

March 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Brittain and Mr. McCants

I received and reflected on your letter as attorneys for NAMB. I am not represented by counsel in this matter, even though it is apparent to me that Dr. Ezell's actions have met the legal criteria for libel and tortious interference. His behaviors have caused significant damages to me and my family emotionally, financially by damaging my livelihood, and now has falsely sullied my good name across the SBC family with his lies and interference. Dr. Ezell's actions will continue to have negative ongoing consequences for me.

Dr. Ezell's actions have also damaged the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network (MD/DE Conv.), other state conventions, and the future of mission efforts of the entire SBC. His ongoing strong-arming tactics have damaged trust, goodwill, commitments to the SBC, and the relationships necessary to support the worldwide mission effort and to sustain strength in the local church which is foundational for all ministry and mission efforts.

Dr. Ezell's behavior is objectionable, not NAMB. My vita on my website clearly reflects my long history of faithfully and effectively serving the SBC in the areas of evangelism and church planting, including multiple contributory roles and research projects for NAMB.

The principles of Mt. 18 have guided my actions, including seeking to communicate with Dr. Ezell prior to my termination and now sharing with the trustees and others leaders in the SBC and state conventions post termination. I have also communicated my availability to meet directly with several NAMB trustees who I have had prior relationship, but to date, none have accepted my invitation to dialogue, ask questions, and examine the written facts.

This entire matter is difficult and unpleasant for most everyone involved, especially for me and my family, but also the trustees who are being asked to make judgments with limited information. I am not aware of what processes the NAMB officers used to make the determination that my Letter of Concern was factually false within 20 hours of receiving my letter. But, I do know that I was not contacted to explore my serious claims. Chairman Chuck Herring expressed in our joint meeting on March 11, 2015 his strong support and belief in Dr. Ezell's integrity. Herring stated to everyone in the room, *"if Kevin said the sky was purple, I would believe him."* While I can appreciate the sentiment, as a trustee representing all Southern Baptists it is incumbent upon the trustees to employ a thorough and unbiased exploration of serious concerns.

Our God is big enough to work His purposes when His children walk in the light and in truth. The SBC is better when God is pleased, we walk in righteousness and explore serious claims with the cross examination required in Prov. 18:17. As the victim of Dr. Ezell's actions, I am not responsible for how people respond when Dr. Ezell's actions are brought into the light as the Bible teaches believers to do when a brother repeatedly sins. Southern Baptists members who are the owners of the SBC can determine how best to respond once they are given access to related documents and the evidence.

Dr. Ezell has a full staff, a large board of Trustees, a personal salary, a PR staff, field representatives, oversight of \$400 million in SBC assets, and a national voice and platform. Currently, all that I have are the facts and my integrity, which you and the NAMB trustee officers have questioned in writing without cross examination. Truth will not be changed.

I stand by my words 100% in fact and meaning as one who will give an account to Jesus. I would not write such serious matters without having paper evidence to support each claim. Jesus is the Truth: He commanded us to seek the truth and the truth will set us free. In Eph. 5 He instructs to bring matters into the light for cleansing. In my Letter of Concern, I requested an investigation in keeping with the oversight responsibilities that NAMB trustees have on behalf of the entire SBC, but that to date that has not happened. I, along with my wife and children, would be the ones further damaged should an independent and thorough examination prove my claims false.

Just 20 hours after receiving my Letter of Concern, the NAMB trustee officers stated that I was both “factually inaccurate and misleading”. Your letter reiterated similar views and contained several misstatements, which I assume happened because you, too, did not have firsthand information on these matters. These are not matters of opinion or differences in strategy, but documented facts. Your statements about my termination, characterization of the meeting on March 11, and not communicating with several NAMB trustees in advance are factually inaccurate. Both documents representing NAMB have challenged my integrity regarding these matters without a single conversation with me and have further damaged me. However, Dr. Ezell is ultimately responsible.

I have sought to honor Jesus and follow the Scriptures in addressing Dr. Ezell’s wrongful actions against me and the MD/DE Convention. I have sought wise counsel from men of high character who are leaders across the SBC. I have made multiple efforts to have these matters addressed over the last 18 months without going to SBC churches.

As a Christ follower, leader of my family and contributor to the SBC family, it is now incumbent upon me to rebut false claims against me and make the truth available to the SBC. While my livelihood as our sole family wage-earner has been dramatically damaged, I am not willing to trade truth for financial compensation, should it be offered. One of my primary concerns is for the matters to be addressed justly based on truth to honor Christ, but to date, this has not happened. I am making related information available to all the NAMB trustees and the owners of the SBC via my personal website <http://willmcraney.com/open-letter/> should someone desire to explore them.

In light of Dr. Ezell’s actions and statements, along with the two official letters declaring my statements to be factually inaccurate, it would not be productive for us to meet to discuss factual matters. However, I am open to meeting to discuss the following two agenda items: (1) the details of a written publicly published apology acknowledging his wrongdoing from Dr. Ezell for his behaviors against me and the MD/DE Convention in keeping with Biblical repentance and (2) compensation for the damages I am incurring in keeping with the Biblical instruction for restitution. Even though I do not plan to seek compensation for damages from a secular judge through a lawsuit, Dr. Ezell’s damages to me and my ability

to provide for family are real. The Scriptures would exhort us to find believers to mediate these matters if we do not work out Biblical repentance, reconciliation, and restitution regarding these matters.

Should NAMB trustees desire to meet in Orlando, with an agreed to party with equal number of representatives, and have our meeting audio recorded, and limit discussions to an agreeable agenda, I would be open to making those arrangements with you. I believe that in light of the seriousness of these matters and Dr. Ezell's action regarding the March 11, 2015 meeting, these stipulations would be in good order for everyone involved.

I continue to pray for all those involved and for Biblical repentance, reconciliation, restoration and restitution for the glory of God and the advancement of His mission through Southern Baptists.

Sincerely,

Will McRaney, PhD.