

TRANSLATION OF REV TAI NGUYEN'S LETTER IN VIETNAMESE ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

On behalf of the Vietnamese District and the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School, I would like to send my warmest greetings to you in the divine love of Jesus Christ.

In most instances, there is a cause for everything that happens, especially in this case of God's work at the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School. There was certainly a good cause for the District Committee to remove Rev. Nha Tran according to the DS Minute on 7/2007/169 and to replace a number of pastors who served at the School.

The reason that we barely raised the issue in the Minute, wherein only one sentence indirectly pointing to the ministry of Rev. Nha Tran, was because we did not want to cause confusion within the churches, and that we would explain further to those who would like to find out the real cause behind this decision. We mainly wished that Rev. Nha Tran would understand our resolution and would continue to work amiably with us. After that incident, despite the fact Rev. Nha Tran wrote letters dated 19/3/07 and 1/4/07 to his colleagues wherein he explained the situation—that seemed to benefit him alone, and possibly caused misunderstanding—relative to the decision of the DEXCOM as the whole and myself alone, we still believed that God knows everything and continued to remain patient.

However, these letters were mailed out more and more during the past 6 months; therefore, we've concluded that Rev. Nha Tran's action was deceitful and caused division among the pastors, thus, we must raise our voice in order to clearly explain the main cause that brought us to this decision.

Organization

a. The change in ministry and relocation

It is normal to make changes in the ministry and the relocation within our organization as it is in the real world. The term of Rev. Nha Tran serving as the senior pastor at Long Beach church, which ends in January 2008, has not been mentioned. His term as the Academic Dean of the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School has ended according to the DEXCOM Minute of 3/2004/154.

According to the mode operandi within the District, in order for a pastor to be reappointed in a church, the church must write to the District requesting to reappoint the individual and that the request must be approved by the DEXCOM. If the individual serves as Associate Pastor, the Senior Pastor must approve this reappointment. The same in a company, if a CEO does not wish to retain an employee, the relocation will happen. This is in the case of Rev. Nha Tran at the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School.

b. External Relationship

Rev. Nha Tran has gone beyond his authority of a pastor within the District, taking advantage of his position as the Academic Dean in order to contact directly with Simpson University, and through them he made connection with National Office of C&MA without going through the proper channel. This deceitful act has been going on for quite some time without my knowledge.

In the letter dated 19/3/07 and 1/4/07, Rev. Nha Tran portrays himself as an invitee to important events at Simpson University, The National Office of C&MA and Tin Lanh Church. However, according to the letter dated December 22, 06 (as per attached) from the President of Simpson University, Dr. Larry McKenney, Rev. Nha Tran is the focal point of this.

It states, ".....Dr. Nha has been instrumental in helping us reach this point, and his presence at these meetings will help ensure their success. I respectfully request that you allow Dr. Nha time away

from his duties from Monday, January 8 to Friday, January 12 to take part in these meetings.” The content of the letter from the President Gary Benedict’s secretary dated December 19, 2006 also shared the same context. Because Rev. Nha Tran has worked directly with these individuals without my consent, therefore, they had to ask for my permission to allow him to take part in these meetings. Had I known or had granted my permission, they would not have written those letters. When I understood the whole situation, I opened the door for him to pursue his desire as stated in the letter of January 19, 2006 that I had asked Rev. Nha Tran to forward to you.

- c. This is the focal point of the matter
Rev. Nha Tran took advantage of his position at the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School and “went in darkness.” As people called it “pirating,” Rev. Nha Tran stole the labor of those within the District who have toiled to establish a good working relationship with the churches in Vietnam as well as the C&MA and claimed “credits” for himself. All the efforts in Bible teaching and theological education at the School as well as the District’s financial and mental support have been muddied by his exploitation. Rev. Nha has also created poor morale among the leaders in the US and those in Vietnam who has just begun their ministry.
- d. Evidence was shown at the Grand Celebration of the District Conference 30 years Anniversary in Azusa, Rev. Nha Tran and Mr. Nhiem Tran arranged for several members of Tin Lanh Church in VN to tour Simpson University in Redding, California, just before the opening day of the conference, which I did not become aware until the very last minute. This showed that while everyone was working hard to prepare for the Grand Celebration to thank the Lord for the 30 years the churches were being established, these two individuals had their own hidden agenda!

The C&MA leaders, who just took office—being naive of the background of immigrants and the Vietnamese culture—immediately followed them without hesitation. As you might know, Dr. Gary Benedict won election in 5/05; Rev. Truong took office in 3/05, President McKenney took his post in 2006, therefore, who would want to turn down the request to support 1 million of Vietnamese who are in need for training!

However, these leaders had no clues that the VN District has silently built a bridge for over 32 years to connect the C&MA and the churches in Vietnam that the majority of church members in Vietnam mistakenly thought that the C&MA had abandoned them after 1975. The result of the District Conference and the Grand Celebration of 30 years is the crucial evidence to prove fruition of the efforts made by the VN District to the churches in VN, the C&MA, the Executive the Executive Committee of the Tin Lanh Church and the 46 former missionaries who once served in VN.

