

Dear Beloved of God at CCV,

It is with a heart full of mixed feelings that I write you this letter today. My heart is troubled, for I have longed to not have to ever write such a letter – desiring for the Lord to work in other ways. While my feelings are mixed, I believe letting you know the things I am about to put before you is the Lord's will at this time (and will ultimately bring forth some much needed healing – both in our body and elsewhere in the body of Christ), I also know that what I am about to share is deeply troubling. My prayer is that in sharing this, that the Lord will utilize this moment to begin bringing healing, repentance and restoration to all of us the body of Christ here in the Fox Valley.

I recently had to report to the local authorities a sexual assault of a minor by one of the staff of Christ the Rock Community Church (CTR). This assault was not recent, but impacted our body significantly as this particular event was woven into much of what transpired a couple of years ago as we discerned Joie's message to CTR.

In a meeting on September 26, 2005 between the elders of Christ's Church of the Valley and three elders of Christ the Rock Community Church, as we sought to discern the message of repentance that Joie had given to Pastor Bill Lenz and the CTR leadership, the elders from CTR acknowledged the following things as being true:

- Ben Lenz, the son of Senior Pastor Bill Lenz, while serving on staff as an intern at CTR, was sexually involved with a minor in the local church body of CTR.
- No police or other authorities were ever informed.
- Ben was removed from ministry for a brief period -of approximately one year – and was then promoted to head the young adult ministry within CTR, a place where he continues to have contact with underage youth.
- When asked if there had been any outside counseling involved in Ben's restoration, the CTR elders told only of counseling *within CTR*, under people ultimately answerable, in some form, to Bill Lenz (the perpetrator's father), and whose jobs depended, at least in part, on Bill's approval.
- More troubling though, was that *not all the CTR elders were informed* of this situation – elders who were later asked to approve Ben's hiring to head the young adult ministry at CTR.
- Of the elders who were informed, some had paid positions within CTR. Their jobs also depended, at least in part, on Bill's approval, creating a conflict of interest.

This situation obviously raised significant moral, ethical, and public safety concerns and questions on several different levels. I, as well as our elders at the time, articulated these concerns to the local leadership of CTR. The issues we raised were brushed aside by the local CTR leadership and ultimately ignored or rebuffed. Furthermore, it is my understanding that other people besides the elders of Christ's Church of the Valley have spoken to the CTR leadership urging appropriate action regarding this matter. All such attempts have been rebuffed and rejected to my knowledge.

On October 9, 2007, after all other attempts to address the issue through the CTR eldership had failed, a letter was sent to the Accountability board of CTR, which is an independent board made up of outside pastors and Christian leaders from across the nation. The responses received back from various Accountability Board members indicated that while concerned, they had no authority within the framework of the CTR bylaws to resolve this matter.

After over two years of trying, all known avenues to address this issue within the leadership of CTR have now been attempted, exhausted, and ultimately rejected. And so, it is after much prayer and consultation with church leaders both inside and outside of our own local church body, after speaking with the parents of the victim, and after seeking legal counsel, that I have contacted the authorities with this information. I believe I have a moral, spiritual, and a likely legal obligation to do so.

I want it to be known that my heart is for all those involved in this matter: Ben, the victim, and others who may have been affected in various other ways. My prayers are also with and for the leadership and congregation of Christ the Rock Community Church. I pray that God will grant them repentance and restoration. I consider them fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

My prayer is also, now that the time has come where it is appropriate to bring this information forward, that our own body can heal from some of the difficulties we have been through. Mostly, I pray that in all things, the name of Jesus can be honored and glorified above all human failings, for His grace is sufficient to cover and restore every one of us, regardless of the nature or depth of our sin.

In Him,

Pastor Tim