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June 4, 2024 WA/NID/AK Staff Meeting

Introduction by Overseer Darryl Doland

Well I think we'll maybe handle this meeting kind of like our Zoom call so I'll talk about a few things and then we have another mic here we can pass around for people to ask questions or make comments.

When we planned for this meeting weeks ago we were thinking one thing and today it's completely different. I'll just get started so a lot of things have kind of come to a head this last week and I'm some of them I can I can talk about and some I can't. I'll just kind of um just kind of give an overall view from my perspective and then and then like I say whatever people have to say or ask is great.

So of course all of you would know that the grace report came up last Thursday. I'll just tell you a little bit how that happened. Actually I was at Juno when I guess I received it and then this last Monday I met the Survivor in Seattle and we talked about what we would do with a report. By the time I got to Walla Walla that had changed and there was kind of a lot of pressure put on me to send out the report with a letter by today. I prayed about it and I absolutely had no peace at all. That's putting it mildly.

So I let I let the people know who had the report in their hands that that's how it was. I felt like the Lord was giving me real strong guidance in that way and they decided they would put it out anyway. I don't I don't want to say anything about the motives or anything else, I'm just telling you what happened I'm not trying to put any big spin on this other than to say that it was I guess, it was just pretty surprising on my part and I just felt kind of sad about how the way it was handled. So the way it went out was not our intention. Maybe it's good just for you to know that much.

I actually think that in a way that what has transpired through this last week, I think it's actually been good. I hope we'll say that looking back. So one thing that became very clear to me is we have to prioritize Christ and if the Lord is moving me in a certain direction and I feel it really strongly. It actually is a serious thing to me when that is not considered important and there's other things that are more important. I think and I've heard this people in this room have already said this, this is just repeating what we've talked about this last year, and that is that Jesus said that we'll always have the poor with us that didn't mean he didn't care for the poor he absolutely did but Christ we won't always have with us. We're always going to have victims with us but we're not always going to have Christ and it's like Jesus said to a man that was apparently being called to the ministry, well go and sell all that you have and give it to the poor. He cared for the poor but then you come and follow me he prioritized Christ and I think we have to come to that.

So another thing that has happened this week and I know there are some of you that are going well yes, we've been telling you this so long but for some reason this has come into focus more last week and I can't give you all the details on this either but I realize that there is actually an amazing number of people in our fellowship who

have had bad experiences including with CSA and both the perpetrator and the victim have moved on with God's grace. The reason we don't hear from those people so much is because they've moved on. So to me those kinds of people are actually the hardest to hear because they moved on and yet this last week I was looped into a few things and I realized so we cannot be going forward without considering this group of people.

One thing that I need to say with this, I mean like I want to say with this, is it's really important that when we think about that group of people that it doesn't make us critical of the people that aren't in that group, if that makes any sense. Because there are people that have actually received God's grace to move on, it doesn't mean that the people that aren't there yet haven't received God's grace. I mean it's easy to compare and say well get over it and the problem is people have been traumatized in different ways and we have to have a heart for the people that are stuck where they are for whatever reason. I maybe I shouldn't even say stuck; that sounds really negative. I should just say they are where they are and it's for a reason and those people, they don't need to be guilt tripped. they don't need to have more guilt than they already have they don't need any more condemnation they do need our care.

So somehow we've got to keep both of those things in balance but there's no doubt that just having a better look at that segment of people among us, it puts a different perspective on things, for me. I have to say Wayne and Brian, we were talking with the overseers again this afternoon and that's one thing that is very noticeable on the calls is they have the same stories as far as they are aware of people in this that there are some people because of what they've been through and God has left in the past they feel like it needs to be left in the past and then for us to continually dwell on this it actually in a way it traumatizes them, revictimizes them and we cannot ignore that.

I mean again all these things we got to keep them in balance because we've got to reach the people really need to be cared for and we don't want to be talking about people in an uncaring way. I am guessing that there's people in this room that are going to meet the very person who this report is about this year and you will not know when you are talking to a victim/survivor. I'm not making any judgments about this or anything else, I'm just saying that when you're talking to people it would just be nice to talk as though this is a traumatized person, like this a fragile person, because in some ways we all are and if we if we can talk to each other and care for each other in a way that even if it was the most fragile person, it would be okay, it would be safe with us, then we would be safe with everyone.

I really do think that that is something that I need to figure out more because it's easy when I'm with people who I think kind of believe like me to kind of get wound up and get really carried away with the things that I believe, I think that we share beliefs with and I've known that has happened this last year with people that were there in that audience that were actually victim survivors that nobody had any idea about. And again, it's not just that we're thinking about them but we're just thinking about how do we love people and really if I'm being if I'm being careful enough that anybody could be safe in my presence at any time, I'm going to be my most edifying self. It just

seems like I take a lot of liberties sometimes with when I'm with the people who I think believe like I think.

