

Phone Conversation with JD Smith, Larry J. and KP Yohannan September 18,
2014

Noteworthy parts in bold.

K: Hello, JD.

J: Hey, brother KP.

L: Hey KP, KP, my brother.

J: I'm on the line with Larry.

K: Larry, my good brother. I tried to call you yesterday.

L: Yeah, I was just waiting for today to call you back, KP.

K: OK, thank you Larry.

L: It is good...

K: How is Gayle doing?

L: She's doing fine. It's good to hear your voice.

K: Good to hear your voice. Yeah...You know when you get older a lot of things we think important become unimportant.

L: Yeah.

K: And I was thinking about a few friends I have from the beginning of the beginning and you know...speaking of, I made about half a dozen phone calls, Larry, to people that I knew for the last 30 years, just simply telling them I love them and I appreciate them and value them. It's weird when you get older, you lose a lot of things we think are important. So, yeah, I appreciate you, Larry.

L: Absolutely, absolutely.

K: Yeah, JD, thank you for responding.

J: Oh sure. Thank you for talking to the board, and you know. It's good to hear...

K: Yeah, I've been calling the board and I just want you to know, JD, for this many people to sign a letter... my, you know, when I'm crying out to God last few days...my feeling is I can't simply say they're all wrong or what happened didn't happen and I want, with your help and Larry's help to make things right and seek forgiveness and....

because I was telling you know one of the board members yesterday I know JD how he was one of the major contributors of the ministry. He went to India. He gave up everything to serve God, believing me and you know...whatever, the only memory I have, JD, is asking your forgiveness or saying things unkindly and I'm sure there's a lot more things maybe happened. And I want to listen to all these brothers and I, I, I need your help and Larry's help to come to the place of wholesomeness and that we don't do wrong things to our staff in the future either if you know there are things I have to learn and I am more than willing to be a servant and I and that's all I can tell you. And um, so whatever you know we, I can do Larry and JD all I can tell you humbly I need your help and I am you know just another opportunity to humble myself and because two billion people that need to hear the Gospel and as the suffering and persecution increases, I don't want to be a hindrance in reaching the lost world. And so that's my story, in brief, and I think, I want to listen to you and Larry and others. **As many days and hours as it takes to know that we aren't going to white-wash over some problems and be diplomatic and patch up things but be real.** That's honest my contrition for you.

J: Thank you KP that's good to hear.

L: That's very good, that's very good.

J: Yeah, because I think you know the issues that were raised are real we definitely would like the opportunity to discuss them.

K: Sure, yeah.

J: and I know it's more than just treating people harshly or this or that. I think those specific issues are really at the core of the issues that we've had. We'd like to discuss those ,but and I'd like to give you the benefit of the doubt that you can go through busily going after the goal you've set out to do and maybe get off track without realizing it. And I feel like well that's why the body of Christ is commanded to call each other out on these things when that happens.

K: Mmhm.

J: You know, that, so our heart in this is to help you and the ministry do better and bring correction where it's needed and help other people and help the Lord's work to be done in the Lord's way.

L: ...the Lord's way and to basically make sure this sort of thing doesn't happen to anybody else.

K: Yeah, Larry, I think that's maybe the more significant thing that I am convicted about. I can give you all the reasons in the world about people and this and that but,

Larry, my heart is that there are things about us that we do not know that we did wrong, and I think listening to people will help us not to repeat those mistakes. And more than that, JD, if you can believe me, Larry knows me better than most anybody that I deal with, my strength, my weakness. And he to me is like ???, closer to me than blood brothers. And what I'm worried about, myself, I'm 64 years old. I'm a few more years left and I don't want to leave a legacy of creating a culture that people don't have the freedom and the grace and grow in Christ. And I think this is an opportunity the Lord allowed. That's my convictions and told my board members....my longing, JD, is that you and Larry and all these brothers will feel that you are extension of our family and you will go back to the field and see what God is doing and your children have the future to come and when the book is written they will say my great grandfather was the first to create communications for this mission and all these churches and all these things is part of my blood. And this is my dream. And if everything I, I hurt and long for is reconciliation that in time, any of these brothers and sisters come back and visit and to go anywhere they want to go and they will remain—not that they worked here at GFA, but it's their life and I can assure you the Lord created circumstance and used you brothers to bring us to a place of thinking that we are not some lofty, holy people seeking ???, but we have a long way to go and I'm one of the struggling sinners. And I value you and the last email I just saw when I was in Florida and JD you wrote and gave me a better understanding of your heart, that you are not looking for revenge or evil, you just want to help...I think if you had more....

