

Dear Bro. Paul,

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all things.

The response to the Elder Committee in your letter, dated February 28<sup>th</sup> 2006, was shared with the elder body on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>. In particular the elder body discussed your claim that you did not agree to the implementation of the Australian Support Committee Recommendations as discussed in La Puente, March 2003. The elder body respectfully disagrees with your claim, on two counts. Firstly, some of the elder brothers who were present at our last meeting in West Akron were also present in La Puente and confirmed that they understood that you had in fact agreed to the implementations. Secondly, and more explicitly, the report of that Thursday meeting in March 2003 which you not only reviewed, but also approved; stated the following under the section titled *Conclusions* (point 4 – please see attached report):

“All of the brothers present at the meeting agreed to the following course of action.....:

4. To implement the recommendations as arrived at on the September 11, 2002 meeting in Norton, Ohio. (At the elders meeting the next day, it was agreed to remove the wording that Bros. Paul Pentsa and Andrew Taylor were to be “accountable to the North American elder body”, because it was misinterpreted as them being members of the North American elder body.)”

The final paragraph of that report states:

“Brothers Robert Freund, Steve Nenadov and Paul Pentsa asked each other for forgiveness where they may have hurt one another, and were willing to allow God to judge the past, while agreeing to move ahead with the recommendations.”

Secondly, the elder body concurred that the issues regarding the “fair distribution of funds” surrounding the various properties in question (Altona, Rockbank and Laverton) cannot be resolved without the ASC elders visiting Australia, as agreed upon by all, in the ASC Report of March 6, 2003.

Thirdly, the issue of the excommunication of Bro. Laza Krmulac was discussed at length by the elder body. While acknowledging that the offences of Bro. Laza Krmulac were very serious, the elder body with one voice stated that any form of discipline should have been performed only by or in conjunction with an elder that is not related to the families involved. Doing otherwise has great potential for distorting justice.

Fourthly, the elder body reaffirms their support for Altona 2 as free members and that they should be treated as such in all Australian churches. Recall that the report of the La Puente meeting states that Altona 2 members were released from discipline by Brothers Steve Nenadov and Bob Freund, and that you had greeted them (as free brothers with a holy kiss) at the end of the March 6, 2003 meeting, amid tears of forgiveness and joy, as "we left the meeting with peace in our hearts". Dear Bro. Paul, after you had promised in La Puente, that you would do all that was within your power to make peace in Australia, it was quite disappointing to read the minutes of the Australian leadership meeting in the Marsden church, on April 12 2004. One of the resolutions regarding the "splinter groups" stated, "members from our churches are not to visit or fellowship with these groups" and that neither songs or prayers should be offered to them (if they were to visit your churches). This not only betrays your actions in La Puente, but also is not the way to make for peace.

The elder body is very disappointed that you Bro. Paul have not honored your word in doing all within your power to make peace in Australia. Your pledge to do so was made in the context of implementing the recommendations, as you had agreed to. The elder body and the word of God remind us that your word should be sufficient – your yea should be yea. The fact that you claim to have given the matter over to other local brothers in Altona, does not in any way absolve you from the accountability and responsibility of your statements and agreements in La Puente, 2003.

Dear Bro. Paul, the North American elder body urges and exhorts you as an elder of the Altona congregation to honor your commitment to implementing the recommendations. This commitment was unequivocally clear in the March 6 2003 report.

The substance of this letter was agreed upon by the elder body at the time of the meeting. The actual letter was reviewed and humbly and prayerfully submitted, on behalf of the elder body, by brothers,

Jim Igic, Mark Igic, Doug Savin, Mike Palanacki, Robert Freund and Dennis Delph

Copies also forwarded to: Brothers Andrew Taylor, Janko Tomek, Laza Lazic, Boris Vujcic, Miodrag Cucanic