

February 9, 1992

Jim & Henri Reese  
1901 Alchele Drive  
Charleston Hgts, SC 29418

Dear Jim & Henri:

We want to thank you again for your willingness to get together with us last night. We enjoyed the fellowship and the good food.

As you might have predicted, after you brought us home I went straight to my Bible and NBC Constitution to clarify my thinking on a couple of the issues that we had touched on. Please permit me this opportunity to share some additional thoughts with you. I have chosen to write because I felt that it would be hard for us to get together again soon (normal busy schedules coupled with the revival). However, as I said last night, I am willing to meet and "reason together" as long as it takes for us to agree in these important areas.

We both respect and appreciate your apparent belief that we are "needed" at Northside today and that somehow my family "needs" what NBC has to offer them, but we have absolute confidence that God is leading us to serve him elsewhere.

Jim and Henri, I really wish that I was capable of sharing with you some of what God has been sharing with me over the last several weeks concerning "self deception." I find that it can happen to the most godly of men, at times when they are committed to doing God's will (please note the words and actions of Peter in Matthew 16:22 which took place immediately after he had been the only one to answer a difficult question and had just been commended by our Lord for his insight). However, I must purpose to leave some things to the master communicator (the blessed Holy Spirit). They are too important to miss and I am sure that I would fail to get them across to you.

Cynthia and I have long been concerned that a handful of men have always "run" Northside and that they are afraid (or perhaps lack the faith) to just let go and allow God do with it what He wants. We further feel that some have actually stopped worshiping at Northside and have started worshiping Northside.

I am enclosing a few pages that I dug out of my Sunday school notes concerning "proper relationships." I taught this material to my class approximately one year ago. It gives a good perspective on what I observed to actually happen over the last several months.

The outline is biblically based and can be a tremendous help to anyone who will contemplate the content. It applies to all relationships (husband & wife, churches, business, etc). Put simply, when needs are being met for all parties in a relationship, it grows stronger. When they stop being met, for any reason, the relationship erodes.

I am also enclosing a copy of the motion that Jim made concerning the "resignation" of John Stevens. As I read through it again, it was obvious to me why it died for lack of a second. Perhaps if this issue had been given the priority it deserved on that night, the outcome would have been much different.

I have also enclosed a copy of all NBC constitutional references that I can find concerning "discipline." I will admit that I have paid little attention to any of this mess for several months now, so I could be overlooking something that those close to the lawsuit might observe. As I see it, the congregation is not required to vote for dismissal of a member being disciplined (please note the word "may"). Therefore, I am not aware of anything that was done incorrectly in the case of Ron Okurowski.

Jim, if the "discipline" that was conducted against brother Oscar was indeed correct, you have a clear responsibility to continue down that path with others. For example, any reasonable man would agree that the charges and allegations contained in John Steven's "resignation" letter are more specific than those in Oscar's, yet his never seemed to create any concern for anyone beyond myself. In addition, you will readily admit to bringing a "personal agenda" to the Board, but you strongly denounced brother Oscar for doing the same thing. Further, I have personally spoken to several individuals who have been "railed on" by the current Chairman of the Board of Deacons at Northside, yet no action has been taken against him. (I know, you are probably thinking that Bill has apologized, but apologies apparently don't count. You see, apologies were also given by those whom leadership chose to manipulate the congregation into excommunicating.) I could go on, and on, and on...but it really doesn't matter. It is no longer my problem.

Please do not be offended at these words, but we have long been convinced that Northside greatly desires our tithes, time, and talents, but has absolutely no interest in our ideas, concerns, or questions.

You may not fully believe this, but we do love and respect you and your family. I trust that we can remain friends in the future. I sincerely hope that God will bless you abundantly as you seek to please and honor Him.

Your friends in Christ,

Jeff & Cynthia Babetz

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