

First Baptist Church of Hammond

In Indiana

Five Twenty-Three Sibley Street

July 16, 2009

Pastor Dave Baker
Lighthouse Baptist Church
P.O. Box 736
Columbia, TN 38401

Dear Brother Baker:

At risk of further damage to the cause of Christ and at the risk of further straining our already-strained relationship, I am dictating this letter to you. The Bible says to rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Rebuke a fool, and he will hate thee. I want to rebuke you in this letter. I guess I will find out if you are a wise man or a fool.

In college, had anyone asked me to describe the student Dave Baker, I would have said "precocious, haughty, arrogant, but with great potential." I well remember the arrogance of Dave Baker when he came onto my bus in East Chicago and demanded that riders who had gotten on my bus must get off my bus and ride with him. I was a junior administrator at the college at the time. I never blended my work at the college with my ministry work for the church. Had I done so, I would have recommended a severe penalty for you at that time. It was probably an error for me not to go ahead and call the college and recommend such penalty, because that arrogance seems to have never left you.

I remember my bus driver, Don Mills, who had been my driver for nearly four decades, looking at me when you left and saying, "I have never seen such an arrogant young man in all my life. Somebody needs to clip his wings!" I dismissed it as your being just one more of the haughty young men who come to our college who needed to grow up.

Then, I well recall when Pastor Paul Chappell called me and said he was getting advice from Brother Hyles and Dr. Jeff Owens, and he also wanted to get advice from me as to who I would recommend that he hire as the next key man on his staff. He said that Brother Hyles and Dr. Owens suggested you. I told Pastor Chappell bluntly that I would not recommend you. I told him that I felt you needed some seasoning and ripening and that I felt you were not mature enough to handle the responsibilities he outlined.

Brother Chappell chose to follow Brother Hyles' advice and Brother Owens' advice. He and you and I and many others know the results of that disastrous hiring and firing. Brother Chappell has spoken with me on at least three separate occasions about you with regards to your brief tenure with him. He always spoke of your proud and haughty spirit and would often say things such as

"The sheer arrogance of that man was unbelievable." He told me I was right in my assessment but far less than the degree to which you suffered that pride. I recommended Jerry Ferrso to him, and Jerry Ferrso is still with him and is considered one of his outstanding right-hand men in that ministry. Jerry was mature, very humble, and very teachable. These are qualities that I find exceedingly absent in your character.

Recently, I had a family from Tennessee visit our church. They were just passing through while visiting relatives, and on the way they stopped by our church for services. They approached my wife and me after the service while we were shaking hands with members and visitors. When they shook our hands, I asked them where they were from. They responded that they were from Tennessee. I asked, "Oh, what church are you from?" They mentioned that they were in transition and that they were moving. I interpreted their statement to mean that they were moving from Tennessee to some other location, so I said, "What church are you members of?" They responded "We are members of Pastor Baker's church." I said, "That is a fine church." They looked at each other and said, "With all due respect, Pastor Schaap, we are leaving that church because Pastor Baker is an exceedingly arrogant pastor. We are not the only members who are leaving his church." I chose not to respond and changed the subject and asked them where they were headed, and we talked about their relatives and moved on. I thought it was interesting that that caricature of you has not left.

Then I met you at Pastors' School, and you wanted some time with me. Dave, in spite of your insistence on being deliberately ignorant about the subject, on which you speak so freely, you were given that time to meet with me. It ended with your having a very elevated tone of speech. I asked you to calm down. You did not. You talked just like a loud-mouthed, arrogant, proud, and haughty man. The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God, David. Your anger, your wrath, and your vehemence all speak to a character that has never departed from a man.

Most recently, I received an e-mail from you stating that you had e-mailed me numerous times and phone-called me several times, which is fine if you want to believe that, but this is the first e-mail that was directed to me. I receive all my own e-mails, and I take all phone calls. There is a record kept of every phone call to me. You have not called me numerous times. You may have called the church or another staff member or asked about me, but you have not called asking for me specifically. I have no other e-mails directly from you to me. Again, e-mails have been directed to me that were written to other people.

