

Minutes taken by Carole Clark. Chairman: Alex Mulenga

A

9th January, 2008

Minutes of the Elder's Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January in the Elim Chrch Lounge at 7pm.

Present; Brian Hagger, John Dowdell, Alex Mulenga, Gordon Wilson, Barbara Taylor, Carole Clark.

Alex opened the meeting with prayer.

He then reported back concerning the phone call to Jo & Louie Du Plessis. Because of client confidentiality, there was no further information obtained. Gordon mentioned that permission from the client could be sought and the information released that way – if the Eldership had a mind to pursue it.

Barbara expressed her opinion that the solution was still not resolved, but re-iterated that the letter received on Monday was acceptable.

Alex commented that much time had been spent on this one issue, and a resolution was most necessary.

Brian said that the original intent of the action in question was to finance a mortgage for a home on behalf of Barbara Taylor. One of the conditions was that Barbara repay an outstanding debt to Baycorp which hindered her from mortgage money in her own right. Brian then asked Barbara why she had not pursued the original intent to repay the debt. Barbara would not answer the question.

Brian then spoke to Gordon's letter re his description of Brian. He felt the facts were wrong, and that Barbara was guilty of lying. At this point, Barbara left the meeting.

Brian then spoke to Gordon re the non repayment of the debt, and the idea of going public with the details. He further said that he believed God had called him to the position of Pastor and that only God could remove him. Brian mentioned that because Gordon had been in the premises for a total of 43 weeks without any rent being paid, Gordon was guilty of being a robber of the church people to the tune of \$860.00.
(this being rent of \$20 week for 43 weeks)

At an earlier meeting, Gordon said he would readily accept Barbara's word as he had never known her to lie. The behaviour on the Australia outreach trip was called into question. Brian's reply included references to Gordon & Harriet Thompson and Doug Erutoe who were also on the Australia trip and who had a contrary opinion.

Gordon was then asked by Brian, to vacate the business premises and hand back his keys by 5pm on Friday 9th January 2008.

Brian questioned the letter sent to the Elders, but not to him as Senior Elder. He asked for a copy of Gordon's reply.

Brian then spoke to Gordon as Pastor and said he was concerned at his and Vavia's relationship. He believed Gordon acted contrary to counsel in selling his family home, and now having to live in accommodation of a dubious standard. He was also concerned at Gordon's plans to go overseas as a teacher/missionary.

At 7.25pm, a gap was allowed for Gordon to consider his reply.

Gordon's reply;

He said that he didn't have much to say, but requested a copy of the minutes, so he could refresh his memory of the facts covered. He also said that he had expected such a reply. He had never wanted this situation to become personal, but he felt it was understandable. He had no intention of resigning, but could see that it may become a problem.

John said that it was untenable to 'come to church, but not submit to any leadership' He also stated that as Elders, our position was;

- a) The Barbara issue was over, as we have gone as far as we are able, and there will always be a 'grey' area.
- b) Gordon's issue is on-going.

Gordon continues to display an attitude of disrespect to the leadership of this church, and if it remains, John felt the Eldership would have no option, but to review the whole situation of Gordon's attendance at Elim.

John also felt that there should be no more meetings over this matter.

Alex stated that he felt Gordon's actions were a serious challenge to the spiritual authority of the church.

He said there was only one person who could judge the position of Pastor, and that was Jesus.- but he felt that Gordon had usurped this authority by accusing Brian of being a liar and a coward.

Carole also said that there was no-where else for us to go for facts, but by holding on to the position at present, Gordon was on dangerous ground.

In the letter that was posted on the internet, Brian believed that Gordon had painted a picture of Brian & Lorraine that is not correct.

Gordon had been told that Brian had asked for \$15,000 for himself, which Brian said is not correct. Barbara says she will now have to work until 80 to pay off the proposed mortgage, with the \$15,000 extra. However Barbara is now seeking to raise a mortgage of over \$100,000.

Gordon felt that Barbara was able to handle more than the original document stated. There was a reluctance to reveal exact figures on what was applied for in the document, but I have put down as I heard;

The original loan	\$70,000.00	
Court transaction fees	1,000.00	
Baycorp debt	1,500.00	
An undisclosed amount in dispute	15,000.00	\$ 87,500.00

No document or letter is available that links the \$15,00.00 with a demand from Brian or Lorraine.

Gordon explained more detail of the first meeting with Brian & Lorraine, and Gordon as witness.

The receipts for GST payments were asked for by Brian and Barbara refused.

There is also a document before the courts that Barbara has signed that states she has honoured her commitments. To date, the Baycorp debt is outstanding.

Brian will be in contact with his lawyer on Monday – as this is the last day of the proposed Sale and Purchase Agreement.

An agreement is sought a.s.a.p. with the proviso that if the house is to be sold, then Brian will seek redress and compensation for the time lost and the stress that he has been placed under during this period.

Brian said that Gordon had sown discord, mischief and seeds of discontent in both the church and the community. As a result, Brian believed a public apology is called for. He further stated that Gordon had not followed biblical guidelines – rather the opinions offered by Barbara, and as a result was not fully aware of the details of the agreement between Brian and Barbara. There had always been a rental agreement.

In conclusion, Alex explained that a written apology – acceptable to the Eldership of the Tokoroa Elim Church – be read out in church on 27th January.

As Gordon then asked for clarification on what the Elders are wanting the apology for, it was decided that the Elders would assist in pointing out the issues to be addressed, but Gordon would write the apology in his own words.

For Gordon to continue to fellowship here, the Elders believed they needed to know where he stood on leadership/Eldership matters.

Alex stated that a full apology was needed as full restitution was the goal

Gordon again asked for clarification of the apology requested.

He was being asked to publicly apologize for questioning the leadership of the Tokoroa Elim Church.

Also an apology was needed for his intention to ruin Brian and Lorraine in their position as Pastors.

Gordon then offered to go thru both letters and apologize where he felt it applicable.

All the Elders agreed that a partial apology was not acceptable.

Brian said that a partial apology only, would not be acceptable, and it would lead him to more serious action.

Gordon replied that if he was unable to do this, then he would want to know the wording of his exit.

Brian then left the meeting to give the Elders time as a group to speak to these issues, and make up their own minds;

- a) Should Gordon's business be asked to leave the premises
- b) Will we accept a partial apology.

Unanimously the Elders decided that

- a) Gordon's business has robbed the church people of at least \$860.00 so the business is to vacate the premises as arranged.
- b) Gordon is still our brother in Christ. We would like to go thru the letters and highlight what is needed to be apologized for. If Gordon agrees – which is where we all stand – that is fine. The matter is resolved. If he cannot agree to the terms, then we will ask you to leave our fellowship.

In the interim, we are willing to pray for and with, counsel, and help him as he works thru these next few weeks.

Gordon then returned to the room and we put our decision to him. He said that because of family arrangements, he would not be able to leave by 9th, but would do so by 16th. We agreed to that extension.

Gordon then excused himself.

The meeting closed with prayer at approx 9.30pm