

## Letter from José about Larry Davis's Departure

Dear Elbert,

Larry and Mary Ann left today. We took them to the airport between Tarbes and Lourdes, from where they were going to Atlanta, where his relatives were going to pick them up. Mary Ann's mother paid for their trip. There was little to be said and really we felt like there was nothing else we could say or do. Last night we had talked to both of them about what had been spoken in the meeting in Island Pond. We pleaded with Larry to consider what he was about to do. We pointed out how he always brought up Dalton and the fact of not having a clear conscience about what happened. But we told him how we have been given a clear conscience for the purpose of doing the Father's will and how our conscience is being awakened and being made sensitive for the purpose of knowing what the Father's will is and judge ourselves when we are not doing what pleases him. We reminded him of what happened to James and how he went against the council of his brothers because he judged that it was something that went against his conscience, but how his conscience went against the conscience of the Body, so therefore there was something unclear about his conscience.

We recalled the meeting in Island Pond about eldership and how he had not accepted the call because of his views on elders and how it would limit him from working extra-locally. How his striving and selfish ambition which was already exposed now had totally thwarted the work of the Lord and come against God's purpose. We told him of the dangerous place that he would place himself in, coming against God's purpose if he went to Dalton or to David Taylor alone, without being sent. All Larry said was, "I have nothing to respond to that." I feel like in his heart he was already gone. Since the day you left, Larry had been covering up the fact that he really wanted to go back and that all those issues he had brought up had not died, but had gotten stronger. He came to me and expressed that he was tired of going on in pretense and he had to do what he felt in his heart. I talked to him about the possibility of going back to Island Pond, but I really wanted to have that judged by John and the others, and also to see if we could help Larry by all of us talking to him. So we did. John's letter tells you what happened.

I feel like John really stood in the gate with Larry and brought out things and made things clear about where Larry was. I knew that there was really something working in Larry that he was covering up and it became evident the day we talked to him that it was striving, because he continued to voice those same things about you and even more (he was really offended about that night when we had communion, your last one here — nothing said about him).

It all had turned to bitterness that went deep and was strong. Larry wanted to paint us the picture that he was really sincere in feeling that he had to clear his conscience about this matter of Dalton and David Taylor, but in actuality he did not want to take on the mind of the Lord and did not agree with how you handled this, but that if he had been in charge, he would have handled it better. I really feel that's what Larry was looking for — to be on top.

Larry, with time, could have won many people's hearts, which really, in purity, is a wonderful gift in the Body, but with the ulterior motives that he had, he would have divided the church against you. People really listened and accepted Larry's council.

I'm sending you several letters of people who wrote to him and how close they were to him, which, if functioning in the Body purely, it is magnificent the gift he had to make friends, but I think that it would be a devastation and damage because of Larry's foundation.

Recently John read and told the story of Korah's rebellion. Korah was not a rebel in the Israel camp who was always stirring up trouble, but he was a son of Levi, a respected man, who was able to bring to his side 250 princes or leaders of the congregation, called and chosen to the assembly, men well-known and of distinction. Another translation says, "well known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. This whole account really spoke to us in the light of what Larry was doing and could do, and how he was coming against God's authority and his anointed ones whom He had appointed to lead the people. Although right now Larry had things against you, which were coming out and only a few knew, they would have increased to where they would have swayed many.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that Korah had things in his heart against God's authority and how it did things, but he just didn't come right out, but he spread his grievances and his mind to others over a period of time until he had even those 250 who were not rebels but distinguished men, and then he brought forth his rebellion. I'm glad the Lord exposed that now in Larry because I really see how great damage it could have brought to the church.

The Little Flock went through this really well. It's been hard for us through all this time, though, and everyone was really sad about them leaving, but the Lord is giving us encouragement now, and everyone is continuing on.

We made a tape for Vermont and for you the weekend after they left and the Lord gave us grace to express our hearts. I hope it brings you encouragement. I was concerned that maybe Josephine would really be affected because of what was happening to Larry and also because of her dad's influence and his relationship with Larry, but Josephine is amazingly a sound person. She is really with us and it really grieved her what Larry was doing. She felt betrayed because she thought of them as friends, but she is realizing that true friends are the ones who lay their lives down for you and never leave you.

Klaus Hahn is doing really well here with us. The time he has been here has been good for them. Things were not as bad with him as we thought. It had been hard for him and there had been a lot of pressure on him, but he came to us in good shape. He's had plenty of time to rest, and he has not lost the zeal and enthusiasm he always had. I think he is going back strengthened.

Our open gates are bringing in all kinds of surprises. Cows walk in once in a while as farmers are passing by with their flocks. Yesterday a carload of people drove in and today, the 23rd, a car drove in while we were at the breakfast table. We looked out, and all of a sudden Tabitha screamed. It was Olivier, the guy from the group in France. He's coming for five days and brought a girl, Bridgette, who is really interested in us. It seems like something is really working in them since the visit we made to them when we went to Germany. We have really been praying for them. It encourages me to think of what the Lord can possibly do here in France.

There is a big house with furniture that is empty and we've talked to the owner about letting us have the furniture and possibly the house. He told us to let him think about it and come back. He did give us, though, a motorbike which we have restored and it's almost ready to go. So we have hope about that place. Everything is going well with the bakery. We have all the equipment and the wiring is set up. All we are waiting for is the electric company to come and install the electricity from the outside. This should happen soon.

Elbert, I feel like everyone is encouraged here and that the Lord is going to begin to do things. Everyone is doing well and the Lord is speaking to people's hearts through the teachings that John has been bringing. Many people have written letters about what the Lord has been speaking to their hearts. I feel like all that is happening is bringing us closer together.

We all love you, Elbert and Marsha. I think that everyone here acknowledges your fatherhood and the faithfulness you express to the Lord through your lives. Martin wrote a neat letter to you appreciating you. He let me read it. We all think of you tenderly. Martin is really doing well. He is being open and has even shared about his life and repented about things openly at the table. I'm getting to know him and we share with each other a lot. He submits things to me and John a lot. I don't think the thing with Larry has shaken Martin.

Kirsten wrote a letter to Johanna which we are sending to you, and also one that Sabine wrote to Pat Sheldon a while back.

Gayle is receiving much grace. I think good things are happening between us.

We love you,

José