

O. C. Birdwell, Jr.
5118 Co. Rd. 26
Rogersville, Al 35652
256-247-3915

Dear Brethren:

The impersonal greeting is because I am sending this letter to several individuals and churches. Please regard it as being personal to you.


As many of you know, In February of 2003, I was asked to resign from the Guardian of Truth Foundation Board. This is the board that controls Truth Bookstore, CEI Bookstore and *Truth Magazine*. I was also fired from my work with the business. Also, my wife Frances, daughter Nanette, and her husband, Johnny Stringer were subsequently fired. All of this was because my son, Alan, who was Treasurer of the Foundation, and Manager of Truth Bookstore, took funds from the company and lost them in the stock market. His intentions were not for personal gain. He admits doing wrong by using his personal account rather than opening a company account. Neither he, nor I, defend his actions. Some of the funds he was accused of taking, however, were reimbursements for company expenses.

In the February, 2003 Board meeting, the board's attorney, David Lanphear, told the board that if there were Kentucky Court action the board would have to initiate it. He did not advise them to do so, but to settle it otherwise. They agreed to do this, and asked me to relate to Alan, who was not present, the decision not to prosecute, but to allow him to repay according to his ability. They were to contact Alan through David Lanphear. It was two months later that Alan received a letter from Mike Willis saying in substance, "We cannot do what we said; there is too much money involved." He asked for \$200,000 to settle, which neither Alan nor I had or could get. They then asked the Commonwealth attorney to indict Alan. One board member said "whatever consequences follow...will not be on my conscience nor any other member of the board." During one year, not one member of the board visited Alan or called him. We seem to be learning who our true friends are.

Alan was indicted and sentenced to a prison term. The board may say they had nothing to do with it. If they say this, they do not tell the truth. I know what their attorney told them. They have expressed no concern for Alan's wife, Crystal, or his little girl of 8 years, and son, age 5. Rather they said, "consequences are not on my conscience." Crystal cannot care for the children, send them to school, and at the same time work to pay her pressing bills. Frances and I were fired from our jobs, and draw \$1400 monthly social security. However, we will do what we can to provide. If anyone would want to help Alan's wife and children, make the check out to Crystal Birdwell, and send it to: O. C. Birdwell, Jr., 5118 Co. Rd. 26, Rogersville, Al 35652. I will keep a record of all gifts and send a list at your request.

To this board I would say with scripture, "...Judgment is without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy" (James 2:13). They sought vengeance; they got their vengeance. So be it.

Brotherly,



O. C. Birdwell, Jr.
January 19, 2004

P. S. You may want to make copies of this letter for the members of the congregation.