



Skip Heitzig Addresses Events of Last Several Weeks
Full letter and Supporting Documents Posted to
www.calvaryabq.org/info/

For Immediate Release

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Albuquerque, NM – Skip Heitzig, founder and chairman of the board for Calvary of Albuquerque, released several documents today with hopes of providing context to the events of the last several weeks and the sudden departure of Pete Nelson as senior pastor. The documents include a letter addressing the more controversial issues raised by critics of the church and past communications to the most vocal critic, former board member Greg Zanetti. The documents were released by Heitzig, who has submitted his resignation as chairman to the board of directors, in an effort to provide factual information that can lead to healing of the church body. The documents were posted today on www.calvaryabq.org.

“I have spent the last few weeks in prayer and seeking godly counsel so that I may lay the events out before you in an orderly fashion,” Heitzig wrote. Citing that Pastor Pete Nelson was under too little supervision, he pointed to board minutes giving Pete “direct and total authority over the operations and ministry activities of CCA.” This control included the nomination of three board members, two from New Mexico and one from outside of the state. One of the New Mexico board nominees included John Ackerman, now a vocal critic of Calvary Chapel.

Heitzig wrote, “as to John Ackerman’s public demand for my resignation along with that of three other board members, this is totally unbiblical but also unethical and impractical. Some of the men who signed this demand have been serving at CCA and never approached me or the Board.” He continued and mentioned that CCA has been running smoothly for over 23 years and has been audited and scrutinized by outside accounting firms.

Putting into context a November 2004 letter from then board member Greg Zanetti, he said that the concerns raised were legitimate and addressed by the board in an ethical and biblical manner. “These were merely matters for discussion and exploration which never became reality,” Heitzig wrote. “It is also important to know that Greg Zanetti, who is distributing allegations to the media, cast an affirming vote for the severance package. In



addition, as President of the Board, Pete Nelson made the motion for Greg Zanetti's resignation, which was adopted unanimously by the board."

In defense of the board, Heitzig wrote that the "men who serve this board from elsewhere have made significant contributions to this ministry and only have its best interests at heart. They have conducted crusades, spoken in our pulpit and provided invaluable guidance from their unique perspectives."

In conclusion, Heitzig reflected on three salient lessons that have emerged: 1) communicating expectations is crucial in any transition; 2) choices must be owned by those who make them – citing that he was the one who asked the church to accept and embrace Pete Nelson; 3) an observation on human nature about how quickly people make judgments based on incomplete information.

The Calvary of Albuquerque board members will meet on Tuesday, March 21 to discuss Skip's letter of resignation as well as discuss other crucial items. The board members include: Gino Geraci, Skip Heitzig, Raul Ries, Paul Saber, Paul Scozzafava, and Michael Rozenblum. John Fidel, a CPA, is on sabbatical from the board until after tax season.

The full text of Skip Heitzig's letter can be found by clicking on the "Skip Heitzig's Resignation Letter" link at www.calvaryabq.org/info/.