

An open letter to Linda and Brian Kirk:

My dear sister and brother, Linda and Brian, it is such a misuse of valuable time for all of us that we must write this letter when time could be so much better spent in God's work. However, when you attack not the message which God has sent but the messenger in a way that it attempts to tear apart at the very fabric of one's character, this requires a response of rebuke and love. But, unlike so many of the brethren, we have chosen to follow Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy regarding responding to your open letter.

Let's begin with a passage from Desire of Ages page 440.

In the spirit of meekness, "considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted," (Gal. 6:1), go to the erring one, and "tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Do not put him to shame by exposing his fault to others, nor bring dishonor upon Christ by making public the sin or error of one who bears His name. Often the truth must be plainly spoken to the erring; he must be led to see his error, that he may reform. But you are not to judge or to condemn. Make no attempt at self-justification. Let all your effort be for his recovery. In treating the wounds of the soul, there is need of the most delicate touch, the finest sensibility. Only the love that flows from the Suffering One of Calvary can avail here. With pitying tenderness, let brother deal with brother, knowing that if you succeed, you will "save a soul from death," and "hide a multitude of sins." James 5:20.

Please consider this text. Note especially the text that says "tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Remember this text as we openly share with you a great problem you have done.

Let us first pray: Father we ask that you guide us as we follow the counsel you have given. We ask for forgiveness against those that have trespassed against us as well as those we have trespassed against. Allow each reader meekness and humility and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We only pray to hold you up in glory and to worship you. Amen.

It seems that Becky and I have been placed on a pedestal where the whole world is examining every word and action that is made. We have had people observing our dress, our diet, and our study and prayer life, etc.

After receiving your email dated May 18, with the Open Letter attached, we both wondered why you were trying to make it appear as if this was your initial opinion release. We know for a fact that you had already begun openly sharing information to cause discontent in April 2008.

My first concern is that you have decided to openly critique me without first following the counsel of Matthew 18:15. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."

To begin, I have been openly accused of not knowing my Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For the record, in humbleness I would rather admit a limited knowledge compared to others, however many would rather I stand and proudly and boastfully show off my knowledge. Where as I do not have a degree in Theology bestowed upon me from Andrews University, I have years of self study, prayer and a very close walk with my Father and my Savior. And through this letter of Christian love I wish to help teach you. This letter is written to not elevate self but to teach you. It should be received as a letter of love and with humbleness. My sister, pray and submit yourself to be taught by the Holy Spirit. Are you still teachable or are you above that?

I must point out to you as well as others who will need to understand what you have unconscionably done. You have shared personal and private family information that in friendship was entrusted to you. You have shared information that was entrusted to you in reference to the "Much to Do" dream. In this dream the name of this person was given in confidence so that you could be a witness when this person steps forward to assist in the spreading of these last day messages. When a Christian gives their word that they will hold information given in confidence it should remain just that way, in confidence. But, rather than growing in faith, trusting in Jesus, and speaking with only Jesus you confided with Steve Wohlberg (your former boss) and others regarding these dreams. You not only shared the name with Steve Wohlberg, Eugene Prewitt, forums but also the person God said He would connect me with. You stated that you waited six months for this

dream, this promise to be fulfilled. You said that in six months God did not reveal the person, so that confirmed to you the dreams were not from God. Since when do you determine God's timing? Since when do we dictate how long we should wait upon God? You broke the confidence, you broke the promise, you broke a vow of keeping personal what had been shared. While we are in this point I want to pose a question. Why have those you have counseled with not openly rebuked you for your problems in not following the counsel of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy? Is the problem that we have only pastors now and no longer ministers?

Let's reference now the story of Noah. God told him He would destroy the earth with a great flood. Noah waited and preached for 120 years for God to do what He said He would. You waited six months. We have been told to learn patience, to wait upon God. All is in His time and in His way. The Father and Jesus want each of us to learn to trust Them and walk in Their ways. You decided to take God's time table into your own hands. Jesus knew this, that is why He said that many would doubt and cause discontent. Your spiritual wavering will cause more damage then you will ever know.