L. KP, brother, there's.... I just want to say one thing clearly, there's no question that the desire in my heart and JD's heart is we want Gospel for Asia to go forward as an effective, Christ-like ministry that does God's work in His way and leads people to Christ. That's, that's, we're not here to say oh let's tear down the thing, but I think it needs some purging of some bad stuff out of it so that it can be what God wants it to be, because I think some things have crept in over time. You know, KP, over 30 years ago whatever the exact date was, the vision was how can we take the Gospel to people that've never heard. OK? That's the end of the story, how can we get the Gospel to people? And in implementing it and it changes and the growth and then we ended up in a situation where we had this huge ministry that somehow, while saying that's what we're still trying to do, kind of got diverted, got diffused out and other things came in and practices came in and things. It's got this huge super-structure and within that some bad stuff seeps in and it's almost like we've lost sight of that simple goal we were trying to accomplish. I know you're saying no, that yes that's what we're still trying to accomplish, but I'm just saying that it's huge...you know, we started out in a row boat and now we've got an aircraft carrier and it's a huge thing and there's a lot of stuff going on inside of that aircraft carrier. KP, it's not just you and me in a row boat going down the back waters of Kerala. And, I'm sorry, but there's things that are going to

have to change because otherwise you're going to lose the trust of the church at large. And once that trust is lost, that's bad. It's hard hard to get back. And that's why and... JD's got some things to say and I apologize for jumping in here, but I just want to say that's why we have so diligently tried to limit all the communications and it's sealed and we don't want this out to the press and all these CNN or whatever it may be, because we don't want the world at large to lose faith in the church and in Gospel for Asia and all that. But what I am saying is that if these thing don't get rectified, then at some point people will start losing faith and they'll say those people aren't who they said they were. We all have our lives invested in this and we all have history here that we want to be proud of, but in order to do that, change is going to have to come. So that's sort of my contribution and I'll be quiet.

K: Yeah, Larry I hear you very well and I think I need to listen very carefully and understand what you're saying and also I think responding to you, it's not money you made or I made or salary but genuinely your life and more than anyone else I can think of you know this...became incredible power? creating this movement and I think one of the crisis also Larry is, once I can hear you and others in detail about all this and then maybe some information that maybe you have no way to know how some things are happening behind the scenes, what's happening, we'll give you also some space to think, OK now I understand what's been happening, but you know, I hear you very clearly and loud and I want to thank you again for being part of this journey to get things right what we need to do right and change things where we need to change. I just came back three or four days ago now and my priority number one day and night is to have this dialogue with you and JD and our brothers and sisters and I'm grateful, I'm deeply grateful for what the Lord is doing and you, especially Larry, being part of this journey to get things right.

L: Hey, JD, you need to jump in.

J: Yeah, cool, thanks KP. I think going off of what Larry was saying, I had a couple of thoughts. One being with respect to change being needed and things like that. And trying to salvage trust and reputation. There's different ways to look at the outcomes, my heart is to not see things go bad or like Larry was saying to try to shut the whole thing down. I would rather see things be turned around and salvaged as much as possible, so that the work can continue and be refined and pruned as it needs to be. I think that if it comes to, if we come to a place where we meet and you realize that something you've been doing something wrong or that there's something was an oversight or maybe an area where you were doing it wrong and you can kind of come to the realization that oh you know what I shouldn't have been doing it like that it wasn't right or I've been hurting people, whatever it might be. If your response is one of humility and submitting yourself to the board or the church, making an appropriate

statement or whatever it would be and genuinely bearing those fruits of repentance then people are going to accept that. And I think things can turn around and don't have to go the direction of broken trust and just a downward spiral. I genuinely think that is an available path, a viable path before you in areas where you were wrong.

L: But there are some really hurt people out there. I mean there's some people with real, real pain.

J: There's no question.

L: KP, you just have to understand that...really hurt, really, really hurt. And so that can't just be like, Oh, I'm sorry, you know. It's going to take a lot to get their trust back.

J: Yeah, that's true.

K: Yeah.

J: But I think I wanted to say that because I want you to know my heart is for reconciliation and restoration, as much as possible. But we first have to get to a place where we can even agree on the issues and things. And that's why a meeting with a representative sample of some of us and the board in an accountable setting would be helpful.

