



Correspondence
of
Rodger Hedlund

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Correspondence of Rodger Hedlund: CGRC CGAI Take Over

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Events

1969: a year of disturbance, especially our director's appointment, recall to office, etc. (after 5 yrs.)

Jan: Mtg. to revise Const. done.
Consequently Circulated
Applications re'd. for Inst'l. Membership
from several.

June 22: Annual Mtg. - Ex. Com. = acted on
applications; accepted 2; returned
others (4) not clear or complete, including
2 put up at last moment.

June 22: Annual Gen. Body Mtg. = 2 persons
appeared, admitted, now were original mbrs
12 years ago (founding mbrs) having paid dues
2 days prior to mtg. = also insisted on
being part of Committee (committee election).
Pandemonium, shouting. Blatantly ignored
by Vice Chairman. Committee enlarged to 9.
No election held; new Committee did not meet.

July 9: Ex. Com. called (by Spec. Secretary)
with one week notice! = to elect officers. Done,
without ^{the} new trouble-makers getting office. Our vice-
chairman elevated to chairman.

[Proceeding not challenged. 3 members
had given letters objecting to the prior mtg.
which had failed to hold an election.]

(Revealed (by tm #1) that Const. not registered! Our
ex. dir. had lied (when questioned at Gen. Body mtg.)

It means all Jan. wk. must be done over
(but properly this time)

But Committee taken no action!

Interp. / Course

The Gen. Dir. (G. Dir.) appears to have engineered the whole thing for his own protection. He claims that the previous Committee "interfered." They actually asked him to be accountable.

Because I had complained to the G. Dir. about his failure to administer the office, carry out duties, & lack of communication, the attack is directed against me.

To do so he knowingly brought in disreputable persons known to be repugnant from past associations.

Dissatisfaction in fact was directed by the vice-chairman. The director never appears to have worked out a private compromise by which the vice-chairman would be chairman (& raise no further objections against the director). This case was pushed by other mbrs, TN # one, who also suggested seek from "Urban desk" in EGRC — which obviously is intended for the Chairman who previously was sacked from a similar position in World Vision.

COMMENTS: R.E. HEDLUND

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CGAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 22.6.90
CGAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING 22.6.90

1) Question of "Members" - Validity of previous "appointment" without
4/90 on re Dr. Hminga:

COORDINATOR EXPLAINED THAT REPORTS ARE BEING RECEIVED AND
CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS.

[ADDITIONAL: DR. HMINGA'S REPORT WAS INCLUDED IN THE
COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IN JANUARY
TO THE DIRECTOR (AND TO EX.COM. MEMBERS -- BUT NOT CIRCULATED
BY THE DIRECTOR).]

CGAI GENERAL BODY MEETING 22.6.90

4) 19/90 - REV. VIJU ABRAHAM should be on the Executive Committee
Correction: MR. C. D. JEBASINGH WAS NOT PRESENT.

Question: Ezra Sargunam and E.A.G. Moses were not voted on as members.
They were founding members 12 years ago. But for the past 9 years have
failed to participate, attend any of the programmes, or respond to
communications sent or given verbally. Presumably they ceased to remain
members as they no longer met the requirements for membership.

3/90 - NOT CORRECTLY STATED. The Director was questioned by Mr.
E.A.G. Moses as to whether the newly-revised Constitution has been filed
with the Registrar of Societies and whether he had received the attestee
copy. To both questions the Director replied, "Yes."

5/90 - No. A SIX-MONTH Report was presented by the Coordinator,
supplementary to a full and detailed ANNUAL REPORT submitted to the
Director in January (but which he did not circulate).

8/90 - Only a SUGGESTION. The Constitution already SPECIFIES
procedures, which were followed in the cases of those institutional
applications accepted -- following considerable clarifying discussion.

9/90 - New precedent: would set aside the present system of election of
a third of the members BY ROTATION as established in the first election
held under the 1981 revised Constitution.

CGAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. 9.7.90

- 1) Question of "Members"? Validity of previous "appointment" without election?
- 2) R.Hedlund: a "Special Invitee"? - (Never before: always present and recorded as the Coordinator).
- 3) Election of Chairman? (Already serving as VICE-chairman, with term for one more year. Question of moral qualification could be raised, the issue being his ongoing court case against World Vision India which is one of our past and present benefactors).
- 4) 19/90 - REV. VIJU ABRAHAM should be on this committee, as our Exec. Com. member best qualified in this field and actually involved in urban ministry and a respected authority.
- 5) 21/90 - Not correct. According to the original resolution the SECRETARY, not the Director, was to carry out the revision. (The Secretary in fact requested the membership list in order to carry out the task, assisted, perhaps, by the Director).

GAI Ex. Com. Annual Mtg. 22.6.90

4/90 (re. Dr. Amiga: Coordinator explained that reports are being received and circulated to members)

additional

[Further: included in Coordinator's Annual Report submitted in Jan. to Director & Ex. Com. mbrs. - but not circulated.]

Gen Body Annual Mtg. 22.6.90.

① @ Dr. Amiga NOT Present

LQ: Ex. Com. members & Ex. Com. mbrs not read as members, after lapse of at least 6 years, failure to participate or respond to communications sent.]

3/90 } NOT correctly stated: Director was questioned as to whether revised Const. had been filed with the Registrar of Societies & whether attached copy was rec'd. To both Qs, the reply was "yes."

5/90 } a six-month Report was presented by the Coordinator; supplementary to a full & detailed Annual Report presented to the Director in Jan. (but not circulated)

8/90 = only a suggestion. Constitution already specifies procedures, which were followed in cases of mbrs rec'd.

9/90 = new precedent would set aside the present system of election of 1/3 mbrs by rotation as est'd. in the first election under the 1981 revised constitution.

Ex. Com. Mtg. 9.7.90.

- 1) Q. of "mbres" ? / validity of previous "appointed" without election?
- 2) R&A: a special invitee? (fish time on record)
- 3) Election of Chmn? (Already serving vice-chmn, for one more year) (Q. of moral qualification not raised = issue; restoring total exxe against WV India, one of our benefactors).
- 4) 19/90 = [Rev. Viju Abraham should be on this committee, as mbr best qualified and actively involved in urban min.]
- 5) 21/90 = ROT director: but secretary! acc. to original resolution (director, as directed by the Secretary, was requested the list)

25 June, 1990

Rev. Samuel D. Stephens, Secretary
CHURCH GROWTH ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
P. Bag 512
Egmore, Madras - 600 009

Dear Rev. Stephens,

I am writing to request that you call another meeting in order to elect members to the Executive Committee. According to Clause 13 of the Constitution, "Matters on which unanimity is not possible at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of those present." In the meeting on 22nd June, 1990, ^{since} there was no unanimity in the selection of members to the Executive Committee *could not be done without voting.*

Further, according to Clause 14 d, "The Executive Committee shall be elected by General Body by casting of votes." Several times I called for an election by ballot, but I was ignored by the Choir or could not be heard in the general pandemonium. Because of the uproar the election could not be done. There was no vote. *There were only suggestions and loud demands for representation to the Executive Committee and the meeting came to an end without voting and without a proper election of the Executive Committee.* Consequently the Executive Meeting could not be held, and there are ^{new} *no office bearers* ^{depend to carry on the work of the Society.} We must hold another meeting to elect the Executive Committee. I request you as the outgoing secretary to take the necessary steps.

Many thanks.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Roger E. Hedlund

5 July, 1990

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. Samuel D. Stephens
Salem

Dear Sam:

In addition to the enclosed copies, etc., I add some further reflections. I have confidence that God is in control. I am most grateful for your efforts to salvage the situation. We can meet, if possible, to discuss contingencies. Meanwhile,

1. SEQUENCE. Since the plan was known as far back as March/April, I think we can rule out the scent of possible inheritance (May) as the motivating factor. Perhaps an article in EMQ re.the abuse of mission for money is a cause for retaliation, except that it appeared only in July '90 and cases are from North India and California with no one identified. The timing seems rather to date to a February event, namely the IMA gathering of promoters of major A.D.2000 schemes. Without CGAI/CGRC approval or awareness, our director was fully engaged in that IMA programme. Very likely the contacts were cemented and the scheme hatched beginning there. The fact is that some have had serious misgivings about that meeting, but that is another matter.

