

My mother-in-law speaks:



February 06, 2009

Dear Jay:

After the harsh reinstatement meeting of March 26, 2008, I was very surprised to receive your January 2009 stewardship letter which was sent to me a few days ago.

As a Christian grandmother, I do agree with your sentiments in the letter that the church should nourish the children of the community in our Christian faith.

I am also in agreement with your concerns about the "example modern Christian culture is setting for the youth among us" today.

As a deacon responsible for the money given to the church by Covenant members and visitors from the surrounding community, I do hope that you are completely unaware that bodyguards (apparently armed) followed and closely monitored the movements of my 13 year old granddaughter on July 6, 2008.

My granddaughter attended Sunday School on that day at the invitation of a youth minister with the approval of Pastor Jim Bachmann. (I personally witnessed the bodyguards shadowing my granddaughter on church property.)

I also hope that you are ignorant of the fact that church member, Mr. Worrick Robinson, accompanied by several bodyguards, denied my granddaughter and her family entry into the church on the previous Sunday.

At first Mr. Robinson did not want to let any of my family in, but my son-in-law contested the action being taken against his family and my daughter and both her young children were eventually allowed to pass through the front doors.

After my son-in-law was denied entrance, Mr. Robinson informed my son-in-law that he would be arrested if he were ever to set foot on church property again or ever initiated contact with any member of Covenant Presbyterian Church again.

Jay, it is simply stunning what Pastor Jim Bachmann, other pastors and elders in leadership at Covenant did to my granddaughter's family this past summer.

Do you support Pastor Jim Bachmann and the leadership of Covenant who would take such an action in the United States of America during the week before the Fourth of July when we, as Americans, celebrate the freedom of speech and the freedom to worship?

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As if the outrage of using unwarranted bodyguards was not enough of a disgraceful act, a police report now reveals that three days after this event, Pastor Jim Bachmann initiated the dispatch of two metro detectives to interrogate my daughter and son-in-law at their private residence on July 2, 2008.

I am not an attorney but I do have some knowledge of Acts 21-22 and this would seem to be a very unwise and reckless use of civil authority by church authorities against a family of Christian believers.

The state does make it a crime for a person or an institution to file a false report with the police against an innocent American citizen.

Jay, I do not know if you personally approve of this type of Christian example being set for young children where Christians gather to worship, but I as a former member of Covenant do not believe that this type of bizarre and irresponsible conduct by pastors and elders is pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

I hope that you are indeed unaware of these facts and I pray that that God will give you clear eyes, a pure heart and the courage to be good stewards of God's grace and love -- not just of money.

This is a serious responsibility that should not to be taken lightly.

I challenge you and your fellow deacons to be better role models than those set for you and to be a godly example for the children of our next generation.

I will be praying for you all and for the trusting congregation you have been called by the Lord to faithfully serve.

Sincerely,

Nancy Fleming

cc: Deacons

No one responded to this letter which was sent to about 60 people/leaders except for John Perry.