K: JD, I'm making calls and talked to Gayle. I'm trying to see the best date as early as possible for the board members to come to Dallas where we can meet because I think you desire for them to be here. I understand.

J: And we're OK with meeting by phone too, if some can't make it or if it's just too much of a delay.

K: Yeah, you know, a couple of people I talked to like Skip and Gayle, it's impossible for them to do anything before the first of next month, but they're all willing to have the conference call and they have the materials and we can go through this. And I know also JD, we are...you and I know each other and Larry and anytime, anywhere I can meet with you, not saying we are doing it tomorrow, but after that meeting....

J: Are you still there KP?

K: Yeah.

J: Oh sorry, you dropped out...

K: So what I'm saying is that we can meet whenever. So I'm...if...Larry, a telephone conference would be the fastest way to do that instead of getting them physically all

together I found out the earliest would be the first of next month. They are all travelling or gone somewhere. But if a conference call would be good then, I can work on setting that up, what do you think, Larry?

L: Yeah.

K: Yeah, Larry, so what you said, I affirm. This is what really convicted my heart, there are brothers and sisters out there who've been really, really hurt. And whether I understand it or not, but I want to not only hear that, but also do what it takes to make it right. And as you said, not just simply say Oh, I'm sorry it happened. No, I want to feel their pain as they ??? ... Larry, can you hold one second for me?

J: Yeah.

L: Yeah.

K: So....I know you believe me that is I don't want to make this a superficial thing and say I didn't know this and this and that, but I want to bring healing and I just want to show you all that.

L: I hear that. I'm excited to hear it, I really am.

K: And you know in the end, a few more years left, Larry, all of us, we'll say goodbye to everything here, but I just want to make sure that in this side of life I also walk and please the Lord. And you are...(noise/bump).. very significantly and I in this....and I talked to our leaders here by the way, JD, like David and others and I said to them, You know we need to look at this from these brothers' and sisters' and people who are writing this thing and believe they are right. They are telling something real. We cannot simply write off these things and we have to face it. So, I just want you to know, it is in some ways the most painful time in my life, but also the best time in dealing with it.

J: I'm glad to hear that. I see that, I think everything flows from your leadership, KP.

L: Absolutely.

J: And all the other leaders, they're going to follow suit at how you do it. So if you say that this stuff is an attack from the enemy, it's unfounded and it's a bunch of bitter, disgruntled people trying to take us down or just trying to make a mess or whatever, they're going to respond in a similar way. Whereas.....

K: You know, JD, I thought like that in the earlier time, but I said to myself I don't know what more I can give and my conscience is clear and I'm walking with God, but you know my heart was very angry and very upset. And I've honestly been asking God to help me and that's when my heart began to think what if I'm in their place? What happened? Whether I understand it or not, and that's when I realized that you cannot have 30 or 45, 50 people say the same thing and they all are wrong. And there's something wrong with us.

I just want you to know that the Lord is using it and using you, my brothers, to help us, that we would not come to the place of arrogance and pride and say we are right, no, I think this is going to help us immensely to be different. And to be focused for the purpose that the Lord called us. So, I keep affirming what you are saying and I want you to know. I don't say this is the devil fighting and demons are attacking us, no. I think this is a time for us to learn what the Lord is saying. And as Larry wrote me a brief message, the only way is to humble ourselves and try to take correction from the Lord. And you are part of the body and we are part of you and we are in it together. So, I just want to thank you again. JD and Larry, what I'll do today and tomorrow work on trying to get a date and I can get everybody together on the phone and work on it. What do you think?

J: Yeah, I think if you can get something, I think we also from our side need at least some adequate amount of time. Maybe, at least a week's notice or something for people to plan, as far as an actual time to get on the phone and talk.

K: Yeah.

J: So, let's schedule it at least a week out and I'll get back to you and make sure it's agreeable for most people, it should be. Most time slots should be fine and that way we can arrange everybody by phone. And if you want to do something where it's in person but we have some people join on a speakerphone that might work too.

K: Larry, if you can help me. I'd like to be in touch with you. I can get ahold of you easier, I guess. Because I don't have a number where I can reach JD easily. But however JD and Larry you think the best format, I'm willing to do that. So, I guess we can work out the details. I don't know which day would be good, like a Saturday or Sunday?

L: OK, let me look, I'm not the most important person in this thing, but I'm going to be out from the 6th through the 13th of December. I'll be here the first week in December, you know the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th I'll be here and I'll be out the 6th through the 13th then back through the end of the month.