So one of the things that I'm going to have to say, and again I'm going to I have to be a little guarded when I say this, I mean I don't want to say too much, but I don't know of anyone that was closely involved in this investigation that would say this was a win. I don't know anyone that was closely involved in the investigation that would ever do it again. I've of course talked to everybody that's been involved. At this point I'm going to have to say from my perspective I'm not sold on investigations and that's a pretty major thing, because if I'm not sold on investigations our guidelines have problems. I don't know how everyone else was feeling about this I mean we'll talk about this later but there's been there's been some effort to relook at the guidelines try to think where are we going from here.

I know that there's some on the staff have actually tried to take the guidelines and trim them down and maybe kind of loosen them up a little bit. There's still a lot in those guidelines about investigations and seriously can I just say this: we can spend a lot of time on investigations, a lot of time and money, and not change anybody's mind.

So what have we done? It's really quite a thing to come to that realization. When we hired Grace the idea of that was that it would be like the gold standard and that if we had a investigation like that, that people would be able to trust the results. Well I don't think it changed anybody's mind. If it did, I don't know who it is so it's just something to think about and maybe we can say well we're going to do this because that's what the investigation came out but is that like where does that really get us? Anyway stuff to think about.

So yesterday, among other guidelines and things that we were going through, interestingly enough when it happens this afternoon Alan Mitchell called me from Australia and he goes hey Darryl, I've got to hear about your investigation. You know how you're feeling about it? I said well I don't think I'd do it again. He said oh I'm so glad to hear that. Do you mind talking to all the overseers in Australia and New Zealand about this. Well I'll tell you about my experience so I think tomorrow afternoon I'm going to be talking to all them on a Zoom call. I think what the deal is that Allan had kind of come to the same conclusion we already had.

Well in the meantime I remembered a few months ago we got a set of guidelines from Missouri and we've got guidelines from all over the place, but Missouri and what those guidelines are, is that George Peterson sat down and formed guidelines using the scriptures. It's pretty brief, it's not real detailed, but it's scriptural. I wrote to Craig Winquist yesterday I said can I get a copy of those and so he sent me a copy. Anyone that wants one I could send them to you but then he added this note and this gives you a little idea of what we're up against. He said I just sent you what we are working with here in our three-state area. We have been challenged on about every aspect of it from the foundational issues with the ministry to the inadequacy of how we plan to deal with current the SA incidents. Anyway, I understand the difficulty in coming up with a policy. I think it is actually impossible. We had a man in Oklahoma who was unhappy with our approach and started writing what he thought would be a

good approach. After a number of attempts he said you cannot write a policy. So all the best it would be good to you in touch again.

One thing that I feel right now is no matter what we do it's going to be divisive. Everything has been and it will continue to be but I feel like if we if what we determine, like what we compile, what we make as guidelines go, if it's scriptural at least it won't divide spiritual people because it's the scriptures that unite us. It's what we all believe and so what I'm proposing tonight and this may not be everybody's forte but I'm going to propose it and we'll just see where we go with it and that is, Wayne and Brian and I have talked about this, that what we're going to do is we're going to try like have a Google doc we're going to share it with any or just a whole staff and any of you that want to be involved can be involved and we're going to try to just make a document of how scripturally we should deal with the issues that we're dealing with and we can use some of George's scriptures put them in there but maybe some others like maybe one thing that we should put and I don't want any long explanations, what would be good is just some scriptures like maybe a verse and maybe just a short summary like a or whatever.

We could kind of think about that. We can share this document, we can all work on it together. We can check each other you know like is this really what the scripture was intended to be used for like, really try to keep scripture in context as much as possible, and just kind of see what we can come up with. I don't think it's going to make everybody happy but I don't think it will divide spiritual people. I think it can bring us together.

In my mind we basically have two choices right now: we either have a policy like that or we don't have a policy. This is obviously it's going to be very distressing to some people. I think of the guidelines team that have spent so much time on this. They uh, just to be quite open about this, they would actually be more okay with us not having any guidelines than to take their guidelines and trim them down and basically create holes in them, because what they're concerned with that is that we're giving this impression that we have this new level of safety but yet there's so many holes in what we're presenting that it it's actually an illusion. That's what they're thinking their minds and so they don't want us taking their guidelines and doing anything with them. They feel like that's unethical and it may be and that's why I feel like if we're going to do anything we should probably build it from scratch. I like the idea of at this point if we're going to build something from scratch let's start with what we all agree with and that's the word of God.

Today when we were talking to the to the older brothers about all this, the one contrast that was brought up and I think that this might be why we're not getting this to work, I mean there's probably lots of reasons, but one is I think the policies that we've been trying to develop are actually corporate policies but this is a family and so it's like bringing a corporate policy home from work and trying to get your family to function according to this corporate policy. Maybe you can make some of it work you know if you try but basically it's not a good idea. The two are not compatible. Our family and our corporations don't run the same way. Right from the beginning with these with the guidelines, Jerry Cormack is one of them, he's just been saying this

does not sound family enough you know he'd say that over and over. It's like well it just needs to be reworded, it needs to be more in a family vernacular, but you know I think we're to the point where we realize it's not just a wording.