Regarding the dream I was instructed to have you edit, you stated several things in your response. I do not feel it is prudent to go over all of these items as they do not warrant a response. The one item I do want to comment on was the instruction. In the dream I was instructed to invite you to edit the dream (correct spelling, punctuation and sentence structure). You were then to send it to our web administrator and he would upload it to the web site. After receiving the dream, he found typos of spelling and punctuation. These needed to be corrected prior to being placed on the web site. I had already instructed him that I was told he alone was to have the final edit of the dream per instruction from the Herald. This instruction was given to the web administrator while you were still editing the dream. Note here: The Herald is a messenger. He is delivering a message and not making decisions. Jesus is the one who instructed the Herald to deliver this message.

Another item that should be addressed is that prior to any dream being placed on the web site, it is prayerfully reviewed by the 4 His People Ministry Board. Besides reviewing minor editing as noted above it must meet the criteria of agreeing with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. It is agreed that if any dream is ever found to not agree, that would change plans for the 4 His People Ministry web site. The 4 His People Ministry Board believes that all of the dreams agree with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, including the "Stand Fast" dream and that the comments given to the Herald regarding tithe is in complete agreement with the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. No one has shown nor can they show error in this dream. No one has shown error with what has been said about tithe. Many have instead made accusations and created rumors regarding their personal opinions but no one has shown an error. Remember, we are to confirm man's studies against God's Word.

I now want to address your comment from your letter as follows:

Then we met you in person when you came to our home Friday evening, October 26, 2007. We found you to be a very likeable and talkative person, with the conversation totally centered around your dreams. I was really hoping for a deep season of prayer, and some discussion of truth as found in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, but instead the entire focus was on your dreams. Your prayer was brief and casual, not like someone who had truly encountered Divinity.

Where as I am enthusiastic about sharing the experience of the dreams I have been given, I cannot understand why you feel one would not want to hear of the things I saw in heaven, but the most precious was of my walk with Jesus. This is also why you invited us. We spent quite a time as the small group you invited had many questions and I was more than willing to answer these. Anyone experiencing the dreams I have would want to share the experience. However, you did not take into account the fact of the experience of the dream I had the day before which I shared, ("Pray for Protection"). You did not take into consideration that after the long drive Becky and I had that we might be tired. If you wanted to have a season of prayer you should have said so. As you readily know, we cannot share with you an expectation that you do not bring to our attention. Instead of asking if a season of prayer could be had, you now write about it in this open letter. It is rather interesting that you have chosen to use this unknown

expectation and attempt to place doubt again as to my walk with my Jesus with the many who have read your open letter. Have you stopped to realize that you are one of the people causing people to doubt and cause discontent just as mentioned in the Much to Do dream? It is through you that this dream is being fulfilled! However, because of your blatant disregard for God's timetable you shared openly in emails and many forums the name that had been given in confidence to you.

In another part of your open letter you stressed how it is felt I do not have humility. I find it interesting that others have stated the opposite. I guess my character will not ever match up to someone you would approve of. I am thankful that it only matters what Jesus thinks of me, you and everyone else.

I know you kept pressing to hear a conversion story and to hear the sins of my past. It is not important nor should we review the sins of our past life. Once we ask for forgiveness they are forgiven and in the past. Why do you or would you want to know the details of my sinful life? I only want to share that Jesus is coming. I only want to share the love I see in the eyes of Jesus. It seems from your open letter that all you wanted to hear was my past sins. Why would any Christian want to hear about someone's past sins? Is it not better to see how Christ has given a new walk to an individual?

I want to speak about the friendship we developed. I know that Sabbath night Becky and I felt very comfortable and were made to feel as if we were at home and could share personal information that a true friend would keep confidential. So that night we shared personal information thinking this would help you and your husband in your walk with God.