In this e-mail, you make such profoundly arrogant statements. Again, the haughty, arrogant, and proud attitude just reeks through your e-mail. You suggested to all the people who might read this e-mail, that they should attend the KJV Summit. You then suggested that if I were to take questions from the floor, or especially if I were not to take questions from the floor, that perhaps as many as 40 likeminded men as you should stand up and not sit down until I addressed and answered their questions.

David, the Summit was held at the campus of Hyles-Anderson College. Any student in the classroom who would conduct themselves in the manner you suggested would be removed from the classroom and would be subject to expulsion. How unlike a true Hylander you have become and perhaps have always been! I do not see any diminishing of the proud and haughty attitude you have carried with you from your days as a college student. How unfortunate that a young man with such great potential can become such a blemish among the ranks of God-fearing, Christ-honoring people. It is bad enough that you represent our movement with such indiscretion and irresponsible ignorance, but it is another thing to be proud of such ignorance. It is one thing to be a fool; it is another thing to be a proud fool.

David, I pray for you regularly and ask God to bless your ministry, to be good to your marriage, and to exercise watch care over your children. However, I know most assuredly (after several decades in the ministry and growing up in fundamentalism) that men who exercise such profound haughtiness and arrogance do come to a most unfortunate end. Not only will you be embarrassed if you ever consider the facts, not only will you be shamed by those who do know the facts, but there is a most deliberate difficulty you place on God to continue to bless a man who represents Him with such profound disrespect for the rest of His preachers. To work your network and lies and suspicion and arrogance and to run around like a rat scurrying in the darkness trying to cause shame and harm to a former teacher of yours, to the pastor of the church you once attended, and to the chancellor of the college you call your alma mater is such a shameful way to act.

If I were to bring your name and your conduct before our Board of Trustees who are our Board of Deacons, I know, without a shadow of doubt, they would unanimously ask you to surrender your diploma; and they would erase you from the files of our graduates. I won't do that. I'm not interested in any technicality regarding your having received a diploma from our college. However, as an official statement from the chancellor of Hyles-Anderson College, your alma mater is sorely disappointed in you and thoroughly disgusted in your treatment of both its present chancellor, its present leadership, its administration, the Board of Trustees, the founding church, and the memory of its founder, Dr. Jack Hyles. Never in Dr. Jack Hyles' 74 years on this earth and more than 50 years of preaching the Gospel and his 41 years and 5 months of pastoring First Baptist Church did he ever conspire to do what you are doing. You are blatantly contradicting both the admonitions of Dr. Jack Hyles, the preaching of Dr. Jack Hyles, and the pattern of Dr. Jack Hyles.

Be it understood ever so clearly that David Baker is expressing himself in such a manner as to contradict everything for which Hyles-Anderson College stands and is in violation of the very first rule of the handbook to which he signed his name pledging to honor, respect, and obey those rules. You are in violation of the very premise upon which your alma mater stands.

As I stated in the opening lines, I write this at great risk. My only hope is that there is a modicum of wisdom within David Baker that will know that the words I write are true and accurate and that David Baker needs to do some serious soul searching with regards to his humility in the sight of God and his honesty in the sight of man. You are championing a cause of foolishness. It is with great disappointment that I pen these words. But nonetheless, I pen them deliberately and with full intention of your reading them and with the hope of your understanding them.

I believe with all my heart that David Baker owes an apology to the memory of Dr. Jack Hyles, to the Board of Trustees of Hyles-Anderson College, to the administration of Hyles-Anderson College, to the multitude of fundamental Baptist preachers to whom he has written slandering the name of his alma mater, to the memory of the founder, and to the character of both the founder and this school from which he received a degree. Whether you make such apologies or not is your business. I do think that David Baker should know the official position of this college towards one of its graduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Schaap". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jack Schaap

JS/bb