So the question is at this point then what are we doing, are we really ready to assume those kinds of risks. I have said right from the very beginning, I cannot sleep at night if I know that I am knowingly putting children at risk by my policies, like what I'm doing. I mean we would feel sick if we had a choice, we could make a choice that would save a child from this kind of thing. So the question is how much are we really opening it up and one of the questions that I think about is how, like the one thing that we are going to emphasize is report, report, report; call the police; call the local authorities; get the local authorities involved. Of course we've already had this discussion ever since the FBI days we've had this discussion and so if it's just report it and um another thing is education, so if we are doing what we can to educate people and we are making it very clear that that things need to be reported, what percentage of our risk have we actually already dealt with? That's what I don't know. It might actually be really really high. I'm guessing it is really really high so then these other things that we're doing with the guidelines, I don't know what percentage of the risk that they actually cover. I'm guessing it's going to be small but still it's probably a percentage. I just don't know what to say about that.

By going without such clear guidelines it's going to leave a lot more to the discretion of elders and the ministry and we can look at that both ways. Hopefully if we ourselves are more educated and also spiritual and prayerful enough, that would actually be the best-case scenario but again I'm just throwing these things out. You're going to get your chance to talk here in a minute, these are just the things we are considering right now.

So yesterday I talked to my brother has a business up in Anchorage and then today we were talking with Richard Denherder who's in Ireland right now and yesterday he was with Jane Bell and talking to her. She's actually working on some of the things that I have the biggest issue with. That is number one, how can we treat everyone as a pedophile? In the guidelines that's basically what happens is, we're treating everyone as a pedophile even though we know they're not, and so that's one.

Do you know Carrie? What is she, like a psychiatrist or a what, is she social worker? Anyway they're really trying to study that aspect and how you can actually determine levels of risk more accurately and her thought is if we knew the level of risk more accurately we would know better like is this someone who should never be in meetings or is this someone that should be in closed meeting or is this someone that could actually be in just a regular fellowship meeting again. Anyway it's kind of interesting that that's one of one of her thoughts.

The other thing about guidelines that both my brother and Jane were saying is that the best form of guidelines is try to imagine the kind of person that you want everyone to be and so just try to describe that person and make this a vision of the ideal person, this goal of what we're trying to be which of course in our case is going to be like Christ but nonetheless try to identify that. And then maybe some loose guidelines about how you actually become that person. Both Jane and my brother in

writing policy up in Anchorage, they both said exactly the same thing that that's what they came to is, you try to identify this person make that really clear, everything else is loose because the more tight you make, actually the word that Jane used was brittle but it's like where there's just no room everything's tight out the tighter you make the guidelines actually the more brutal they are.

[Unclear discussion with audience]

Anyway your turn if anyone has any questions or talking.

28:35 Discussion by/with other attendees

I just want to share with you I was staying with a couple and the wife spoke to me um about how she felt about all this and they have a meeting in their home and I I was I actually was very much agreeable with her is that they felt as a meeting home that they are responsible for their meeting and to care who comes and who goes and how it is that it's not following a list of rules but it's just being common sense with how they feel their own meeting is comfortable each person because each meeting will be have a little different that's all I and I was totally in agreement because it's been how I've felt with who the elders I think know their me more than we do

As long as we're doing what we can for education to where the elders are aware yeah for sure.

I was reminded when you were talking about what you said when we were talking about divorce and remarriage and you said where there's difference there's conflict or where there's a like where we differ and so the more the older brothers can feel comfortable with things together the less conflict we're going to have it feels like and like you said scripture

Well I was wondering if I was the only one that never heard or never saw this Grace report but another thing is I like the family concept because you can't even in family you force something into being. There has to be a form of discipline and we don't have that we say you can't go to meeting is that discipline or are we denying them that which could strengthen them and enable them to be this ideal man we're talking about I felt from well not in the beginning but later that we were rushing and was a need to to wait maybe to let things soak and maybe this is what's happening and this is what's coming up and I like the thought of this being we focus on the scriptural side of things and we're going to find out that it's there it's not specific sometimes but what the **dangerous things that God saw are catalogued several times starting in Leviticus and Deuteronomy** and going into the New Testament we need to we need to be aware of that

One thing that is necessary in my mind along with being scriptural is that like you were saying we have to make room, we have to consider the people that have gone on and left it behind. We don't know you don't know all those people you never will but they have gone on so that proves it it's possible. I never did like the wording that says that you once a pedophile or once a CSA or whatever you want to call it you always are, that's not true. The studies that they made the studies were all on groups of individuals that had no dealings with the spirit of God and when God begins to

deal with his people and there's a willingness in the heart in the heart of that person there is a, can be a change and we think of these people that maybe a single incident in what 30 years 40 years 50 years or maybe even 10 years or five years and let the spirit of God work. We need to be very careful for them and the thought has just come the last couple weeks are we making a new level of victims? We're saying okay you can't come, you can't go, we're victimizing them. we're making them victims of our decision. In our guidelines there has to be that guidance of the spirit of God and I don't think you can put that down in writing. In botany you take a taxonomy, you use a plant key to determine the genesis and species of plants and you go A B C D and this you answer all these little questions and you get over to what it is. We can't do that with people; we can't do that with what the spirit of God does because it knows and God knows and Christ knows but you and I don't. We need to be extremely careful in in what we're trying to do.