2. PROTECTION. You will need expert guidance in wording the minutes so that the failure to elect the committee can be shown. That is exactly what happened. I have full confidence in you in this matter. The fact that I may not be able to attend the meeting must not deter. I am simply too busy with our programme which includes long-standing engagements that cannot be changed. It does not mean that I have withdrawn.

It does mean that if anything happens so that I have to leave India, or Madras, the trouble-makers will be held accountable. I am quite prepared, if necessary, to finalize a statement naming names together with information and other evidence (safely filed with reliable sources) to be revealed in the event of anything suspicious happening to me personally, to my family members, or to our church growth and mission organization. Any accessories must realize, of course, that they also become liable as accomplices in violent or unlawful acts.

3. ACTION. Now the necessary first step is to get the trouble-makers off the Committee. Our work is at stake. The confidence of our clientele will

be destroyed by the presence of questionable characters on the Committee. Security becomes a problem. CGRC stands to lose its credibility. This has already happened in some quarters because of other reasons, but some of them still are prepared to work with us and help us. That will not be the case if controversial individuals or persons perceived as unreliable are permitted into the management. We have every reason to be suspicious of persons who have shown no interest to suddenly appear insisting on representation and membership! On the other hand, we prefer members who are known to contribute to the smooth operation of the organization and who have been positively involved with us. It is reasonable, therefore, to appoint members from our clients, major donor agencies, and proven friends.

Something positive must be done to secure our continuing programme, ministry, operation, organization and (if possible) property.

It will help if the two institutional memberships received are allowed to stand. Then I think we must further tighten up the provision so that we are not faced with potential multiple memberships which in reality represent one entity. We rightly turned back the other applications for this reason, despite the fact that they represented friends and associates with whom we desire a close relationship. At the same time we reserve the right to reject any application. That power must be kept in legitimate hands.

Further, should not the Conservative Baptist Mission Trust apply for membership? Almost the total building fund/study centre/headquarter project was given through CBMT. On behalf of the donors I am under concern and obligation to protect this investment. Or is there a better, safer procedure? Feel free to share this CONFIDENTIAL LETTER with your legal or other competent counsel.

Again, I appreciate all you are doing, pray for you and count on you. Though you are not eligible for a further Committee term at this time, I feel we need to secure your guidance in some way for the next year at least. Could we consider that? We really need management, proper administration.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Roger E. Hedlund

P.S. I failed to mention that it is highly possible our six-seven month "furlough" may come in 1991, from January or February. It will have to be decided soon as I have been asked to teach at Biola University during that time. Nothing is finalized yet, but Dr. Tuggy (CBFMS) also must know soon. I will meet him in August. In any case, I would recommend that Dr. Tuggy be requested to include Madras on his next itinerary in order to meet with CGAI whether or not I am present on the field at that time.

I hope our director might appreciate the fact that I am the one who spoke up in his favour when it appeared the Committee was prepared to let him go during our prolonged meetings last year to resolve his problems related to his re-call by the Diocese. Also in the discussions over his questionable use of our funds for a costly audio-visual project in the name of "CGRC self-support development", I was the one who suggested we terminate discussion inasmuch as he had promised to repay the Rs.15,000. In this as in other matters I thought he should have realized I was acting as his friend. I would not be a friend if I had failed to bring to his attention certain lapses and serious issues affecting our purpose and programme that were being raised by constituents and clients. It appears he has not understood this.

He should also know that I have not been vindictive. The same applies to the trouble-makers who have come in. I had every opportunity. The names came up during my visits at certain institutions, but I did not comment in any way. Nor did I contact our director's supporting agency even though I had originally recruited their sponsorship and we would like a clearer understanding about our present relationship. Probably our director does not know that last year I was questioned about his appointment, but that I assured the sponsors that all was well because the whole thing was a question of re-call to the Diocese which had been resolved. Unfortunately our director himself appears to have spread the word worldwide that he was having difficulty over his appointment! That at least is what had been reported by an Indian Christian leader in Singapore a year ago. When questioned I quashed the report.

