

## **Phone call with K.P. Yohannan and J.D. Smith**

**July 11, 2014**

[Note: last names are redacted]

K: JD

J: Brother KP

K: Yeah, hey. I'm so glad you called back.

J: Yes, sorry it took a little while to get back to you uh there.

K: Yeah. JD is there any way we can...I think Jerry{Pastor Jerry from The Ridge} talked to you, didn't he?

J: Uh, he did, yeah, yeah. He mentioned that you suggested a meeting or something.

K: Yeah.

J: Um, yeah. I had wanted to....I guess I emailed you and David back on Sunday, uh and I wondered if you guys were open to meeting with some of us from the group.

K: Yeah, you see, you know, JD, may I recommend...tomorrow or Sunday, if Jerry, you know, he's not part of our movement, if you and Jerry and David and myself, um, first of all can meet, um, before we go to the next step?

J: MMM, I guess, my thought, my concern with that is, you know um, I don't know...you know many of us have had individual conversations with you and David in the past. You know and myself...

K: You know JD....

J: I don't know how much with Jerry there how much additional....

K: No no. JD, remember my conversations with you ever was when you wrote me email that you wanted to meet me, talk about the teaching I have about authority.

J: Right, right.

K: You know, I called you and said, "JD forgive me for the way I came across after the prayer meeting when I talked to you about staying and if you're not happy here, please, you know, leave and find a place where God lead you." Remember that?

J: I don't remember you calling me back about the discussion...I think...you called me... and we never...

K: What I'm trying to say is that I personally never had a problem with you, nor you had a problem with me. And...I...I was totally surprised when I found out that...you know, you are heading, you know, leading this group...with and I...none of these brothers and sisters that talk about, if you ask any of them. I never personally met with them nor had a problem with any of them. And as for us I know we maintained a file with each individual who left us, um, their exit interview which they had with either John or David and you know...I must tell you I am willing to do anything in the world to seek forgiveness or repent, um, for the sake of reconciliation. If I know what to do. And that's the reason when you wrote this material with all these people...signed...and I told the leaders, you know, our goal is not who can ??? us, but if any truth in anything they say and make our lives right. And I just want you to know, I love you and your wife. As a matter of fact, you wouldn't believe this, it's a shock to you maybe. We are now dealing with some 100,000 children on the streets of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi who are on the streets and we've been working with the government to establish an adoption license that people in America, Europe, anywhere who can pick up these children and care for them and believer's church ??? money or being an agent or anything like that. You won't believe this. You and Tom working in our web department actually became my inspiration, because I really believed you guys are doing it not for selfish reasons. Which you never knew, maybe.

J: muffled

K: And I told this to my leaders several months ago. Um, so I just wanted you to know. I, I whatever I need to do to make our relationship strong, um, and and and make things right. I'm not the same. I make mistakes and I do wrong, but if I know, ummm, JD, that's the reason I've been trying to call you a couple of times. And tell you that I don't want to make it like...I must tell you Matthew 18 says, as you know the Scriptures, none of these brothers and sisters on the thing, the best I know, never approached me nor the leaders saying that.....I mean the files I have reviewed right now, everyone one with an exit interview specifically asking them what have we...is there anything we did wrong? Can we make things right? And um, um, my heart was convicted and I spoke to you harsh words and that's the reason I approached you. When you wrote about my teaching on authority, JD, I didn't want to respond to you. I prayed and I said to myself, "You know, I don't want to fight with JD to defend myself. And he's not under my authority anyway." And so I didn't have to talk to you about it. That's the reason I was silent, not because I didn't like you. And all memories of you, JD, you and Chrissy, only love and, and sacrifice and serving the Lord the best you know. You cannot find one individual anywhere that I said anything unkind about you

ever. As I told you, my thinking about opening up an adoption agency from street children in India had everything to do with Tom and you. And this is a shock to you maybe, but you can ask my leaders how many times I talk about it. And you know, I've just been absolutely honest with you. And if you can tell me something I have done wrong or sin I will repent and make things right, I can promise you that. And I think you hold the answer to this crisis of all these brothers and sisters. We have done wrong. I'm not saying...even though they didn't say these are dumb things you said or did. I'm sure they're hurt and I think their pain is real. And, but, I want you to help me and help us to find reconciliation with all these brothers. We don't want to fight and prove we are right and you're wrong any of those things. Because you love the Lord. You're wife loves the Lord. And what you are living is because you care about people. And I I have nothing to fight about. And that's the reason I've been calling you. If, if you, you know, Jerry I found out, has been a dear brother from the day I met him. And if you want to meet without Jerry and David, because I think that David and John dealt with all these people. Personally, I never dealt with any of them as they were leaving. And....