I know this Jane Bell over there in Great Britain, she would agree with you actually that we have to be careful that these needy sinners, called perpetrators, are not being cut off from the very help that they need. So again like we've talked about you know we can have closed meetings and we can they can still have help but anyway we're going have to be careful with that because it's not just them that are being cut off it's their families are really being affected too. A lot of other people are being affected. so a lot to think about.

I don't want to be the only one to talk but can we really promise safety spiritually like natural safety on a spiritual level? I'm the reason I'm saying this like I saw innumerable things in Colombia that I wish...

What is the driving force behind the guidelines why do we, who has said you will have guidelines or

So there's a number of things driving it. One is there's a lot of people that just want comfort, want some assurance from us that we actually are seeing this for what it is and we're taking it seriously and just knowing that much will be a comfort to some people.

Another thing about the guidelines is the hope the attempt was made to be more fair in dealing with these situations because it's really easy to judge according to your favorite person and especially with CSA things. It's really hard to take the word over some young person who doesn't have necessarily any great reputation and take their word over someone that does have a good reputation, somebody that you honor and respect. As we know, that happens where you have these basically obscure people who have been hurt by the people we respect the most and so how do you, you need more than just feelings on sorting that out because like from our perspective we're going to go on in the favor of the one that we respect but according to professionals it would almost always go in the favor of that obscure person who reports.

So it's trying to just to deal with this more justly, fairly, uniformly and for people to understand what we're going to do and even like the safety team or whoever has to deal with this stuff to say hey, this is what we've decided we're going to do, so it's not

a big emotional thing. It's not like well, why are you picking on me or why is he doing this, but I can't do this or whatever. It's just kind of all laid out so people know those are some of the reasons. Maybe someone have some other ideas.

Another thing is it looks good to officials like obviously people outside the fellowship knowing that we're taking it seriously, that we've taken accountability for what's happening.

I just have this question. Kind of in the beginning when you shared the FBI's what they first talked to you about and they said you know basically they wanted to take care of it let the law take care of it let the law of the land and the way they do it and then they would determine one way or another but maybe that's with this investigation is last that you know we just can't live with that, them determining whether a person is safe or not, so it's just a thought that keeps coming to me are we you know like what we read, give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's so we need to be accountable and our friends need to know we are trying but there is the law and we've been advised and so anyway that's all I'm gonna say.

We definitely need to put emphasis on what you're talking about there's no doubt about that. The thing I think that we struggle with the most is old stuff. I think we have a lot better idea how to go forward than how to take care of what's in the past. A lot of the guidelines even they would be about what place people are going to have as far as in the past.

The one thing that though that we're finding out is that people a lot of times they don't report for decades and who was saying the other day that was saying like the people that have reported like to Cythia or whatever like the average is like 20 years after the incident or something like that and so if that continues well we're always going to be dealing with old stuff is what it boils down to and that's one of the reasons why we're trying to change among us this thought of like trying to hide things, but it needs like the sooner it's reported the better. Even though I'm saying that, you heard what I said before, I don't think it's right to go around and dig up stuff. See that's what we don't want to do that is not what we're trying to encourage to do. We're not trying to become this communist group that's spying on each other. That is not what we're trying to do here.

One thing that I was oh I have two things that I was wondering about. One is so what would that mean for the safety group because I know I've heard from a few people that they've appreciated knowing that there's somebody there that they can talk to when they have concerns and the other thing was just considering about how that there's a distinction between dealing with spiritual problems and dealing with natural problems and it is tempting in certain groups to want to depend on the Bible for natural problems in which case people will often say well don't go to the doctor just pray about it because in the Bible it says if you pray about it you'll be healed and oh well don't take care of this natural problem with a natural Doctor who has natural training on how to take care of it. Just pray about it and the natural problem will go away which does not happen with natural problems and so it's just wondering about that too.

So that's one of the reasons why we feel like there has to be some emphasis kept on education and also emphasis kept on the fact that we do report and those two things is much of it. The more of it we can leave in the hands of the law the better like on many levels.

One thing one thing I've noticed through the years in several different disciplines some of which are among us as a fellowship is that when something is introduced it almost carries with it a certain permission then to talk about it. So for example scripturally based guidelines, it's similar to somebody on the platform for example of introducing a topic biblically based and talking about it. Well then afterwards, everybody's talking about it because it's like there's this permission now because it's been made maybe openly available, it's been introduced as part of what we are and so now we talk about it and the benefit to that is that we kind of find out about ourselves individually and then when we start visiting with somebody else in dialogue and engaging ourselves with them we find out where people are actually at and we also can take that sense of permission and even investigate a little bit like well why you think like that and why would you want that over what scriptures teach.

