

From the Desk of Pastor Tommy Hudson

Dear Rev. & Mrs. "FirstName" "LastName",

Greetings in Jesus Name.

By now you have probably received several letters addressing some issues that are presently circulating throughout the UPCI. As the Executive Presbyter for the Western Zone, I feel the necessity to address these issues and accusations.

First of all, I did receive the letter and tape from Bro. Price in June. I did not respond immediately because I did not want to be involved in a conversation against Bro. Haney, our General Superintendent, especially since I did not know the complete facts. After speaking with Bro. Haney a few days later, I felt that one of our elders who knew more about the situation needed to speak with Bro. Price. It is my understanding that Bro. Randy Keyes did so and that Bro. Kilgore responded to his letter. Now, after several meetings and discussions with Bro. Haney and Executive Board Members and other witnesses to the facts, I feel the letters sent out do not have complete information and some statements are incorrect. I will attempt to explain and give you the corrected information.

1) Bro. Kilgore has been highly criticized because he stood and spoke at our last General Conference - stating that he did not feel the 'Affirmation Statement' was accomplishing the desired results and since the cost is astronomical ... he feels it should be discontinued. Each of us have the privilege of standing in a ministerial meeting and expressing our views on any given subject. We do not expect to be misquoted, misunderstood or criticized because we hold a different view than someone else. Bro. Kilgore's statements mainly dealt with the astronomical cost of sending, resending, filing and completing the 'Affirmation Statement' letters. But, men took Bro. Kilgore's statements and began accusing him of not believing the message of 'Truth' and trying to compromise the doctrinal stands of the UPCI. This is totally untrue. There is no one who believes or preaches and practices the message of 'Truth' any more than Bro. Kilgore. He is one of the kindest men on earth and has led thousands to True Salvation.

2) Bro. Haney has been accused of trying to join our organization to Trinitarian movements and of patronizing Trinity ministers. This is not true. Bro. Haney and others spent time befriending and discussing Biblical Truths with Trinity ministers and as a result hundreds of Trinitarian ministers and some with entire congregations were baptized in Jesus Name and received the Holy Ghost. The statement that we should not try to win the Trinitarians is preposterous ... since most of us came to God out of a Trinitarian background.

There are those who condemn Bro. Haney because he is working with Bro. Teklemariam and the ministry in Ethiopia ... because Bro. Teklemariam believes the 'Divine Flesh' doctrine. We do not believe the 'Divine Flesh' doctrine; we believe that Jesus was born of natural flesh. But, rather than destroy a dedicated man that has seen hundreds of thousands

receive the Holy Ghost and be baptized in the Name of Jesus and also, because he has been instrumental, along with Bro. Billy Cole, in clearing the way for many of our ministers to preach to hundreds of thousands. We are trying to preserve the 'True Message' in Ethiopia and keep revival fires burning. We want Bro. Teklemariam to come to a true revelation of Jesus Christ.

A committee is in the process of investigating and researching the situation with Bro. Teklemariam and as stated in the enclosed letter of explanation from Bro. Bernard ... the final facts and findings have not as yet been reported to Bro. Haney or the Executive Board. This is to be done at the Toronto General Conference.

3) Bro. Teklemariam has been accused of stating that he believes that we will be lost if we do not

believe the doctrine of 'Divine Flesh.'

When Bro. Cole and Bro. Cunningham confronted Bro. Teklemariam concerning these accusations ... Bro. Teklemariam fell on his knees and in tears declared that such words had never passed his lips.

He did state to some men who were being very abusive to him that they could be lost because of their harsh abuse and treatment of him. But, not because they did not believe the "Divine Flesh Doctrine." Our missionaries - the Wendalls ... baptized him and he has never been re-baptized.

4) Bro. T. F. Tenney has repeatedly been accused of going on Television and pronouncing a blessing on the Trinitarians and their message. When I heard this ... I ordered the videotape to hear and see for myself the truth. I wanted to be able to report facts ... not hearsay.

First of all, almost every year at our General Conference ... the local Television Newscast interviews our officials and others during the course of the conference. This is not against UPCI bylaws.

Bro. Tenney was invited by the Television Network for an interview. Before he went ... he went to the Louisiana District Board and received approval. Furthermore, he did not pronounce a blessing on the Trinitarians nor their doctrine. He prayed that God would 'Bless them with a Revelation of Divine Truth.' There is a vast difference in praying a blessing on false doctrine and asking God to bless the Trinitarians with a 'Revelation of Divine Truth.'

Hopefully, this letter of explanation and Bro. Bernard's letter of information will help you understand Bro. Haney, the Executive Board, Bro. Kilgore and Bro. Tenney. These are wonderful men of God. They love 'Truth' and love the United Pentecostal Church. They have no intentions of harming or distorting the doctrines that we hold dear. These men live and breathe revival and look for every method to save one more soul.

The Pharisees constantly condemned Jesus because he used every method to spread the message of the Kingdom. He went into the homes and banquet halls of sinners. These were places that the Pharisees considered unholy. But, Jesus went there to teach his message and reach the lost. They condemned him for healing the sick and raising the lame on their 'holy day-

the Sabbath.' The Pharisees felt their 'holy days' and 'holy ceremonial washings' were more important than a lost soul, a crippled man or a person suffering with disease. Even the disciples tried to become exclusive. When they saw a man healing people in the Name of Jesus and realized that he was not of their 'group,' they forbade him to continue. But, when Jesus heard this ... he told the disciples to leave them alone ... if they are for us, they are not against us.

Brethren ... I personally want to be merciful and forgiving like Jesus our Savior. I do not want to be quick to condemn or to ostracize another person ... because he does not agree with my views or personal convictions. The Commission of Christ is our obligation. We cannot save the lost or perfect them ... this is the Lord's job. It is our responsibility to preach the message of the New Birth which is repentance, baptism in Jesus Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost ... evidenced by speaking in tongues ... to the whole world. We teach the Godly principles of holiness, but we also agree not to contend for our personal views to the disunity of the body. We need to stand united for the sake of the Gospel.

Enclosed is a letter of explanation that Bro. Bernard, Superintendent of South Texas wrote to his district. This letter has also been mailed to ministers in other districts also. I felt you would want to know correct details about this current situation.

Sincerely,

Tommy D. Hudson  
Executive Presbyter of the Western Zone