscriptural discipline of Mark Fitzhenry

Dear Friends:

I have been retained by Mark Fitzhenry to advise him concerning any attempts by the Church to exercise discipline against him or his wife that would be contrary to the specific mandates of scripture in Matthew 18.

Mark and I both are aware of the other scripture mandates that Christians should not sue one another in civil court. However, I am sure you are aware that many conservative Christians interpret that to be a discretionary provision applicable to only those Christians who are dealing with one another in a Christian manner similar to the mandate that once you discipline a member who fails to repent, that person who alleges to be a Christian must be treated as an infidel.

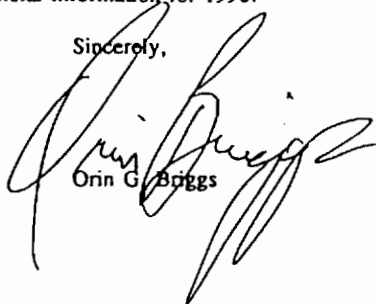
Although I have not had a chance to talk to any of the leadership of the Church, it seems to me there has been a concerted effort to deny members of the Church reasonable access to financial information during 1990. I need to inform you that if the decision is made to pursue a legal course of action, there is authority under Rule 27 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure to take depositions prior to filing a lawsuit. It is clear that Mr. Mark Fitzhenry and any other member of Northside Baptist Church can, if they choose to, get a copy of every financial document in the church for the last three years.

December 21, 1990

I would simply suggest that it would be appropriate for me and Mark to sit down with a committee of leadership and decide whether or not this matter can be resolved in a friendly and Christian way with the minority member having reasonable access to financial records or the decision is going to have to be made to fight this matter out in court.

I do not ask for any detailed response to this letter, I simply ask for an acknowledgment by someone in authority that the leadership intends to proceed with any proposed discipline pursuant to the mandates of Matthew 18 and whether or not the person I represent will get reasonable access to financial information for 1990.

Sincerely,



Orin G. Briggs

OGB:mc

cc: Mark Fitzhenry

#1.OGB/FITZHENRY