It seems for these people like 10 20 30 years later some instances 61 years later if they've never felt permission, permitted. It's like they would have to open up the whole discussion on their own taking everything to a level they've never seen anybody move to. To me, providing a flat surface to which everybody can go to helps the weak, tempers the strong, provides some framework, just doesn't have to be like a hard and fast thing but I think a lot of the education that we need sensibilities appreciations and the edifying of one another and the building together for a health and unity will happen when we feel that sense that permission, because I've never sat in a circle like this before my fellow workers and we seem to have found some permission haven't we, to be saying quite a bit and I'm actually not the worst for it the better for it so thank you one and all.

James today I would I actually had a really exciting thought I thought you know if we sat down right now and figured out how Matthew 18 would apply to some of these situations and how to actually exercise what Jesus said to do imagine if we transferred that over to some other areas of our lives. Don't you think we would all get a lot healthier like it would benefit us in areas that go way beyond CSA say.

I been I appreciate um what was said about the natural and the spiritual they're separate but Jesus was the son of man and he was also the Son of God and I know that sometimes the spiritual and the natural is very very very intertwined and I know that it's that God is spiritual and he can help us open that even doors would open in a natural way to help us. It is intertwined and so it won't be easy to make to create something from the scripture but it's it'll be possible because Jesus was also the son of man and many of the things that he dealt with is because we have a human nature and it is it is helpful to re remember that. I can't just explain it but there's times that you need help and it does involve both. If you need help for something natural but you can pray to God about it and ask him for help and he opens the natural door, he can open a door of someone that knows how to help you.

One thing that I really like thinking about scriptural guidelines is that they defend themselves like God's word. You can't argue with God's word and anything else any other guideline depending on who you talk to you're going to have trouble defending it. I remember when I was on my trip and there were some people who would ask me about what's going on over here and stuff and I'd start to try and explain and after a little while I'd be thinking this sounds really crazy, like it didn't even make sense to me when you start to explain it to somebody who doesn't know what's really going on, but if we have something that's scriptural it defends itself, truth is truth.

So just a couple comments. I mean of course we've been struggling over these things for a long time and you know on the one hand like it sounds great to me to just let the elders figure out what's best for their meeting then on the other yeah I don't know. One thing is when so like now like the safety team they're educated they know and understand things and then once you know things it's hard to not act accordingly like they feel responsible with that information to act in the most ethical way because they understand this deceptive world of I mean yeah anyway one comment like with scriptural guidelines like we already have scriptural guidelines it's the scripture so in one sense it's kind of like just saying well we'll just keep we'll just do what we've always done.

Anyway these are just comments I'm not trying to... um back to the third party investigation topic. The alternative to not doing third party investigations is just to believe every allegation and like are we willing to do that. Anyway it's things to think about

[unclear]

yeah and then there's statute of limitations and anyway like I think about the cases in our region and I think per the guidelines there two that would require a third party investigation but in my mind I don't think they do. I feel like we know enough and it doesn't feel very ethical to take the money that the friends have donated to the ministry and just be pouring it into investigations. So yeah it's a little bit of a conundrum there. As far as the safety team going forward I don't know.

I agree, I think we have to like I really am glad to have them around right now. They are taking a load off of me. They're not just doing that but they're so supportive and they're spiritual. They share verses and thoughts and it seems to me like they're feeling a really important place right now and we may we may have to kind of think a little bit more about their exact role but I would be, I would, I'm not ready to say they don't have a role.

After I spoke Sunday night, Sunday afternoon, I was approached by a man and he said are you trying to say that all the allegations are wrong? Well that was never mentioned in what I was talking about and exercising, giving power to an independent group to tell us what to say and who we can't say, that's not scriptural because if I have a Godly message I mean I need to deliver it. We read of Amos and Jeremiah, just to mentioned two, that were threatened by civil authorities. Well Jesus himself was, because of their message. We need to be very careful on that level too,

how much can they tell us not say. Did that actually come from a group, like did that who [unclear]

My comment is much like Joyce's comment and the problem we really face here is, or from my perspective is, that parts of the body get sick and I've had some issues and yeah your pancreas fails, you go see your pancreas doctor and heart and etc etc and you see specialist that way. And we know that the mind it can get affected we know that and there's Specialists for that also but we also know that if the problem is is just a wrong Spirit, it doesn't matter how many specialists you go to, there's only one specialist that can help and the discerning in there, that's what we're dealing with. It's a spiritual problem that way and it doesn't matter which side it goes on eventually it swings back to the power of God to do what we can with what's been given us and eventually we all have to move on eventually. We can't just, nobody just stays in the same place forever. If you do you're not in a very good spot and so any effort there, I'm for it but eventually it has to, I mean that's what Jesus said 'I'm the great physician I didn't come here to save the righteous'. Now we have the halt, the sick and lame and the blind and that's when he came to help and anyway that's my comment.

