

Gordon Collins

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Dear Martyn

I am writing this letter to you to express both my personal unhappiness regarding the methods and teachings of the leadership in the S.W. Glasgow Vineyard, and also to inform you that a significant number of people here have expressed to me (and on occasion to the leadership) their deep unhappiness. The leadership I'm referring to is that of Jamie Waters and Alan Scott. As a group many of us feel that we are ready to leave the Glasgow Vineyard as we have lost trust in the leadership and in its integrity. I stress that we did not want to leave the Vineyard as a movement but we feel that there may be no alternative to the present situation. Therefore I'm asking you to send someone to Glasgow (yourself or a representative) to talk to the people here and see/hear for yourself what the problems are. Many of us feel beaten down and tired of questioning the teachings and methods of this leadership. Some of the group I have mentioned have already left the vineyard in the last couple of weeks either officially (such as Jim and Louisa Montieth and their two children) or unofficially (such as Isobel and Gus Johnstone). My wife Sharon has also decided not to go back to the Vineyard until matters are resolved and she has also decided not to take my three children either. I want you to know Martyn that the issues I have concerning the leadership are not stemming from personal bitterness and are not an attack on the people themselves. The leadership involved have helped me in the past and have often been there for me. However, this does not justify the present situation.

Some of the issues which have been brought to the leadership are not recent issues (although some are) yet I feel that all of them are continuous in the present situation. The reason I mention this is that I do not want the Vineyard to be under the false assumption that these 'issues' are a result of insecurity and broken trust due to the situation with our former pastor John Scott. We have thought long and hard about the problems which we feel need addressed and we are not seeking perfection from the newly appointed leadership. We understand that leadership is difficult and needs all the grace and support it can get. We are aware of our own broken trust concerning the situation with John Scott, but we feel that there are independant problems here which are not being resolved.

Some of these issues which I have referred to include:

- a) Subtle forms of control and manipulation through fear and guilt.
- b) Teaching which serves to control rather than set people free to love God.
 - i) legalistic
 - ii) burdensome
- c) no freedom of expression
- d) dishonesty and duplicity 'Decisions and methods of leadership are not clearly explained
- e) harshness of disciplinary procedures 'Threatening excommunication to a repentant brother who fell into sin (namely [REDACTED])

f) lack of relationship based leadership

These are 'some' of the issues here in Glasgow which we feel we want to talk about to someone from the vineyard movement. I feel the urgency to send this letter as some of the things are not 'one-offs' but are systematic and continuous. We would like to speak face to face with yourself, in the hope that these problems would be dealt with. I have been advised by Jamie Waters and Alan Scott to take these issues to yourself directly.

Please come up and make moves to restore the trust of the people here, both in leadership and in the Vineyard movement. A copy of this letter has been sent to John Mumford.

Yours sincerely