

48 Slatey Road
Prenton
Wirral

Sunday 19th May 2002

Dear Pastor Epton

I am writing to explain my absence today and the reasons why I feel it right to remain so for a time.

I believe for my own spiritual and well-being and also yours, its best not to be present of a Sunday morning. I do not wish to hurt or offend you, I just believe our relationship has broken down and after what happened last Friday (10th May) and Sunday morning (12th) left me feeling bewildered and hurt, and I have obviously hurt you.

Friday 10th May, you rang me as you said you wanted to set our relationship back on right tracks. I asked if I could be honest and straight with you and with your permission proceeded to tell you of how crushed and fed up I was of the constant stream of hurting people leaving WCC and other things that were in my heart. None of what I said was said in a heart of offence or wanting to hurt, infact several times I said to you this was not my desire. I expected you to at least offer me the same discretion, instead it felt as though you left what you wanted to say to me until you were in the pulpit the following Sunday. Obviously you didn't come right out with my name, but several 'side swipes' were directed at me and the content of our telephone conversation. I left the service feeling both hurt and humiliated and extremely sad that things had come to this.

I had sat down in the service to read my bible (yes, bad manners) because it felt very convenient to me that the prophecy concerning judgement that was coming that very week and it was going to start with the elders, a little too convenient after our conversation were you said that Roger & Ruth would be leaving alongside of two other senior members. And the fact that two elders wives had been lets say a bit indiscreet with things that they have said about you. I was not reading my bible going "don't like this, don't want to hear this na na na na na " I was actually asking God to speak to me and affirm if what was being said from the front **was of Him**, test the spirits scripture teaches, not blindly accept it.

I have listened several times this week to the tape, prayerfully asking God not to let me be offended or read too deep into remarks. I now feel as though the only reason you rang on the Friday was to see if I knew about the elders wife who'd been saying you had a controlling spirit and Jezebel spirit and having an unhealthy relationship with Karen (I must add that the lady concerned did not tell me about the incident around what she had said and has never voiced those opinions to me, it was actually a man who told me).

You said in your sermon about being on the phone that week talking about the Jezebel spirit to someone, and that people shouldn't be giving out clichés and garbage, half truths and **weak uneducated knowledge** and how you were going to give correct

teaching. I had told you that I did believe a man could display the characteristics of a Jezebel spirit, you said no, theres a male version in the Old Testament. I agree that different cultures are addressed by different scripture. I would not begin to say I have enough knowledge to say a man can be possessed by a Jezebel spirit but I've actually seen men in the church displaying it's very characteristics. I believe you would find Colin Dyes teaching on the spirit very informative and illuminating, and no doubt he would say he's very qualified to discuss the subject. I have not been to bible college, but did get grade 'A's for all 18 I.C.I intermediate studies under Ebi that I sat and eventually became a vacillator for, and undertook several other home based courses. You have many years on me for bible study, but I do have some biblical truths under my belt and can certainly discern between truth and 'Mickey Mouse' teaching as you put it.

This has been a difficult time for our family; you have no idea of the heartache of seeing your children suffer because of foolish mistakes on their behalf and others. Paul is the baby's father and gutted that its mother is who she is, and Maries partner is now permanently maimed, a young man who was holding down 2 jobs to get himself through college to become a carpenter. Thankfully they are recognising the power of prayer and requesting prayer, remembering their time with the Lord- He will bring them through. I need to feel especially at this time I'm in a kind of sanctuary in my church and around my brothers and sisters. Instead, I left on Sunday feeling loss of any hope, and that was not the spirit of God's doing. I do not believe I can find in the bible that my kids can go to hell because of me. I know of a few folk that are broken hearted and destroyed in their spirit by that statement. I need to **grasp hold of God and find His peace** that passes understanding, and **allow Him to deal with me and to heal me.**

The decision to take a few weeks out is totally mine, nothing to do with Ian apart from make things difficult and awkward for him, but totally understands how and why I have reached this conclusion, and thankfully does not try to tell me what to do unless he truly believes it would hurt me.

May our Lord bless you and keep you, shine His countenance upon you and give **both** yourself and me His peace.

Amanda Carter