I was saddened to learn in the last few days just prior to you sending out the "open letter" that you personally took the time to contact many of my friends, family members and acquaintances. You contacted Becky's parents wanting to know if they had any doubt or if they could point out any problems in the dreams. When Becky's mom answered there was nothing

and that all agreed with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, she said you pressed for personal information. Then she said you pressed if there was anyone else she knew that doubted or was not supportive of our ministry. She quickly realized you were researching and making a list of people you could use against Becky and me. Is this proper Christian behavior? Well, sad to say that you didn't stop there but you also called friends, pastors and places where I have visited and shared the messages from God. Again you were not successful at finding anyone to speak against me but that there were many who believe that the messages are from God. One pastor told me he felt you were on a witch hunt. Another pastor told me of how he spoke of blatant misuse of tithe by the conference with you but how you were only looking for information as to how people felt that the dreams were not from God.

Again I ask you, is this proper Christian behavior? Did you not stop to think that this information would come back to verify your true character? Why do you have such a need to want to condemn a brother? Why do you not want to hold up Jesus? Instead you use this personal information to attack our character.

You spoke of my prayers of asking and pleading to God for a close walk with Him. You made it sound as if I was opening the door for a Satanic visit. However, you neglect to mention that the appeals I made were always in private prayers. Is leaving out important context proper Christian behavior? I pray you do realize that Satan cannot hear our silent prayers and personal petitions to our Father. A closing thought on this topic. Do you not ask God for a closer walk? Should we not all ask for a closer walk? Why do you condemn a brother who wishes to have a closer walk with Him?

It is so sad that you have taken the stance in sending out a public message in the way that you have. It is so sad that you are unable to follow the counsel of Matthew 18:15. It is so sad that one who admits to being an ardent student of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is unable to follow this simple counsel. It is so sad that into your hands was placed information

that was confidential and you destroyed the confidence which was placed there.

You know very well that you shared with us a good deal of personal information about you, your family, and your past. We could openly share this embarrassing information in an open letter but that would not be the Christian thing to do, would it?

Since your open letter has gone out to the virtual world we have received many emails condemning you and your method of sharing. Becky and I are not the only ones seeing this. Besides numerous phone calls, we have received many emails supporting us, but questioning your motives and your behavior.

Below are a just a few of the many that you received, which I was copied on. These are responses that show of a problem you have. You know the counsel of many should be heeded when it does not align with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Also again remember Matthew 18:15-16.

I invite you as well as those others who receive this to prayerfully read what many others are stating.

One individual wrote to you saying:

Well, Linda, I have to say I do not agree with your take on many of the things you have said. My belief in these dreams has not been, except at the very beginning, based on feelings (although those may be nice at first -- excitement that Jesus' coming is near is wonderful!), but based on the knowledge I have of God's word, as well as seeking God's face for specific direction. Esp. as things have heated up in controversy, I have sought God's direction to reaffirm what I had asked before. Had I heard His voice incorrectly? No. This was God's voice as I have come to know Him over the years. There is a vast difference from other thoughts that come into my head. I know my Shepherd's voice.

Each person must make these decisions at the foot of God's throne for themselves. I am weary of others pressing their opinions on others, which then get forwarded to me over and over from more well-meaning people.

I'm so sorry you have been ill-affected by these situations. My take on Ernie's experience is to see God's hand reaching down to rescue another one of His children by sending these dreams to him.

Linda, what about Jonah? What about Abraham, David (a man after God's own heart who was far from perfect); what about Peter, James, and John - close friends of Jesus who were also FAR from perfect???. Stop looking at the beams/motes in others' eyes and start looking to Jesus. If nothing else, use this experience and these dreams to drive you closer to Jesus to be ready for His coming!!! If the dreams were of Satan, do you really think that would be the result of the dreams for anybody???. If there are people who experience fanaticism, false excitement, and inability to think of anything else, then perhaps those people need to re-examine their walk with God, because what should be happening is a closer walk - a need to pray more and more - and a deeper longing for obedience to Jesus through His righteousness so to be ready for His coming.

These are just a few of my thoughts. You do not need to respond to them. My heart goes out to you at this time of confusion and frustration for you.

In another email it was stated:

The devil is increasing his attacks. This is partially happening in keeping people so incredibly busy that they barely have time to breathe, let alone find time to spend with God.

From this comment one could see how you could be perceived as doing Satan's work. Rather than studying and preparing for the Lord's return, you have caused people to spend time sharing your message instead of God's message.

