

January 28, 2002

Memo to Bros. Paul Pentsa and Andrew Taylor,

Dear brothers,

We greet you in the precious name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Please carefully consider the following exhortations given all shepherds of the flock of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being Lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble" I-Peter 5:1-5

"I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth." I Cor. 16: 15&16

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Heb. 13:17

You are both aware of the several attempts to meet with you to discuss the deplorable situation of the household of faith in Australia. We have not heard from you at all, Bro. Andrew, and our communications with you, Bro. Paul, have not given us any hope of solving, with the Lord's help, the dilemma facing the Australian believers. Since you cannot see the need for help or reject the help offered, you place us in the position to take actions we are not pleased to take, but must do so to spare the flock from more years of heartache and despair.

Remember that the elders in the early church did not work independently of each other but counseled together and implemented decisions they agreed to as received from the Holy Ghost. Acts 15. Have you also forgotten that elder brothers sent from North America ordained you both, and therefore you are answerable to that Elder Body? The fruits of your independent work are everywhere and the cries of Australian believers rise to the Lord out of the rubble of splintered fellowships that crave again a true brotherhood they can be a part of. He has sent us to help you, but you have rejected that help.

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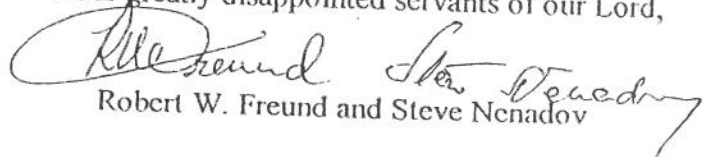
Therefore, after much prayerful deliberation and with very heavy hearts, we must ask you to consider the option you have to continue as elders. We do so in the fear of God and with the support of a great majority of elders in North America.

In order to remain elders in your respective home congregations only, you must agree to be under the oversight of the conference of elders who ordained you, and work closely with the councilor brothers appointed by the conference. At least until our next elder meeting, that will be Bros. Steve Nenadov and Robert Freund. You must demonstrate a willingness to be mentored by them, seek their input on all important matters, and apply the collective wisdom agreed upon.

Should you refuse the above option, you disqualify yourselves to continue in the office of elder and minister.

We, as counseling brothers, will appoint helper brothers from among the ministers in each congregation to meet the needs of each respective church. The appointees will serve until such time each church can elect an assistant elder.

Your greatly disappointed servants of our Lord,


Robert W. Freund and Steve Nenadov

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