J: OK

K: I, JD, I plead with you. You love the Lord and you can be the agent of reconciliation with a lot of these brothers and sisters. And I think their pain is not illusion, it could be real. I don't know. Uh, if I know I would do anything in the world to ??????? And you know I did that with you.

J: I, I mean. Um. I can you know I can assure you that for the majority of the folks, the pain is definitely real. Um...

K: Yeah, that you see. JD, the problem is you know David C., you know John B., brothers, just like your life. They are not evil people. Sometimes we don't know, JD. That's the reason I think...you know...wherever you'll be, you will be used by the Lord to bring peace and understanding. For us to learn our lessons also in this. But going... you know, um, when I met Joe F. in California two days ago and I talked to him and he said, "Brother KP, um, you know, JD is telling me these things." And I talked to him, not very very long. You see, I can tell you, my attire, um, as a bishop ordaining people. Obviously, Martin sent you the picture. JD, none of this is a secret. We are public, Believer's Church and our episcopacy or what we teach. Over 100 brothers America go, now I know, every year overseas ???(garbled) or some kind of thing. And we have a legitimate reason to do that. Yes we are radically evangelical, spirit-filled and we don't compromise anything. We never have two different standards. But again, that don't mean perception is not reality for a lot of people. That's why I need your help. And I'll talk to you and I think you're a brilliant individual. If you, finally after we talk, if you

believe me then you can help. Otherwise it will go on and the work of the Lord is damaged everywhere. I'll just tell you this morning I woke up with Simon John – you've met – called me from Andhra Pradesh saying you know a state where so much persecution and we have 40 churches established and he was talking about a brother fasting 40 days, you know, to reach a village and how a man who was almost blind was healed and 40 people just got baptized in one month. JD, that is repeated a thousand times. And I, I want you to be part of this. And you are. And, um, as Paul said let's not let the enemy take advantage of our, you know, our lack of understand or our failures. I'm not a difficult man. And I, I love you and regard you. I thought so many times should I ever tell JD that he be giving the inspiration for us to work on adoptions from children from the streets to United States and Europe? And I said if I tell him, he might think that I'm making it up. I said no. I just want to tell you that you are not a stranger to me.

J: Yes, yes, I'm glad to hear that about the adoptions. I remember when we were .....

K: Yeah, JD, we now have about 70 children in Delhi in our homes. ??Garble walking around the streets without anyone. And there are 25,000 other children in Delhi alone. They are abandoned and on the streets. I invite you to go with me for a couple of weeks. Maybe you can become the person who can actually create a new world for thousands of children in the future. I, you know. I not saying any of these things to manipulate you or, but you know, I'm sure these things may be real in your mind, but let us meet somewhere, wherever you want and ask all the questions. What..I'll provide the evidence and prove anything you want about anything we do. There's no secret about what I'm..about what we do. You sacrificed how much JD to leave Philadelphia to come and work for the Lord with us? I want a legacy. You gave your life and GFA and what we do around the world, JD, is part of your life and your wife's. And I'm willing to go to the end of the world to make things right. And there are things maybe that you know that I do not know. And I say this to you because I know you belong to the Lord and I belong to the Lord. You know, a hundred years from now, what does it matter, JD? We are not here.

J: Right.

K: And I think that you are intelligent and you're sharp and the Lord...my prayer last... you know I was fasting the other day just for you saying, "Lord, use him as a means to bring hope for us and for brothers who are hurting." And um, think about it. And I'm here and Jerry's here until Monday, if you want him to sit there, so it is not just you facing me or David C. or whatever. Um, I just want to be absolutely honest with you about my heart.