He should perhaps also realize that I have tried to help him in the area of further training. Through my recommendation he attended the Communication training course in Thailand. Later I suggested his need for further preparation to Dean Pierson at SWM. Despite recent events, I have not in any way interfered with our director's intended study plans. In fact, through McGavran Institute, we have tried to help him. Cecil and I first discussed with him then planned and offered the SWM ISP course on

Anthropology at our office for his convenience beginning in February. Others joined the course, being managed by Cecil, but our director did not. I had explained that we hoped in this way to offer him an easy transfer credit--at no cost! We are happy to hear that he has obtained the History course in the same programme, and, as discussed earlier, we would also like to offer this to an interested group through McGavran Institute. It was my suggestion that our director enroll in the ISP programme, and I made the initial overtures to Dr. Pierson at SWM who responded by offering our director a half-tuition scholarship. I then purchased the materials for the Anthropology course. All of this, I trust, is evidence of my goodwill toward all concerned.

Sorry for the long recital, but perhaps it may be helpful to you as you try to mediate so many strands of an unfortunate and potentially tragic situation. REH.

A Personal Statement Not Read or Made Public *

1. According to Clause 13 of the Constitution, "Matters on which unanimity is not possible at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of those present." In the meeting on 22nd June, 1990, since there was no unanimity the selection of members to the Executive Committee could not be done without voting. Further, according to Clause 14 d, "The Executive Committee shall be elected by General Body by casting of votes." Several times an election by ballot was called for, but apparently this could not be heard in the general pandamonium. Because of the uproar the election could not be done. There was no vote. There were only suggestions and loud demands for representation on the Executive Committee and the meeting came to an end without voting and without a proper election of the Executive Committee.

2. At this time I feel the need to convey to this group of friends certain personal apprehensions. I have found it necessary to take certain steps for my protection. In the event of any peculiar "accidents" to me, my family members, or the church growth or mission organizations, or other suspicious events, a document--given for safe keeping to persons known to me--will reveal names, evidence and other information to be revealed to the various authorities. Any accomplices should realize that they also would become liable as accessories to any unlawful or violent acts. If anything is done so that I have to leave India or Madras, the same procedure will apply. This group, I feel, needs to know.

In addition, a further statement is being prepared about the attempted destruction of CGRC, recording names and incidents to be filed for publicizing the identified responsible persons.

3. Having stated the above, I go on to declare that I believe God is in control. Moreover God is a God of order. I do not believe He will permit the Devil's destruction of what has been accomplished for the Glory of God and His Kingdom. It appears time, however, that this body be called before the Lord in prayer for repentance and forgiveness. That will only take place, I believe, not through a perfunctory opening prayer and benediction. It would seem quite in order that we declare an extended period of waiting upon God -- without which all "business" of the body should be declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

** A confidential copy was given to Rev. Vasanthanaj who made a full page reply dated 11 July 1990.*

Aug.
11 July, 1990, evening

Rev. Vasantharaj, CGRC
Egmore, Madras

PERSONAL

Dear Vasanth,

Tomorrow I am off to Korea. Today I had wanted to see you. Apart from this morning's reply to your letter of yesterday. But I understand you have gone out with the family. I am happy that you can have some time together with relatives.

Whatever or whoever it is that has caused you to turn against me in a vindictive way, I just wanted you to know that I have loved you. Apparently you do not see it that way, but I have always wanted the best for you. I am the one who brought you here, who trusted you, and handed everything over to you. I don't know if it is the McGavran Institute that seems a threat to you, but it is no threat and I am no threat.

