

JAMES SUNDQUIST * PMB # 123 * 551 VALLEY ROAD * UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043

May 20, 1999

Dr. Peter Nanfelt
Christian & Missionary Alliance
8595 Explorer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

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PS Form 3800 April 1995

**RE: Formal Investigation of Rev. John Soper,
C&MA New York Area Metropolitan District Director**

Dear Dr. Nanfelt:

We are in receipt of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Letter, dated April 21, 1999 from Rev. Gerald R. Mapstone, Assistant Vice President of the C&MA, informing us that your National Church Ministries Investigative Committee (comprised of Rev. Gerald R. Mapstone, Dr. Michael D. Noel, and Dr. Randall B. Corbin, Eastern Pennsylvania CM&A District Director) has reported that the four charges placed against Rev. John Soper, Metropolitan District Director of the CM&A were unsubstantiated, and that their recommendation is that "No further action needs to be taken in this matter."

WE ARE COMPELLED TO TELL YOU THAT THIS CONCLUSION IS IMPOSSIBLE. The results of your investigation are UNACCEPTABLE because there was no thorough and viable investigation! I have been a Christian for 45 years (since the age of 7), ministered in concert in some forty states, and have been a businessman for more than 20 years, running two companies. I have negotiated dozens of large contracts with Fortune 500 companies and most of the Pacific Rim countries. I have never observed such unprofessional process and protocol as I have witnessed with the C&MA in this matter. These actions are dishonorable to the Lord and to our integrity.

The C&MA's own manual on discipline and restoration states that "Defamation of character is destructive." By indicating that the charges in this matter were unsubstantiated, you have effectively confirmed in writing that Mr. & Mrs. Canfield and James & Karen Sundquist have borne false witness against Rev. Soper (biblically this is against one of the Ten Commandments, and legally it is libel). Yet we have recorded on tape Rev. John Soper, in a formal congregational meeting of NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (C&MA affiliated) on July 1, 1998, stating that Mr. Gene Lilli is a "Certified Tax Expert." This title is also on the letterhead of the report by Mr. Gene Lilli submitted to the congregation. In stating that Mr. Lilli is a "certified tax expert," Rev. John Soper has misled this congregation. By what authority is Mr. Lilli "certified?" Mr. Lilli, in fact, refused to release this information over the phone. Why? The fact is that there is no such certification recognized in the State of New Jersey. We have confirmed this with the office in Trenton in the State of New Jersey that issues every certification recognized in the State of New Jersey and the State Board of Accountancy that

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licenses all Certified Public Accountants in the state. We also confirmed this with the IRS. They informed us that the only Federal Tax Certification that they issue is called "Enrolled Agent." We informed your committee of this, yet they conclude that there is "no substance" to the charges.

We have on tape at that same meeting Rev. John Soper telling the congregation that if they have any problems with the pastors' actions (regarding lying to the congregation, etc.), let the congregation be the ones to leave. How is this merciful to all of the victims? If there is anyone in your organization or outside of your organization who has even the slightest doubt that we are telling the truth, you have but to listen to the July 1, 1998 recording of Rev. John Soper.

So, in addition to Rev. John Soper, who has misled the congregation of New Life Christian Fellowship (and borne false witness against us personally), and aided and abetted C&MA Licensed Pastors Patrick Connolly and Frank Speer to embezzle [see definition at end of letter] funds from that congregation, the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church National Office is now guilty of covering up these crimes. When we first approached you we had assumed that your intentions were honorable.

I knew a music director of a large church in Virginia. After a long and prominent career as a minister of music it was discovered that he had embezzled increasingly large amounts of money at that church and a few others he had worked at in the New York City area. We talked to his widow. She said that the churches in these various denominations covered up his embezzlements and fixed the books, kept it quiet. This brother was never confronted until he got in way over his head and committed suicide by driving a car at high speed into a tree. She said that had the church confronted him early on, compelled him to repent and begin to make restitution, he might still be with us today. We could have restored this brother.