J: Aren't we talking about sooner than that, Larry?

K: Can we do the first week of...

L: Oh, you know what? My mind just did a, KP, my brain is aging quickly here.

J: Did you mean October?

L: You're talking October.

K: You are young.

L: Yeah, but I keep living in the future. OK, the first week in October, is that what you're talking about?

K: Yeah, first week in October.

L: Are you thinking Saturday might be the best?

K: Yeah, no, if we can make it like Wednesday the 1st of October would be very good because weekend I'm travelling different places. So if we can, JD, can we work on Wednesday evening between 5-9 or 6-10 or whatever hours you can? It would be easier for people in the evenings, I would imagine.

J: That's probably true, yeah.

L: What about Thursday?

J: Thursday the 2nd?

K: Yeah, Thursday is good, yeah 2nd, yeah.

L: Thursday's good? Yeah, I've got a...don't schedule around me but we have a dinner that has been moved literally 3 times before and I don't want to call these people back and say I want to move it again.

K: So Thursday would be better?

L: Yeah, Thursday would be better for me.

J: Do you want to do 6-10 so people can have their dinner and all of that?

K: Yeah, I think so, that's what I was thinking. Evening will be easier.

J: We can try for that. Let's make that a tentative. Thursday October 2nd and I'll let everybody know.

K: And the logistics will be, JD, we can have, like I do these conference calls with 300-400 people sometime from different parts of the world. If you want, if you choose to, I can have the thing set up and give you Teresa or somebody from here can give you the code that everybody can call in so we'll be able to...I think AT&T or someone do that, something called conference.

J: Yeah, that would be helpful.

K: Yeah, so we could do that. That way we have an account with them and it would be easier for everyone to call in and be on the same page.

L: OK.

J: That sounds good, yeah.

K: And so what I'll do, I'll send you, I will set up the time, JD & Larry, I will send you the code number and everything people can just dial in at the time.

J: OK, I'm going to try to keep...I will open it up to a number of us from the group.

K: Sure.

J: I'm also going to try to make it so we have, um, I'll bring in, I have someone who is able to mediate an agenda out and...

K: Yeah.

J: That I think will help, especially with the larger number of people to make sure we cover our topics on time. Any maybe we'll try to pre-arrange for just a few of the group to know they might be the primary spokespeople and so things don't get out of control with too many people talking or rabbit trails.

K: You think how many people, JD, will be because I know it can be very confusing because you know on the telephone call, conference call, like in person.

J: Yeah, you don't know who is talking.

K: ?????neotan??? and all that...How many people you think will be online, you think?

J: I really thing, I want to keep it, I want to keep the total less than 10 for sure, maybe more like 5. I don't want it to get too big.

K: Yeah, please, if you can get it smaller and then, Larry and JD, if you think it would be helpful, I'm not telling you to do this, but maybe to be helpful you could put together the number of items....and that will be, we can go this is the item #1 or 2 or 3...we can go through these.

J: Yeah.

K: Otherwise, so many things will get mixed up and not be able to go through the thing and so I'd appreciate it if we can...

J: I thought we could have the moderator read off each issue and spend or maybe set a timer on it or something.

K: Yeah. Yeah.

J: That'll give 20 minutes or something to each or a half hour. That will give you an opportunity to explain and then us to respond and then come to a final understanding at least or a rough understand of the position.

K: Yeah. Great.

J: And then we can have an outcome discussion after that, once we've gone through the issues or something.

K: Great.

L: That all sounds good.

J: OK, let's go ahead and shoot for that.

K: Great, thank you. Thank you JD and thank you Larry so much.

J: You're welcome.

L: You're welcome KP. Let's go forward.

K: Larry, nothing official, but you know I'd like to just chat with you sometime in the evening. Not about this matter, but just you know I just want you to be my friend and I want to come together on this journey.

L: I appreciate it.

K: You know I'm withholding from crying about our relationship and I'm so sorry for missing...well, so many opportunities to keep my life and friendship with you.

L: Thank you, I appreciate that. I really do. That means a lot.

K: I called somebody else last night, I was sobbing, because, similar situation, no problem, but I just felt like why am I losing my friends? You know. I don't have very many anyway.

J: Actually, I read a quote from Winston Churchill that said if you have enemies that's good because it means you stood up for something in your life.

L: But friends are good, friends are good too.

