

April 18th

Dear Eldership,

Over recent weeks there has been correspondence to Elim H.Q. and so far no one has asked me to respond to some of the basic facts that have been outlined against both me and my family. May I therefore ask for the opportunity to respond, which I hope you will agree, is only right

The first thing I wish to address is the original issue. Did Victoria lie? The answer to this is found in the evidence 'total' and not partial. My wife and I know Victoria was not going out with Graham at the same time she was going out with Andy Taylor. At that time she was studying for her A levels. Victoria went to the youth on Fridays and the social program on Saturdays, the rest of the week she was committed to her studies. We encouraged her to finish with Andy and also said no boy friends until after the A levels. This was done and Graham came to see me in August to ask if he could take Victoria out. The evidence brought to me by Richard revolved around two people. The first was Vicky Taylor who has a history of lies and also setting people up against each other. Her statements were and are a tissue of lies. The second is Jeannie, who I know was and is sincere, however as Jeannie misconstrued my statement to her I have no doubt things can get mixed up and rather than say there is deliberate deceit, I would prefer to think that conversations when remembered later had been influenced by Miss Taylor. Richard stated to me that my daughter was a liar and that Miss Taylor was the truthful party. I do know the truth in this matter and no one who knows Miss Taylor would stand on her word. My daughter is accused of being deceitful. She is not and has been very open so much so that Miss Taylor put right the wrong with her and has since sort her friendship.

what about the conversation w/ Jeannie?
still in the church!
NO!

I feel it is right for me to address the subject of those who have left the church

First Philip Hoyle. Philip and I worked together for over ten years and we never had a crossed word. Sadly Philip could not control his wife and therefore when HE applied for a move I supported him, we as a church financially supported them as they went to Penryth. After only six months in Penryth the deacons asked them to move due to Lindas bad behaviour. This was repeated at Prescott. They did not receive other offers.

Roy Blackwell, Ebi Initini and many more have been given a door into ministry through me and we remain close friends. The Meyers stayed in W.C.C. longer than in almost any of their previous churches, which have been many. He did not agree with my style of preaching and had the honesty to discuss this with me, we agreed to differ as a man cannot be all things to all people all the time.

May I now address the number of people who have left the church over the last ten years. On average twenty people relocate each year, between five and ten go to university, we average twelve to sixteen funerals, there are also those who go into Christian Service which on average is two or three each year. This totals between forty and fifty people move on each year. There are people who move on because they do not agree with someone (not always me), or wish to move the church in a direction that is contrary to that which God has given to me. Many who have moved remain friends even though we may disagree on some issues and included in that number would be Mike Haynes. It is true that there are hurt people, but it must be said that the majority of these people were people who DID NOT GET THEIR WAY, when they were used to getting their way. This is Gods work and not mans and I do see myself as the custodian of the vision God gave concerning this church and its mission on Wirral.

ll of cor 50

In closing I am deeply saddened by the events of January 7th. I have read and re read the documents presented. I now understand why ministers move on after six or seven years, but even though Ruth maintains I should have left at the end of seven and a half years, I believe she is in error on this as on much else of her assumptions. God put me here and I would leave tomorrow if God and not man told me to

?? such as?

April 18, 2002

do so. You may agree with those who say I am not a 'pastor' however there are hundreds including many ministers who look to me as their 'pastor' and advisor.

It has been implied that I also contain 'guile', that I am manipulative, therefore I am by definition dishonest and not worthy of the ministry. I am happy to go before any 'court' of man to explain my actions, why? because I am innocent before my God whom I have served for over thirty years.

There is much that I could say both in my defense and also to show from past practice that those who are laying fault at my door have again done so because they did not get their own way.

In conclusion I wish it to be noted that I do love Roger and Ruth but I firmly believe they has been misled both in regard to the original issue and in regard to some who have left the church. The truth will eventually come out and therefore I must let this matter rest in the hands of God. As you know I have submitted myself to the direction of others who are over me, let Gods will be done. While we record the hurt and pain of Richard and Jeannie, which I regret and also that of Ruth which again causes me great personal sorrow, I wish it to be understood that I also have feelings as does my wife and daughter, that we as a family have been seriously damaged, my ability to minister and my role of ministry within Elin has been damaged badly.

IT IS TIME FOR THIS MATTER TO BE PUT UNDER THE BLOOD OF JESUS, IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THE CHURCH.

David will visit on May 13th please let that evening conclude this night mare. I am of course still willing to leave if you wish me to.

This letter has been written without any consultation with my wife therefore any remarks should be addressed to me.

I am as always, your servant in Christ.



Rev Paul A Epton.