Now the C&MA has participated in analogous action by enabling these pastors and Rev. John Soper get away with this embezzlement, fraud and corruption by also covering it up. [Please note that furthermore "you" refers to the C&MA organization.] Even worse, you have now wrongfully discredited four people of God who have brought you very credible evidence and documents to confirm with certainty Rev. Soper's actions. You have left in your wake a number of other innocent people, many of which have left New Life Christian Fellowship due to the pastors' actions and Rev. John Soper's actions. Some of their decisions were based, in part, on the belief that Rev. John Soper was telling the truth to the congregation. And what kind of example is this to these young pastors who now think that not only were they able to recruit the District Director of the C&MA to help them get away with this embezzlement and lying to the congregation, but now have witnessed the C&MA National Headquarters come to their rescue. In so doing the C&MA have committed the sins spoken of in the following Scriptures:

"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord." Proverbs 17:15

"And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them." Ephesians 5:11.

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil." Isaiah 5:20.

"My house shall be a house of prayer and you have turned it into a den of thieves." Matthew 21:13

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." I Co 5:6, Gal 5:9.

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You have caused a number of young believers to stumble. And what an example you have set for young pastors which have now learned that they can commit embezzlement of their own people and not only not be rebuked, but rather be rewarded and defended. What kind of example and precedent does this set for other pastors in the C&MA? How have these actions honored their wives? And how about the young children of one of these pastors? What kind of example have you now set for them when they grow up? Those who teach are held to a stricter accountability! You have now taught these men that they can steal from God's people and get away with it.

Furthermore, you have held your own C&MA Manual of Discipline in complete contempt. The Manual clearly states that the investigative committee is supposed to first interview those making the accusations and then interview the accused. It was clear from the countenance and statements made by Dr. Michael D. Noel and Dr. Randall B. Corbin that the exact opposite had taken place. This was supposed to be an ecclesiastical hearing, yet you have retained an attorney. You asked for our witnesses such as Charlotte Meador (see Rev. Mapstone Letter Dec. 3, 1999), yet refused to interview them (they are still waiting to be interviewed). We asked to bring expert testimony — a Christian Certified Public Accountant in the State of New Jersey. You refused to allow us to bring him (we did not retain him -- he was just a concerned brother who would confirm the laws of the State of New Jersey regarding finances in Non-Profit Corporations). We were not allowed to bring witnesses. We were not allowed to bring the pastors before the congregation. We were prohibited from being able to confront Rev. Soper before the Investigative Committee in clear violation of Matthew 18. We requested a Certified Audit of the Books & Records of New Life Christian Fellowship in Little Falls, New Jersey by a real CPA. To date, we have not been supplied with any evidence that one has been performed. We supplied you with all of the documents you requested and you supplied virtually none of the documents we requested. We supplied you with copies of two Financial Profit & Loss Statements for New Life Christian Fellowship for the exact same time period which are completely contradictory. One financial Profit & Loss Statement for months 1-12 of 1997 states:

Total Income \$146,889.54, Total Expenses \$146,047.32, Net Income \$842.22

Another P & L Statement issued by the Officers of New Life Christian Fellowship for the exact same time frame states:

Total Income \$101,649.51, Total Expenses \$145,406.55, Net Income \$-54,575.04

And you conclude from all this that there is no substance to the charges? We supplied you with irrefutable documentation that these pastors made illegal use of the church's Tax Exempt Certificate for personal gain.

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We asked for a copy of the Deposition of our testimony at your March 31, 1999 Investigative Hearing and were totally ignored. We humbly requested anything that you had against us. You have not produced anything. We don't even know what has been presented against us. We simply wanted to confirm that what you presented to Rev. Soper was accurate and not hearsay. The bottom line, is that it appears your investigation was a charade.

What instrument did Rev. Soper use to aid and abet these pastors to convert assets belonging to the church to themselves as personal income? What Board Resolution did he employ? What Minutes from Congregational meeting did he use to convert these assets? (He was not even a member of NLCF). If there is no substance to our charges, simply produce these documents. Both the NLCF Church's own constitution and Article 15 in the State Laws of New Jersey prohibit conversion of church assets without a majority approval of the congregation. (For those of you C&MA pastors who govern the affairs of churches in New Jersey, you are no doubt already familiar with Article 15). For all of your C&MA churches in New Jersey, would you appreciate it if your District Director (Rev. Soper) converted the assets of your church without your approval?