One other thing I'm wondering about is if we are looking to the Bible for basing any documents that we're writing to what extent are we planning on depending on what the Old Testament says as far as what Jesus said.

Joyce well just real quick um is the safety team is all of their training in the videos we got

[unclear] all all yeah so that was all Grace training was that all Grace training did they got or did they have other yeah okay okay because a lot of us have done that like looked at all of that too well I mean they just like like yeah I mean they've just been talking with with lots of people who are relevant professionals and

There's been a thought that's coming across to me is that our people are too dumb to understand what's going on and we don't want that. They're no dumber than we are and in many cases they're smarter than we are and they have an awareness of what's going on in the world that we don't have. I want, we just need to be very very careful that way.

I just appreciate the safety team I think because we've come across a couple of situations that we haven't really known how to handle and I don't want to run to you every time I have a problem that I don't know how to handle because I know that's too much for you so at this point if we have something like that it's the safety team we would turn to right okay and also as far as Elders um knowing and doing the right thing in their meeting not all Elders are qualified and we wouldn't always trust them so that's a problem too I think.

Well I have to tell you that I ran into a situation and I'm not free to share the details except that there's some prejudice I would say some family background prejudice on the safety team that against anyway I can't go into detail about it but that scares me too because I think because there was already feeling in the family it's been used against the other family member. Does it make any sense anyway it just scared me

because we're all human and we have backgrounds that came before all this and maybe it wasn't CSA but it's family feelings and I think it is affecting how they deal with some of the situations.

I think one of the key things is the safety team is not making decisions alone, the elders are not making decisions alone, the ministry is not making decisions alone, the key thing is that we are collaborating, we are working together on decisions going forward. None of it's going to be done in a vacuum without any communication

yeah yeah

Because people are being, other people are being hurt by a decision that a safety team member made so do that make

I don't know that I can really share it all but that is a concern to me you know going forward and the safety team is communicating about things right so if that happens with a particular safety team member like it needs to be addressed with all the safety teams then that's Matthew 18 right. You take it to your brother, you take it to others. Sorry my actual comment is I do think it would be good to have some natural guidelines just as far as the process of how things happen like I should know how to iron a shirt but I still don't really know how to iron a shirt so like I can go on YouTube and I can watch. You iron this part first and that part next and when I see something who do I talk to first who do I not talk to what questions do I ask, what questions do I not ask, who needs to be reported; all those things we're not going to find them in the Bible.

I'm going to find that I need to be compassionate and I need to be kind by not going to find who and what I talk to so if there's just some natural guidelines of this is the process we follow that would be really helpful to me.

I think one thing we all know is that there's no set of laws that's ever going to regulate human nature and we do the best we can and the thing that sets us apart and the thing that fails us is whether or not we're led by the spirit and the Bible does work and the words of Jesus work 100% of the time that they're used but they're often not amongst us and Jesus taught that. Five were wise and five were foolish and they were walking together so we can do whatever we want we're not going to keep everybody safe because there are going to be some people amongst us that are going to figure out how to get around the lot and I appreciate all the effort but I think at the end of the day like you say awareness being able to talk about it. Like James said that's making a huge difference but even in corporations the minute you set laws in people begin to find out how to get around them and they do and we hear about it all the time and that's how it'll be with people who intend to harm people they will find a way until they're found out and so anyway I'm just I'm just so aware that it's the spirit and it's the words of Jesus and it's got to be our focus it's got to be and all these other things that we have to put them in that's great and one other thing about the safety team, in Acts 6 those men had a very limited focus. It was so that the Grecian women got their part of the daily ministrations. If we can keep their focus narrow that will help. The things that have distressed some of us is when they've gotten beyond what we thought their focus was. If we could keep it narrowed I'm in

favor of the safety team. I'm in favor of Daryl's burden being lightened but I'm not in favor of them making policy for private property and telling workers what to speak and that kind of thing. That goes beyond the Grecian widows getting their daily ministrations. Anyway that's too long

Just one more comment about this natural and the spiritual. It's true that that we can get a lot of natural help and we cannot get a lot of natural help if we don't want to get any kind of help. You have to want it and if we don't have soft and tender hearts that want help and ask God for help then the natural help won't really benefit us either and if we try to have a condition of heart that wants to be right, wants to be soft, doesn't want to be bitter, and those things are going on in our natural with our mind or with something that's not just right, God can open doors if we truly want to be right. He can open doors that we can get natural help when we need it but it won't profit us if we don't want to be right with God. There there's such a connection there

I've also really appreciated the safety team and feels like they would be a really good role as counsellors. They also look really overwhelmed and tired, the ones that I've seen and yeah I wonder if some of the decisions are too hard on them also one of the safety team members said that a certain decision they made they had to make it because if something were to happen in 10 years time it would be their heads kind of thing which is a scary thing I think for them to live under where if they were counseling role to the ministry seems like they're a wonderful help like resource, a resource, a walk through the process, if we have to turn something in because they do have the resources, a place we can tell anybody, call them, they know the numbers, they have the resources. I love having that, I love saying call the safety team. You Know

I wish we could just not even have published guidelines right but it just it doesn't seem like that's an option. I wish we could just deal with things but anyway we're I mean I think that'd be really nice to just like I think about so like when Doyle put out his guidelines like they were a little, I don't remember what they were, but they were a little more vague and loose and he got a lot of heat for that initially but then like someone the other day was talking to Cynthia Liles and she just made the comment actually Doyle's doing a good job of just quietly handling things so I don't know maybe there's a way to just handle things yeah.