Another comment:

The devil is advancing more aggressively. This gives that much more credibility to their validity. Those whose hearts are receptive to Christ will receive the dreams openly and change spiritually as a result. The attacks will only strengthen their commitment.

Another comment:

Of the many things mentioned, you are taking his personal comments and using them against him, which I see as a betrayal of trust. You are overlooking the message and focusing on the messenger.

Here is a long comment sent to you. I pray that you take the time to read this and ponder these words:

I think that you make a number of wrong assumptions. The most important one, as I see it, is that the person who receives the dreams or vision has to be good enough to deserve them. The Bible tells me that none of us deserve to receive the gifts of the Spirit, or the Spirit Himself. He is given to those who will not refuse, and will respond with obedience, to help bring them to a higher spiritual experience. In the case of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, God gave the dream to a violent pagan monarch. But after the dream was explained, after the experience with the golden statue on the plains of Dura, and after being smitten with madness for seven years, finally Nebuchadnezzar was converted, and Ellen G. White tells us he became a child of God.

So it does not come as a surprise to me that God might choose to give Ernie dreams to save him, because he needed them, and not because he was so good he deserved them. I think this is similar to the reason why God calls some of us to become Seventh-day Adventists, and other people He does not convict in this way. It is not because we are better or smarter; more likely it is because God had to bring us into the clarity of the SDA message in order to save us. Because we needed it.

We are told that God speaks to everyone at one time or another in a dream. "For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction." (Job 33:14-16; NKJV)

It appears to me that everything you say about Ernie Knoll could have been said with equal truthfulness concerning Ellen G. White, especially in the first few years after she was given a vision and called to be a prophet. She was still a Sunday-keeper, probably believed in the immortality of the soul, baptism by sprinkling--she was raised as a Methodist, after all. And the Lord did not correct her through the visions--she was not corrected until years later through the studying of Scripture by her brethren. For several years, she believed in the "shut door" doctrine, and later had to retract that. If you judged Ellen G. White the same way you have Ernie Knoll, you would have rejected her, too. Of course Ernie Knoll is a sinner. Being given dreams did not instantly perfect him. Ellen G. White was not sinlessly perfect either. Being given the gift of prophecy does not give you some sort of "brain boost" and turn you into an oracle, whose every word and thought is straight from God.

I think you are wrong to compare Ernie Knoll to Ellen G. White. In sharing his dreams, he is not implicitly making a bid to have the authority that Ellen G. White had--she was a special case, her ministry went far beyond that of a prophet who had visions and dreamed dreams.

As long as you look at the human appearances, you will never be able to be sure whether or not Ernie's dreams come from the Lord. If you look at human appearances and expect perfection, you will certainly reject the dreams.

Another thing--of course you can ask questions in a dream. At times, everyone has probably had experience with a "waking dream." I have had many throughout my life, where I become aware that I am dreaming, and am able to consciously change the course of my dream. It does not happen often, but it does happen. Ellen G. White tells us there is no practical difference between a vision and a dream, except that the dream is a vision that comes to you while you are asleep. But even in Sister White's conscious visions, she would go into a trance state, and often not even breathe. So what was the practical difference?

I think you assume too much about how the gift of prophecy has to be manifested. You are expecting the Holy Spirit to manifest His working the way you think He ought to, and are not allowing Him the freedom to use what symbols He chooses, and give the messages He chooses to give, and in the manner in which He chooses.

If you believe that Knoll's dreams teach anything that is in error, please state where they contradict Scripture--and not just your subjective impressions about how things ought to be.

Concerning whether Ernie accepts tithes. I know what a hot rail issue this is with the conference. Nothing leads them to denounce someone as an offshoot faster than for them to accept tithes. But I

do not think that the conference is the final authority on this issue. Tithe is a personal responsibility, for which we answer to the Lord, not the conference.

You said that Ernie said he was told by the angel he could receive tithe. I do not remember any of Knoll's dreams posted on the website appealing for readers to send him their tithe. Perhaps I missed it. Do you know if he has made any public statement about this?