The pastors of NLCF whom Rev. John Soper licensed and presides over have proclaimed and published (falsely) that we were going to sue the church, as declared to them by C&MA Pastor Rev. Bruce Terpstra. Rev. John Soper is in possession of these documents as is the C&MA National Headquarters. We testified to this effect in the hearing.

If there is any one that has the slightest doubt as to the integrity of our testimony we solemnly invite you to request a copy of the tape of Rev. John Soper's testimony.

All of the C&MA throughout the country and the world are about to celebrate your national convention in Portland, Oregon while there is something rotten in the State of Denmark. We are called to be citadels of light yet your Headquarters has trampled on the truth. By your actions, you did not fully or without bias investigate the truth you were sworn to uphold. **The result, is that you have now given birth to a host of accomplices who believe that you and Rev. Soper, Rev. Bruce Terpstra, Dr. Randall B. Corbin, Dr. Michael D. Noel, Rev. Gerald Mapstone, Pastors Frank Speer and Patrick Connolly have told the truth.** When in fact, they have all borne false witness against us. You have given counsel to Rev. John Soper and CMA Licensed Pastors, counsel which is exactly what they wanted to hear, but what you have done is unacceptable to the Lord, in a manner not unlike King Ahab in I Kings 20:29-34. "You will not succeed in this expedition, it will end in disaster." And just like with the President (and King Ahab), you have taught these pastors that they can not only get away with this but be rewarded to boot. You have taught them that they don't have to repent for lying and stealing. And they don't have to make restitution.

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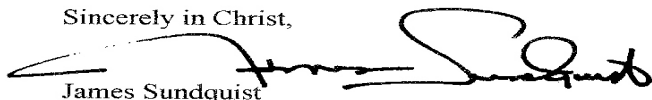
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You have brought reproach on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the multitude of righteous C&MA pastors, workers, and missionaries throughout the world, and us. This is no longer primarily an internal matter of the C&MA. There remains no repentance, reconciliation, restitution, or restoration. And there cannot be any resolution until you stop sweeping this under the rug and the people named above repent before the NLCF church and in writing. So this matter is not over until it is reconciled to the truth and righteousness. Public confession and written confession by all guilty parties is the only remedy to this matter which will not be put to rest until this is accomplished. It is not ultimately the authority of the C&MA that matters, but the authority of the Word of God and the Laws of the Land. The actions you have taken (and failed to take) would be reprehensible enough if you were simply a secular organization or company, but what makes this appalling and a stench in the nostrils of the Lord is that the C&MA's primary reason for being is to declare the truth in righteousness to the ends of the earth not cover up iniquity, reward unrighteousness, plunder the innocent and malign people of good character.

Rev. Mapstone said in his last letter to me that he hoped that I would find the peace of God. Well I have the peace of God as long as I align myself with the truth. But the peace of God will not reign for everyone else until they too align themselves with the truth. We formally appeal you and entreat you to recant your C&MA April 29, 1999 Letter and Document stating that there is no substances to the charges against Rev. Soper.

We are still awaiting your righteous response.

Sincerely in Christ,



James Sundquist

Enclosure

Definition of "embezzlement":

"The fraudulent appropriation of property by one lawfully entrusted with its possession. To 'embezzle' means willfully to take, or convert to one's own use, another's money or property, of which the wrongdoer acquired possession lawfully, by reason of some office or employment or position of trust. The elements of "offense" are that there must be a relationship such as that of employment or agency between the owner of the money and the defendant(s), the money alleged to have been embezzled must have come into the possession of defendant(s) by virtue of that relationship and there must be an intentional and fraudulent appropriation or conversion of the money."

[NOTE: Even if the pastors felt entitled to money which in fact belonged to the church as an corporate entity, they still are not entitled to lie to the leadership and congregation about it.]