It would take a long time and lots of ink to describe in details what the VN District has done to help our country; however, I would like to provide a few main points to reiterate the efforts the VN District has made.

A few activities that the District has done to the churches in VN

- a. Right after the fall of 1975, many Vietnamese church members overseas had not only fervently prayed for the churches at home, they also showed their care in action by sending gifts to their relatives and pastors in VN. They still carried the culture and attitude of “a small amount while being hungry is better than a large amount when full.” or “good leaf covers ragged leaf.” From then on, the VN District has sent their financial support up to hundred thousands of dollars to the country whenever allowed.

- b. Opportunity to visit VN for the first time (1992). When the situation in the country was somewhat less tense, the late Rev. Tin Nguyen and I, along with 3 other leaders—Dr. Peter Nanfelt, the late Rev. Cliff Westergreen and Missionary Robert Reed visited VN for the first time. The delegation went from the North to the Central and to the South bringing happiness and hope to both sides. The report and photos are still in tact, showing that the District had already demonstrated their interest even before Rev. Nha entered into his ministry.
- c. After that, many delegations from the US returned to VN, attending many church activities in the country. From that on, many church members have returned home.
- d. Of course how can you help everyone or meet all the needs; however, our number one priority is geared towards former pastors, widows, and pastors who are ill. We also raised funds to support the hurricane relief (\$27,000 for 2 hurricanes in the Central Region and the South this past year). The needs to renovate churches or parsonage also capture our attention. While Rev. Tai and Rev. Duc were visiting VN to celebrate the 90 years gospel came to VN and the dedication of the new church in Danang in 2001, The Central Office of Tin Lanh Church (South) needed to renovate the current office. We borrowed \$10,000 from a church member in VN and gave directly to the late President Pham xuan Thieu. When we learned that the Executive Committee of Tin Lanh Church needed transportation, the District and the C&MA shared half and half of the expenses to purchase a brand new car that the Executive Committee is currently using. Of course, I am unable to describe in this letter the love and care we have for the churches at home. Why the church members in the US can do such thing? The answer is simple: Because the Vietnamese District recognizes that this is the responsibility God has given us in that we still care for church members in VN whether they have their own leaders or not. History has proven that.
- e. I believe everyone knows what the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School has done for VN, especially Rev Nha and Pastor Nhiem have already participated. As soon as the Administrative Staff approved the establishment of training church leaders in the VN churches since the Bible College in VN stayed inactive for over 20 years, the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School began its work by choosing 15 to 20 students to study God’s word, creating courses to benefit those who have the ability to learn and have interest in serving churches at home. Even though the tuition was quite steep, 34 graduated at the two commencements at a branch campus in Bangkok. There are two unfinished classes at present. The Alliance Evangelical Divinity School provided full scholarships to VN students who came to Bangkok to study several weeks, at times a month. We’re thinking the next step would be the pastors who have the ability and desire to attend those courses. Scholarship given by the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School includes round-trip airfares, transportation, tuition, hotel expenses and pocket money for daily expenses. I wanted to state in details so that you may see how much we care for the churches in VN. Besides, there were thousands of students learning God’s word through the Theological Education by Extension and are now serving fruitfully in VN. It does not matter someone wanted to deny this achievement, the Lord already knows our hearts. However, Rev. Nha compared himself to the notorious leaders who rescued the Israelites is something that none of us would even dream of.

In summary, Rev. Nha had gone beyond his authority as an administrator of the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School. He took upon himself to establish external relationship that must be approved first by the District Committee. He made personal gain of the efforts and work labored for many years by church members within the District and the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School to build relationships with churches in VN. He has created misunderstanding and built tension between the District and external constituents. This is evidenced when Rev. Truong refused to wear the gown and turned down the invitation to sit at honored seats during the Graduation Ceremony at the 30th Annual Conference. He repeated what Rev. Truong had said that, “no robe nor the honored seat on the stage

is worthy for me; therefore, I would not step up onto the stage.” To this date, I still do not know where that statement came from? If Rev. Truong did say that, I have no idea.... is that a statement to create misconception and to establish a barrier between the VN District and the Executive Committee of Tin Lanh Church?

Above are numerous reasons that rendered the decision to terminate Rev. Nha at the Alliance Evangelical Divinity School. If Rev. Nha would like to dispute the issues listed in this letter, I will arrange a time for him to meet with the DEXCOM.

Thank you all and please keep each other in prayers since there are many challenges as we approach the end of time. (2Timothy 3:1-5).

Sincerely,

Rev. Tai, GHT

Cc:

- District Board of Trustees
- Pastors within the District
- Students at Divinity School
- Branches of the Divinity School
- A number of church secretaries
- Church Representatives all over the world
- English version: sent to related individuals

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