Perhaps a mistake has been made in the division of duties? As an academic person and educator, I have continued in the role of leading the McGavran Institute, our training wing. You were put in charge of research and, as director, of administration. But I think we may have been wrong in making you responsible for areas that may not be your strong points or preference? Thinking this might be the case, during last March or April I drew up a different job description/proposal which I was unable to discuss with you. I did leave a copy for you. My intention and hope was to be able to rectify a widening rift.

Apart from that, I have tried to encourage you in the area of further training. Through my recommendation you attended the Communication training course in Thailand. Later I suggested the possibility of your further studies to Dean Pierson at SWM. As a result of this initial overture, you were enrolled in the SWM ISP programme and Dr. Pierson provided a half-tuition scholarship for your first course. Despite recent events, I have not in any way interfered with your intended study plans. In fact, through McGavran Institute, I had hoped to help you by getting you transfer credit for the Anthropology course. All of this, I trust, is evidence of my goodwill. It still stands.

In fact I would like to offer a further suggestion, if I may. If CNEC

requires you for deputation for important mission conferences such as the Peoples' Church in April and May, I feel you should go and then stay on to begin your SWM studies in June. Fuller offers a rich variety of summer courses. It is also an excellent time to complete a number of ISP subjects. This would make your further study load much easier. I offer this for your consideration. It is one of the things I had wanted to discuss.

I sense that you have hurts in other areas. Perhaps it is for some of these that you blame me, e.g. your further appointment last year. You may not realize it, but I am the one who spoke up in your favour, during our prolonged meetings last year relating to your re-call by the Diocese, when it appeared the Committee was prepared to terminate your appointment. Also in the controversy over the CGRC self-support audio-visual project, I was the one who got them to terminate discussion and accept your promised repayment.

Unfortunately last year overseas as well as in India gossip was spread that you were having difficulty over your appointment. When questioned, I put a stop to the rumour by telling those who asked (both in CNEC and in Singapore) that it was all a question of your re-call to the Diocese which had been resolved. Therefore please accept this lengthy recital as a plea for forgiveness for any and all wrongs. Let us restore the broken relationship in a Christian way.

Yours sincerely,

Roger E. Hedlund

P.S. Please consult Cecil as to any appointments or events that I might have overlooked in communications to you. As of yesterday, the DISCREET meeting of a few grass-roots persons, to be led by Bro. George David (January past Planning Conference recommendation), is fixed for mid-January 1991 in Bangalore and should be blocked out in the calendar (though not circulated or publicized): arrival on 9th; three full days of consultation, 10-12; departure on 13th.

You realize, of course, that I spend considerable time instructing Cecil as part of his training. This is not an intended by-pass of you or anyone else. Hope this clarifies. RH



CHURCH GROWTH RESEARCH CENTRE

Post Bag 512, 13/2, Aravamuthan Garden Street,
Egmore, Madras 600 008 INDIA Tel. 8255372
(Behind Hotel Dasaprakash)

Rev. S. Vasantharaj Alber
Executive Director

Dr. R. E. Hedlund
Coordinator & Lecturer

September 27, 1990

From : The Executive Director

To : The Executive Committee Members
CGRC.

Dear friends,

You would have received my previous letter. I want to share an important and urgent matter with you for your guidance.

As you know that Dr. Lal Hminga is the part time lecturer of McGavran Institute in North East India. Fifty percent of his salary comes from the Southern Baptists who have promised to pay rupees eighteen thousand this year. So far we have received rupees nine thousand only and I am sure the remaining amount of Rs.9,000 will be received by the end of 1990-91. But we have already sent Rs.15,000/- until August, 1990 to Dr. Hminga towards his salary. With the payment of Rs.3,000 for September the entire amount promised by Southern Baptist is over. We do not have any other source to pay Dr. Hminga from October, 1990. No fund is available with us at present. Please guide me what should I do at this critical time. I appreciate your guidance on this matter.

I am leaving for Dornakal, A.P. today evening for two training programmes and will be back on October 7, 1990. Please pray for my ministry.

Dornakal is the place where Mano and I were missionaries. I am taking my family with me this time. This is their first visit after we left Dornakal six years back.

Yours in Him.

(Rev. S. Vasantharaj Albert)
Executive Director.