

July 28, 2009

Pastor Jack Schaap
First Baptist Church of Hammond
523 Sibley Street
Hammond, IN 46320

Dear Bro. Schaap:

Please have leniency on me as I write this letter to you. I am not writing to criticize or tear down anything, especially a man of God. My pastor, Dave Baker, shared a letter with me; the letter was very accusatory and somewhat biased. He asked me what I thought. I told him that I did not think he should be bothered with answering it, and that I would like to reply.

I have known Dave Baker for over 20 years now, with most of those years working side by side with him. We worked together in college as he worked under my leadership, we worked together as co-laborers in our ministry, and now for the past ten years I have been his assistant pastor in the ministry. Today, I would like to share with you the heart of my pastor from someone who has seen him day in and day out under every circumstance.

Bro. Hyles taught us to be a friend to our friends, and I am writing in his defense. He did not ask me to write you, but I felt that he should be defended. I am answering your letter (accusing Pastor Baker of pride and arrogance) because I know about most of the situations that you have alluded to in your letter. Bro. Schaap, I know the issues at hand, the people involved, and I also know both sides of the things that have been said.

I was truly taken aback at the way you started your letter. Although I did find it humorous that you chose the word "precocious" in your description (meaning exhibiting mature qualities at an unusually early age). I find it odd that you would not address the Bible issues that Pastor Baker pointed out in his letter to you, but chose rather to lash out. Pastor Baker is trying to defend "TRUTH" (Word of God), and you chose to attack the man instead of the issues. You quoted Proverbs 9:8, "...rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee." (You even quoted the KJB.) And you paraphrased the rest about a fool hating you. By your own definition, (and the Bible as well) Pastor Baker is a wise man. I say this because he does love you; he may disagree with you and the doctrine that you teach, but he does love you.

My intent in this letter is merely to defend my pastor and address the issues to which you alluded. You mentioned an "arrogant man" who jumped on your bus to retrieve his bus riders. I do not know if this is true, but I think he had more of an investment in his bus kids and believed in a code of ethics. You see, I worked that area as well, and I remember that boundaries were set and rules put in place to keep that from happening. I also remember a young Jack Schaap who perhaps was "reaping" where he had sown. I remember specifically a "Big Day" where Dr. Hyles made everyone turn in a map of where

they would be, and there was not to be anyone going elsewhere. I had worked an area for weeks, passing out fliers of where to meet my bus, and on the “Big Day” YOUR bus pulled up right beside mine. YOU made the announcement that anyone who wanted pizza should get on your bus. My heart broke (as did that of my workers) as we watched our bus kids get off our bus. It wasn’t just the bus kid issue, but the “ethics” that you showed. I only mention this because of the irony of your accusation against a young Pastor Baker. I do not believe it was arrogance, but a passionate love for his people (bus kids). Bro. Schaap, when you believe in something strong enough, sometimes you have to take a stand. That is what my pastor has been doing --- standing up for truth, principles, Biblical issues, and yes, even his people when necessary.

On the next page of your letter, you mentioned an unhappy church member who was “looking for another church.” Thank you for the way you handled the situation with a disgruntled church member. It is not always wise to listen to gossip, especially about men of God. We both know what it is like to lose church members, and they all have their own reasons. Have you ever noticed though how people who perceive OTHERS as being arrogant often cannot perceive it in their own selves? No? It is like a parent who gets discouraged about their children when they see their own attributes in their very own children.

Bro. Schaap, my Pastor has never lied to me, tried to deceive me or anyone else to my knowledge. (Yes, I know it is impossible for me to know for sure.) However, I have seen the heart of my pastor; he has a shepherd’s heart for people and helping others. He is also a fervent soul winner who sees many souls saved every week. He is not arrogant, haughty, or foolish, but has a wise grasp of the issues at hand.

It seems that you and Pastor Baker have a different recollection of your meeting at Pastors’ School as well. He said it went well and that you two would talk again. Now it seems to me that an arrogant, haughty Preacher who “told off Bro. Schaap” would have mentioned that in his recount of how things went at Pastors’ School. Bro. Schaap, someone here is not telling the truth. I know that I was not there, but I can only vouch for Pastor Baker. He does not dramatize the issue! You may also accuse me of being (as you call it) “deliberately ignorant” of the Bible issues, but you would be very mistaken. At least I HAVE a Word of God, and I have a God who gave me the INSPIRED, inerrant, infallible, and preserved Word of God (written in English, by the way.) I would have to disagree with your assessment of Dave Baker and his knowledge on the Word of God; he studies it earnestly.

Again, I find it somewhat ironic how you berate Pastor Baker about following the rules at the recent Summit. What is wrong with walking away from something in which you disagree? (By the way, you invited him there, knowing his position.) Hyles-Anderson College was only a “meeting spot” for your agenda. College rules do not apply to Summit meetings, even though it sounds like you may have broken your own rules.

I am sorry if I sound a bit passionate in this, but I guess I am now involved. I am only trying to defend my preacher. It is difficult to write because I do not want to point fingers, but I know the issues at hand. Your comment about taking back a diploma for disagreeing with you is ludicrous. You did not sign the diploma; Dr. Jack Hyles signed it and you are now changing the doctrine that we were taught.

You might consider the founders of the college and what they taught and believed, instead of claiming it was changed and “you were told in private...” I wholeheartedly disagree with your statement that Jack Hyles would not do what we are doing. I believe there would be quite a “housecleaning” before he was done! I also believe that you are doing much harm to Dr. Hyles’ name and ministry.

Bro. Schaap, we believe in loyalty, but we must hold to the Word of God in our beliefs. Dr. Hyles told us that everything is born dying, and it is so true with colleges after the founders are gone. We love the Hyles-Anderson College that we attended, but it is not the same college today (even the doctrine is different). I probably did not persuade you to think differently about my pastor, but I am defending him, because I know him, and I know his heart. He loves people and he is standing for the truth.

Do you not think that David’s brothers thought he was arrogant when he faced Goliath? *“And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? **I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart;** for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. **And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?”** (1 Samuel 17:28-29)*

Bro. Schaap, we believe in a cause. It is not to fight you, or tell you what to do. The King James Bible issue is our cause, and it is worth taking a stand. Dr. Hyles himself told us that this would be the issue of our generation, but no one believed it would have come from the very pulpit from which he preached! Pastor Baker is not arrogant; and I pose a final question to you --- **“Is there not a cause?”**

Sincerely,

Steve Wipf

Assistant Pastor

Lighthouse Baptist Church