J: Well, I appreciate your sentiment, brother KP, um, I know you said you'd do whatever you need to make things right. Um, you know, and um, especially regarding differences and Matthew 18 and so on. I do think that the details from around the time that I left were maybe a little different than you remembered it. As far as, I did have some serious concerns and questions that I mentioned to you and at the time...and I know you apologized afterwards in person to me for speaking harshly and I appreciate that. But even so at the time there wasn't a mention of wanting to maybe wonder what those concerns and questions were, you know, because originally you had said that you didn't, you weren't interested in discussing the questions that I had or the concerns. But that I was free to leave if I want. And um so that's kind of where....and I wasn't offered an exit interview or anything. And that was kind of you saying you weren't interested in hearing my questions, so there was really no other choice but for me to leave. My hand was forced basically. So I don't recall having such an exit interview or an opportunity to voice concerns. And that's one of the reasons why I was never able to discuss these things with you. That and then the email thread we had later when you said you'd call, but never ended up calling. I guess you didn't feel led to. We never ended up, I guess that's why you never heard that I felt this way, because they had been collecting in my mind for a while and I wanted to address them with you personally. In a sense of, hey these are some things I feel personally stand in the way of GFA being all that God wants it to be and so on and so forth. That was my heart in the whole thing and that's still my heart in the whole thing. So, I just wanted to let you know that. But I think as far as that goes, numbers, large numbers of the people, I know Tracey Tyson is one, brother especially who said he sat in your office many times discussing these things. And a number of others, as well have told me, quite a few others have said....

K: Well, see...

J: ...that they brought these things to David, John and yourself.

K: JD, JD, biblically, you know, this I will tell you, here you go wrong in the way of God. That is Tracey or any of those brothers, if they had difficulties they talked..... what I ask you...you as the Proverbs says, when you hear one side of the story, you believe it and you can run with it. But I ask you, as a brother in the Lord, why don't you ask David or any of these brothers who've dealt with Tracey, what did they say? And what actually is real? At least hear the other side before you represent them. ???? And say what they said??? What they are saying is maybe true as far as they're concerned but there is the other side of the story also. And that's what you need to hear before you take the next step or do whatever you want to do.

J: Sure, and well I did actually get to see some of the correspondence, some of the written correspondence that's been sent between various parties.

K: JD, my thinking right now, JD, you, the end result you want is love and reconciliation and hope and forgiveness and repentance whatever. IF that be the case, JD, I know you enough to say please at least be willing to sacrifice an hour or two or three to listen to the other side, then you make the decision on how to approach it. Because the correspondence you saw may be so, but you may want to ask a lot more questions based on that. ??And hear this part?? That's what I will request of you. I'm not asking you to you know for anything else than a meeting where at least, you know, we can talk about these things. And then you can say look I don't agree with you guys, I'm going on my way and do things or whatever else, but at least my request to you let us meet....the reason Jerry, he called me about it, I said, "Jerry, I don't want a fight and a conflict. What is it you want in the end?" If Jerry/JD(?) is representing these brother and sisters at least Jerry needs to have understanding; the full story. Then he can evaluate and be an agent of reconciliation. Because, obviously, a lot of people trust you and I trust you too and that's the reason for this meeting. Not to convince you about anything other than at least for us to have a time of discussion and hear the story. I want to hear from you. You will lose nothing. We can meet in a restaurant or Jerry's office or wherever. Jerry's leaving on Monday, I think. He has a wedding to conduct or whatever, so. As a brother, I beg of you to please give? a time tomorrow or Sunday evening or whatever as the first thing for us to do. And then, you know, together we can figure out what to do next. If you need to call all these brothers and sisters together. Do you know something, JD, you can ask this...you will never find anyone in the world says KP lied to me. I never do that. Two months ago I called our leaders in our meeting and said, "We need to invite everyone who ever been on our staff or school of discipleship to come to the opening of the campus." And I said, "all of them love the Lord. Maybe we failed some of them. Some of them failed us, maybe." But, you know, this is an absolute truth I'm telling you. And JD, some of these brothers and sisters being hurt is real. I'm not telling you they're lying to you. But you can hear the other side of the story and say to them, "you know what? What you believed is true, but there is another side. Let us forgive. And they are willing to make things right. And, and whatever." And that's what I want from you.