[Unclear]

Do we really need to reinvent the wheel or can we just adopt because like we are if we start try start over how long's that going to take?

The longer the better [*laughter*]

I mean believe me what we're talking about like right now could have some major ramifications and I mean like major. One thing is if we decide to pull the plug on guidelines or even to go with the ones we're talking about we probably are saying goodbye to Olympia convention; I'm guessing we are and half of Seattle I know.

My feeling is that's what I like about spiritual guidelines is I think everyone who loves the scriptures will they'll be they'll be okay with that.

I don't know yeah and I don't know either like I we try to forecast how it'll play out and we just don't know but one thing that it's a strong call for me to go labor for the one like Jesus said leave the 99 go after the one who's out there and I feel like that's what we're trying to do with these guidelines and it feels like a political move to be like well this is what's going to be the most this is what most of the friends will be comfortable with that feels like a political move rather than a spiritual move. Anyway I'm not sure what is the best way to go after the one. Obviously the best way is for them to hear the gospel but they don't feel comfortable enough to come to gospel meetings so yeah

I don't know if I'm ready to get into judging who's a sheep or not

I'm not trying to start a war or anything I'm just was curious if somebody knew another scripture where goats were actually mentioned in the New Testament in regards to people other than Jesus' judgment of them at the end of time.

So many times Jesus saw all of those people that we just all read about during preps he saw them as sheep having no Shepherd and that helps me to realize there's a lot of people out there, there's people that used to have the same Shepherd that we have but enjoyed the same things. We love them, we still love them, but I don't want to see them as sheep having no Shepherd not just I mean I realize that they aren't responding but a sheep that has no Shepherd is just going to be doing its own thing and wandering out there and it's probably not going to look good for their future because they need a Shepherd. Sheep don't last without a shepherd and I don't know I just feel like I do have a heart of compassion for people that know I don't want to go join them and in the sense of going out there and being with them out there but I would like the gospel to be able to reach them and continue to reach them and treat them as sheep even if maybe they're acting like a goat. I've seen sheep act like goats before with each other and man they got a powerful headbutt but uh and we can too but I also realize that they are sheep without a shepherd and I don't know of any other scripture and I want to be corrected if I'm wrong, only time is when Jesus said these are sheep and these are goats and I'm not Jesus and I'm thankful for that, I mean I'd like to be like Jesus but I'm not the one in the Judgment seat.

I feel like I've been on a roller coaster I hate to follow a spiritual input of Rosses with an emotional one but we are going to face a tremendous amount of backlash if we leave our group and say we're dropping this and we're dropping that and that's just what some people are waiting for and okay they happen to be people I so I want to leave we're obviously not finished and that means we're growing hopefully rather than giving up I'd like to leave with a strong thrust that we're doing something even better. So I like the idea of the education of that group that are what was the word the group that is traumatized. I know some of them, I'm related to some of them. I love that we can meet their needs but let's not leave with hands up I won the war we're dropping the guidelines but man I feel like I've been like this in the last two months and starting with the guideline team a little bit early and educating myself getting over my anger about the guidelines, making it positive. I kind of feel like um I don't know like I've been left out the last month and I know we can't all be involved but I'm scared.

I'll agree with Ross about the right the sheep and the Goat sheep don't last very long without a Shepherd but neither does a vine neither does a branch last very long if it cuts itself off from the vine. You can put it in a pretty vase. How long will it live? It'll never produce fruit and a sheep that's off on its own and has a lamb it's not going to last. And yes we want to reach them, it Grieves us, it Grieves us when we think of those that say and that just walk away and what do they have in the future?

I think what he's saying is if we're offering them Jesus and they're saying I don't want that I want guidelines it's guidelines that will make me comfortable not Jesus that they're making a choice he's not saying we're saying you're cut off we're the vine but like and that's how I feel with that finding the last one too I'm not saying you're a goat. I'm saying the very best I have to offer is Jesus and if they don't want Jesus if they don't want the words of God that came from Jesus if they don't want the scripture that came from God I have nothing else to offer them. The guidelines actually probably won't make them content either because there was possibly something far deeper and I really care too. I've lost, I mean some of my family members have quit going to meeting. I don't think it's very long before more stop like I'm heartbroken. I'm devastated because it's not just meeting either, it's that they're turning their back and I can tell on other things on Jesus and that matters and I'm devastated but I also know that the best thing I can continue to offer them is Jesus, the best thing I can do is stay firmly on the Rock and if I waver from that what do I really have to offer them? Something that will make them happy on this Earth, something that will make them happy for this lifetime, but lead them to a lost eternity?

