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Subject: An Urgent Plea For Help
Date: May 30, 2016 at 11:22:18 AM MDT
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Naomi

Thank you for taking our call. We sit here totally distressed, devastated and overcome by a situation we find ourselves in. In a place of worship that should be protecting us. We both find the pain we are experiencing to be the equivalent or worse than the loss of our son in 1991. We are seniors but have been blessed with good health to be able serve the kingdom of God in many areas.

Our situation is a sad reality experienced by too many in today's world. A situation in which by any reasonable standards of analysis, we have been systematically, deliberately, progressively, psychologically, emotionally and spiritually abused and isolated from a passion we have for marriage & family ministry. This is by a team leader at First Alliance Church in Calgary starting in December 2014 through to the current day. An experience that started out so well but gradually degenerated to the sad state we find ourselves today. Took away a joy we have in serving the Lord with the gifts he gave us. Demolished our God given talents and spiritual gifts that we have had the joy to serve others with for over 20 years.

Frankly only with the recent disturbing experience where he dismissed us yet again from the ministry for no just reason or evidence did we feel strong enough to make a formal request for an independent investigation of our claims. Our request that would help us find a trusted local advocate to help us prepare and present our case. Not only in our case but to prevent this happening again to others. In discussing this with a trusted friend it was suggested we make contact with Plan to Protect for advice.

We have tried to get advice at the church but the system does not want anyone shaking the boat. What is strange our work and contribution in other parts of the church goes without any fuss.

The brief facts are that twice in the period from January 2015 to the current time the leader took on his own initiative to brutally remove us from being able to serve in the ministry we both love. On both occasions he misused biblical scriptural principals and was not able to give any cause other than his suspicions. We believe on both occasions and others where he has deliberately isolated us from the ministry he took these actions without any consultation with others at the church. He took away any ability to ask reasonable questions and concerns about the running of the ministry. There have been no form of anything resembling a normal team meeting in the period. Simply no transparency. Nobody is allowed to question the actions and decisions made especially on the important issue like confidentiality.

This has caused us great distress and made us seriously question our faith. Certainly the situation we are in today. We have considerable evidence to show what has transpired. Even evidence of challenges in this ministry well before we arrived.

We understand a representative from Plan to Protect will be in Calgary this week. Could we meet or suggest a course of action that will open up a discussion of our claims please so that a resolution and reconciliation process can be started? Find a solution that is God honouring and perhaps sets some standards of expectation for other ministries at this church and others.

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