

Por favor responder solo a:

Please reply only to:

[email redacted]

Dear Tim and Beth, I have read and reread your letter and will answer as best I can. I will be very, very frank for this is serious and we can easily improve or agravate the situation. The accusations are serious and we don't doubt there is some justification behind it all. I know you feel Barry has been very slow to react to the case and hesitant to apply disciplinary action, perhaps he has been slower than some others may have been. Still there is a virtrue in moving slowly in a serious matter. We may have a lot less to regret if we move with caution. He is aware and deeply concerned about the situation and I am certain will take necessary action when the time is right. One big problem is the lack of witnesses on the part of either the "victim" or Leslie. Word against word is never convincing. Sure Leslie did make remarks that implicates himself and there has been some others with similar complaints, enough to justify conviction that his conduct is far from acceptable, still a stern warning, as he has received, should be given time to observe if there are changes for the better. I have read over and over Galatians 6:1-2---James 5:19-20---Romans 12:19, chapters that deal with our relation with and reaction to a brother. We may feel to "expose" anothers weakness and sin is to rectify the matter but from all I can read the person who can keep a matter small as possible is the one who will be the greatest help. Paul said "In the spirit of meekness" which to my mind is of vital importance. Motives and methods are as important as the issue itself. Today I read again Isaiah 58, I am impressed by the actions that produced "A repairer of the breach---a restorer of paths to dwell in---a builder of old waste places---the one who raises up the foundation for many generations." All the requirements were conditions for one's own spirit and conduct, "Take away the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, speaking vanity etc." Then comes the desired result and the enduring blessing. Like in almost everything it takes time to produce a harvest from the sowing and we need as we are told "Patience to await the early and later rain." I strongly advise you not to send the letter to all the US overseers, it will receive reaction, tho likely not as you anticipate, it will make this serious matter much worse, it may result in destroying Leslie and give the "victim" (I don't know how else to refer to her) a sense of revenge but it will not help the cause. Some may react favorably but I'm sure the more mature and settled men will consider it unwise. Our enemies would have a ball with such letter, it would be on every contrary web page in the world, repeated and enlarged on, hashed over and exaggerated; your name would be published as a contributor and praised by those who oppose truth. Certainly we wish for a solution, we want an answer, we pray for the peace of the city, we know wrong doing must face the consequences, we pray for the Lord's guidance and timing and for patience to endure until HE sees fit to move. I can ony advise you not to enlarge the problem, leave it in the hands of God and trust it will be rectified in time. I certainly would not wish to see you do something that would cause you deep regrets later. Once a thing is done no amount of regret or even repentance can erase the memory of the deed. We are grateful for the promise of forgiveness but scars do remain, we would like to avoid as many of these as possible. With greetings kind and the good will of all

a brother       Duane