I want to offer them Jesus the thing that we know is hope for all eternity. I don't want to offer them anything but that.

I feel like Jesus has shown me a lot of care and I think that's maybe why I love him most and like God is just kind to reassure me and over and over again from the victims the things that seems to be the most hurtful is a lack of care and I think like dropping the guidelines could be seen as a lack of care but I also have concerns about the way the guidelines which written so I guess my question is how can we show care to the victims, how can we actually and I don't even mean that I mean how can we show care to everyone? Is there a positive that can come out of this, that's like how can we show care.

I love how you've just been able to express it, we know our responsibilities to preach the gospel but we're meeting fewer and fewer people in the gospel meetings and so we need to learn how to not be traumatizing within the field. We have to be educated on well like the behavior of Jesus because we might be doing the very thing that's stopping people from being in the meetings.

Sometimes when I say things I don't know people get perturbed so I'm not trying to say things to get people perturbed but you know I mean I just so we roll we roll you know mean guidelines scripture you know with you but and I'm totally exactly like Allison feels and like you. I mean that's how we all feel. I feel like last the reason we need something strong is because there's been horrible overseer mistake after mistake if you look at the last century just mistake after mistake. It goes it's a long

ways. I mean it's just horrible atrocious and you know um so that's where I'm at anyways

It seems to me that it's really hard to know just what direction to go here and I feel like the time will come when it will be clear what direction to go. I don't know is that it's really the time now and it'll all be I don't want to say in so much hopefully among us it will be a collective choice that that we will but I hesitate to say this but so I don't know how many of you younger ones know what happened in Alaska. I was very much involved in that and I really truthfully can enter in to those of you who have really labored for those who are on the edge so to speak. I'm glad there seems to be this understanding that there's an edge both ways. There's an edge both ways and right now which way to go is unclear and I remember there were years in Alaska I was very much aware of that it was an edge both ways and I'm going to share now is when it became clear to me and of course that was a pretty high pressure situation maybe even more so than what's going on right now, overnight when I declared myself that I was no longer with through Truit's doctrine overnight one night one evening, four out of five of the friends in Alaska suddenly became associates of mine and not friends anymore. I don't know if that's going to happen here or not but it could happen and I can totally and I don't really know the situation here I'm glad I'm not involved in these decisions like I said this morning and I said the other day that uh you know one thing I appreciate really appreciate about Daryl but also Brian, Wayne they're doing what they think is right and I want to be a support of that and yeah I just want to work for peace that way.

This is very scary but I think we're kind of at an impass. We're going back and forth and back and forth and saying the same thing with different words. I think we need to let it soak and we need to let car's refreshments refresh this and then maybe another meeting sometime in the future.

So I've actually been wondering can we just set it up so the Lord has to answer. Can we put out the fleece like I don't even know what that would look like but that would be really nice.

Well what have we been doing you know yes Auntie that's right Auntie no specifically just to help us be united as a staff and to feel good about what what's happening and I just look at all of you and I feel like regardless of guidelines, I feel like all of you are going to do what's right in this, we've all been educated we're all wanting to do. I feel we all love our friends, we love those that have left, we love those that are in it, we're trying. I make mistakes, I say things wrong, but I've just prefaced every visit like hey just spit it out and I'm not going to take offense at anything and please don't take offense with me, like I'm just a human being but I feel like we're all I feel like we love the gospel and we want people to get the gospel and we want to be united as a staff and I love you all and I want us all to make it.

We've talked a couple of times of different ones and you know like going back to what Fred said about when things were happening in in Alaska and Karen and I have talked about this and we talk about it like it's way back there but there are still ripples from that that go on today so how come we think that we're going to make a decision now and get it all figured out like in the next couple of years. This is a 30 50 80 year

thing this is not anyway so that helps me just to kind of back up from the intensity of my feelings when I want to yeah

I just want to say one encouraging thing and that is that between Walla Walla last year and Walla Walla this year there was a tremendous change absolutely tremendous last year there weren't that many people some testimonies were disturbed and off some of the workers were disturbed and off and this year there was none of that and it was beautiful and I think if that can happen in one year we're making more progress than we know we are

I was thinking today I don't know when the last time we've actually heard each other pray like it's always the visitors that pray at the workers meetings.

I mean when you speak yes but it's like as far as a group in a studying like this morning we never really actually ever hear each other pray in a setting like that. I'm not suggesting that this has to happen right now or whatever but a year ago in April where were we okay yeah not all of us but yeah but regularly I mean like it's not something it's not something that we actually do much together and I think that actually could be a helpful thing for us pray together or for God to give an answer. I think it could be really helpful if we prayed in a situation like this, not in a workers meeting with all kinds of visitors but we're focused on our problem as a staff and maybe we need to hear each other.