J: Yeah, I understand. I understand that and I appreciate your heart in that as well. I do think that because so many people have approached you guys over the years on these same issues that..you know..another..that's why I didn't....I feel like it's really it's come to the point now where all of us have come together and approached you guys together so I feel like the right thing to do is to meet with us together or at least a representative portion of us...

K: Yeah, JD, why don't we with all the information you have one meeting even an hour before we have the second meeting. That's what I'm asking you to please help. You lose nothing by doing that. And I assure you of that. You know that we are here locally and you are and I told you enough of my heart. Let's not be strangers, we are brothers. And after that if you feel I am more than happy to do it.

J: I understand what you're saying.

K: Please think about it and call me on this number anytime, JD.

J: Sure, sure. I'll definitely give it consideration. The group, we really stand together as one unit. It's not like it's just me.

K: JD, what do you want to tell them? JD, say, "look, we'll get together again and meet with them. Let me first talk to them face to face." And JD, you can do that, you're strong enough for that. I know how able you are. And I request you for that. And then, you know, next week we can meet with more people if you want to. I'm not against it, but I so bad want to have this meeting with you. And for me to hear what you have to say for David. And for you to hear what we have to say. We are not trying to abuse you or force you into anything, but at least I know how reasonable you are. JD, you don't have to be afraid of me or David to meet with him. We've lived together long enough. And I will not do anything to manipulate or control you or scare you. Nothing. No. I, you are not that person.

J: Right, sure. I understand that. I'm not concerned there. I do appreciate your willingness to meet with the group of us at least, at least afterwards.

K: Absolutely. JD, you have my promise. Because all of them, I love them. I know them. None of them are strangers. And I told you, some of them are hurt and feeling, I'm sure. They didn't create it out of thin air, but we need to be aware about it also. Not live for their sake, but for the future also.

J: Sure, I feel that way. I'm very mad..... (KP over talks JD's voice.)

K: You feel mistreated. Students I'm reading, I hear of them. JD, we are having hundreds of them coming in the future and we'll learn from that. And I assure you that your heart intention and mine is the same. But I just want this meeting with you and I think Jerry being there is very, very good because he's a total outsider, he's not biased to me because I talked to him at length and I realize he just wants to be a help and he didn't want to be a mediator or judge. He said, "KP, maybe it's good that I just listen and be an encouragement to JD and anybody I can be." So I said perfectly fine. That's the reason. He told me to call you. This is the second call I've made to you, as you know.

J: Yes, yeah, I know that.

K: So, please give me a call by this evening, JD, when we can meet. Tomorrow is a perfect day anytime. Sunday morning I'm speaking at a church but afternoon. And I think Jerry is leaving at night. But how do you want to decide on that?

J: Well, I'll reconnect with the group and then talk to Jerry and I'll call you back if it works out.

K: Sure, please do.

J: You know, I want to move this forward and if that's the only way you're willing to do it at first, we'll put that out there and see what we can do. We want to see something happen.

K: Yeah, JD, remember also, JD, the Scripture says our battle is not against flesh and blood. You are not my enemy; I am not your enemy. It's the enemy behind the scene that we all have to deal with. And I think you are Godly enough to know that.

J: Sure, I agree.

K: And I appreciate your willingness to listen. I thank you for your heart.

J: Well, I encourage you to really look at the testimonies from folks that were not just in the letter, but things you know about or hear from folks as being as you said from their heart as a story, but there are a lot of folks who have said that they've been lied to by you or others....

K: Yeah, no I want to know.

J: ...they are saying that....

K: JD, I am absolutely willing to hear that from you and I tell you there may be another side of the story, you know.

J: That's why we want to meet.

K: JD, if we can meet, JD, first and then we'll take the next step.

J: Sure, sure.

K: Thank you JD. Tell Chrissy...

J: Ok. I will call you back...

End of call. 25:19