As for asking the Lord for signs--He does not always honor this request, especially where it would amount to avoiding our responsibility to develop our own faculty for sound spiritual discernment. He seldom gives signs to take the place of our own effort to understand, and figure out things we should be able to figure out for ourselves. He is working to restore the nobility in man that has been lost because of sin, as Sister White tells us, and giving us signs to answer every question for us on a silver platter often is not in harmony with that purpose. Remember what Jesus said about asking for signs. Sometimes God will give signs, but you must always be careful that Satan has no way of knowing what signs you asked for, and you must make sure it is in harmony with God's purpose to give you signs.

You mentioned what you claimed was an unfulfilled prophecy, that Ernie was told he would be put into connection with Shawn Boostra. In divulging this name, you violated a trust, because you were asked not to repeat it to anyone. This reflects badly on you. And now--rightly or wrongly--Ernie can claim that your betrayal of trust has changed things. Maybe it was not God's purpose to put Ernie into connection with Boostra until some later time. But now you have prejudiced him. You should not have betrayed this trust. You might have said that the person whose name you were told is not in connection with Ernie. You still had the freedom to say that. But instead you chose to betray a confidence.

I have been trying to stress to people the proper attitude that we should have when it comes to evaluating dreams such as Ernie's: "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21.) Yes we are to test everything. But notice the priorities implicit here--what comes first. First of all, we must be careful not to quench the Spirit, and not to despise prophesyings. If these are not our prevailing attitude, we will be incapable of testing anything. The Holy Spirit will not cooperate in illuminating your mind as to what is truth and error, if you are not obedient to this Biblical instruction to start with.

Please maintain a true appreciation for the seriousness of this matter. If Ernie's dreams are of the Lord, and you say they are of Satan, then you are committing blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Thus you need to be really, really sure. Jesus warned us that this is the one sin that is unpardonable, because if we persist in confusing the Holy Spirit's working with the power of Satan, eventually we will drive the Holy Spirit from us, and He is the only means by which God can reach us to bring us conviction, conversion, and faith--that we may lay hold on the imputed righteousness of Christ.

If Ernie's dreams are not of the Lord, then eventually that fact will become manifested clearly, and you won't have to compile a list of subjective impressions and ways in which your personal assumptions were not satisfied.

Linda, please choose this day whom you will serve. As Christians trying to hold to the character of Christ, Becky and I forgive you. I hold no ill feelings

against you. I have repented of my sins. They have been blotted out and are covered by the righteous robe of Christ. However, I implore you to soul search, repent and ask for forgiveness from those who you have harmed. Walk in a way that you can regain the trust of friends. Will they now be afraid to share anything personal with you? You need to acquire knowledge that if something is entrusted to you in confidence that means that you tell no one. This is something that should drive you to your knees. A person who is seeking humbleness and meekness will do this with no reservation. I invite you to go before all and admit your errors in that you were wrong in what you have done. You violated a sacred trust in friendship, not only to me but a sacred trust before God. You have gone ahead of God and shared a name God said in His time He would share. As Jesus said in the last dream, "Testing the Spirits," you do have a memory problem.

You might do well by reading *Desire of Ages*, "Who is the Greatest." You might do well to focus attention on pages 440 and 441 regarding how to deal with an erring one. Why is this important? Because, you yourself might find out that you are the erring one.

In closing I want to resubmit for prayer and contemplation what was already sent to you in an email.

Please maintain a true appreciation for the seriousness of this matter. If Ernie's dreams are of the Lord, and you say they are of Satan, then you are committing blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Thus you need to be really, really sure. Jesus warned us that this is the one sin that is unpardonable, because if we persist in confusing the Holy Spirit's working with the power of Satan, eventually we will drive the Holy Spirit from us, and He is the only means by which God can reach us to bring us conviction, conversion, and faith--that we may lay hold on the imputed righteousness of Christ.

If Ernie's dreams are not of the Lord, then eventually that fact will become manifested clearly, and you won't have to compile a list of subjective impressions and ways in which your personal assumptions were not satisfied.

Maranatha!
Ernie and Becky

P.S. "Whoever attempts the work of reform will have decided opposition to meet."

{TDG 49}