J: Yeah. Actually, but along those lines, that reminds me of something I was going to ask you, brother KP, you've mentioned about how you changed your position from how you thought at first when you first were feeling like this was an attack and we were

disgruntled and raw and things like that. I think the staff definitely picked up on that. And we've probably...a lot of us in the group have lost a good number of friends on GFA staff since then. Where they don't talk to us anymore, they've unfriended us on Facebook and things. I've lost a maybe a few dozen myself.

K: Hmmmm.

J: And it would be helpful if, if your position has changed, like you said, if you could.....

K: Listen JD, tomorrow, tomorrow we have our entire staff meeting.

J: OK

K: Organized and I'm actually addressing the issue. And they will be heard from me, they're going to hear.

J: OK, that would be helpful. Just because, a lot of us, we felt convicted and compelled to do this, but we knew it would be at great cost to some of our friendships.

K: No, no, no. You know, JD, the word reconciliation it means, not you and I saying yeah, what happened, happened let's go our ways. No, I think it is that our lives are evermore united and sharing and meeting and dinner together and travelling and it's not, it's not I am against you. No, my question is what do I have for you? So that is where my heart had to change and my thinking and I will, you know tomorrow is the day, I just came back and have a staff meeting announced to basically talk about this. And I want you to know that it will all be thousands better than before. I can assure you of that.

J: Well, I really appreciate that. I appreciate that.

K: Because I'm going to say that to my staff that we have failed and I/we need to figure out our way through love, not through legalism and work and proving that we are right and somebody else is wrong. No. I want you to know that's already been arranged. This is something I am going through and I just want you to know, like I told my leaders yesterday, JD, I love you and believe it or not, you and a few people became the reason for us to start the journey about a license with the government to find a way to adopt these children. Tom and you, I mean, I didn't care about any of this stuff, by the way I just confessed to you, but you guys became reason, especially you, you have the outward brains??? to do what you're doing, but that got me thinking. Then we got a report that there's 200,000 kids living on the streets of Delhi, abandoned and runaway kids and we started those homes, but then I began to think, what if hundreds of families could pick up these kids? And we made an application to the government and figure out how we can get the permission. We're not making money on

this thing, we just need the license from the government so we can try to be networking for people who can pick up these thousands of kids who are dying on the streets. Your commitment and your leaving where you left and what you are, please believe me, if I never valued it, I value it immensely, more than you can know. Because maybe I'm learning. I appreciate your forgiveness and understanding and your mercy. And I really mean that.

J: We're all in need of His saving grace. So, we'll be happy to journey with you going forward.

K: Do you know what I dream about, JD? It is a weird thing. If you understand me rightly. I like people like you and Larry sometime go and help to work out a system of how we can get those kids out of the streets and people adopt them. We don't have to cost them arm and leg. All they have to do is basically what it costs to pick up these kids, I think. There are agencies that are charging huge amounts of money, I found out. I don't know why they are doing that. I mean, all they need is for you to fly to India and pick up all the paperwork. So that's something I honestly thought you can help in researching and trying to figure out how to do it, because I found out, Larry, you won't believe this. Some people are charging \$20,000 to get these kids from these countries to come to the United States.

J: A lot of that is legal costs.

K: I didn't know that.

J: It's a neat idea. But I love how your mind is constantly running on these things and how to help. So, I hope in the same way you'll be thinking on the issues we brought up and how to bring resolution because I think that's the most pressing thing with the people ???

K: Yeah. We will. Thank you JD, can we say a prayer before we go?

J: Sure.

K: Lord, I want to thank You for Your incredible grace and mercy. That you don't abandon us. Thank You for JD, even last night I was talking to You about him. And Larry and others, so many that You brought into our lives. Lord, I pray that You'll give us grace as we work together to solve a lot of these issues and journey together knowing that a brief life on earth will come to an end before you know it and all that matters is somehow that day we stand before You and hear from You that we did well. So thank You again for your mercy to us, Lord. Thank You for Larry and for Gayle. What an incredible journey it's been. Thank you for his love and our friendship. And JD and Chrissy and their children. And all the others You represent that need healing and

forgiveness and relationship restored. Help us, Lord. And I thank You that You will do that. In Jesus' name, Amen.

J: Goodnight brother.

K: Thank you JD and Larry. Thanks and I'll be in touch soon.

L: OK

J: OK and I'll let everybody know about that date.

L: We'll talk soon.

J: Bye bye.