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From: [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Sep 18, 2025 at 2:08 PM

Subject: Harvest statement

To: [REDACTED]

HARVEST RESPONDS TO LAWSUIT

(Note on attribution: you may attribute to an unspecified spokesperson for Harvest Christian Fellowship).

Today an aggressive celebrity attorney representing two adult citizens of an eastern European country filed sensational lawsuits alleging her clients were victims of crimes that they say were perpetrated by a former staff person after he became a full-time foreign missionary in Romania over 20 years ago.

The allegations in the lawsuit shock one's conscience, as they shocked ours. The allegations are serious and disturbing, but the target here should be the alleged perpetrator, not our church. This misplaced lawsuit wrongly targets Harvest and our pastor as a form of financial extortion. It does not seek the truth nor does it seek to stop the purported wrongdoer.

Instead, Harvest has become the near total focus of this attorney, with ongoing demands for exorbitant sums of money, money we simply don't have to contribute. We have attempted in good faith to engage with the lawyer, but the lawsuit represents only the latest demand and, in this case, many tens-of-millions of dollars.

Harvest and its congregation did financially contribute to the Romanian organization for a period of time, as we have also supported hundreds of missionaries throughout the years in various ways. Yet, on countless occasions, the lawsuit's authors mislabel the very name of the foreign organization to give the misimpression that it was one and the same as Harvest. It was not.

It is difficult for us to know what may or may not be true about these unconscionable allegations of abuse in Romania, but we do know most of what is in the lawsuits about our church is absolutely and entirely false; some of it is plainly slanderous.

Yet, since Harvest believes there is no greater evil than child abuse, Harvest has engaged in good faith with the representatives of the alleged victims. In response, swiftly after we learned of these allegations, we also took the initiative to report to law enforcement in pursuit of the truth. Harvest is intent on cooperating with such an investigation. But this

celebrity lawyer has refused to cooperate with the authorities. In fact, even in her press release, she does not direct possible informants to the authorities, but rather to herself.

It is telling that, even though they are making criminal allegations against the perpetrator, the alleged victims have refused to even grant voluntary interviews with law enforcement in the United States.

We are saddened that someone would exploit something so evil to intentionally deceive others, but we take comfort in God's Words. We rest in scripture which teaches us that our Lord loves truth and demands justice. As 1 Peter 2:23 says we "entrust ourselves" to our Lord "who judges justly" and we remember that it was Jesus himself who warned us that people will "falsely say all kinds of evil against us" (Matthew 5:11).

We thank God for courts of law, where we expect to vigorously defend against these claims.

All of this does not diminish our profound concern for those who may have actually been harmed by this individual, and we encourage you if you have ever been a victim of any crime by anyone, to contact your local law enforcement.