Dear Reverend and Sister Yorke,

Greetings in the name of the Lord! I wanted to take a moment share with you what has transpired around and about us, in N.T.C.C., as well as the future that God has for us. Also, I felt it necessary to set the record straight, by explaining my side of the story and the reasons leading to my fateful decision. Let me begin by saying that this has not been an overnight decision, but one that has been given much prayer and consideration. Neither was this the result of an impulsive, emotional response, but rather it was a decision that has been weighed carefully upon the altar of prayer for many years.

As you well know, my wife and I have a proven history of faithfulness. From the beginning, in New Orleans, never once did a thought of departure enter into my mind, but over the course of the past few years, in dealing with the leadership some very troubling things have been uncovered. In conversations, at all levels, I have listened to their opinions, ideas and goals, both in board meetings and in their own homes, and it has become quite evident that N.T.C.C. has drifted off course into spiritual compromise.

For the past 17-plus years, since my wife and I have been involved with this organization, everything has been perceived to be correct. For this reason we gave our life’s blood in laboring passionately to see it’s vision fulfilled. When we started, the heart of N.T.C.C. was right. The motivation was love for God and love for souls, and nothing else. True holiness was embraced and compromise was fought. Our mission was clear; it was just as we were taught in Practical Theology class, “Our Mission is not to hold the gains achieved, nor to build a name for ourselves or our denomination, not to prepare ourselves for comfortable positions of ease and comfort. Our mission is to lay down our lives in towns and provinces (either at home or abroad) where the Full Gospel message is not known. We have not been saved to live out normal lives, but saved to be dead indeed to ourselves and alive unto God and His passion for unsaved men..... Our leadership of tomorrow must not be dedicated to look upon their own things, but also upon the things of others.... not to selfishly hold the God-called leaders in our own church but to encourage them to carry the gospel to neighboring towns....” We were a tight family with a spirit of unity thriving among us, a cohesion that gave everyone a sense of fellowship and belonging. It was a bond so strong that, even though miles apart physically, we remained knit together in spirit. When we went to conference, it really was a family reunion. Even as the Lord blessed and we grew larger, the spirit of unity remained the same. At that time growth had no affect on it.

Our passion, during that time, was reaching the unsaved, driven by a deep love for God and lost humanity. Our Practical Theology notes outlined to us the dangers that brought down prior organizations and warned us of what may happen if we repeat their mistakes. “Through the centuries church history bears testimony to the fact that as church groups grow older they become fossilized in institutionalism. The master passion to win souls and establish churches is supplanted by a desire to conserve the gains made and to work for the status quo of a present organization. A denomination of Protestantism becomes more interested in developing its sundry institutions than in developing new Assemblies. It becomes more interested in highly polishing its leadership and in providing for their security than for awakening a consuming passion in its youth to lay down their lives for Christ and the extension of His kingdom. Its emphasis turns to saving its peoples lives rather than to pouring them out in the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings. Its focus is not the next towns for Christ, but a carnal contentment with its own glory. It turns from building churches of newly redeemed living stones to the building of cathedrals or semi-cathedrals of stone and mortar. It becomes more interested in
establishing its own name than in shedding abroad the fame of the Prince of Calvary." We shuddered at even the thought of compromising or slowing down as many of our predecessors had. We sought to avoid the pitfalls that had claimed the other groups, the spiritual compromises which brought about their demise. We knew our enemy and we fought it with might and never in the course of our time has the subject of departure ever crossed our minds, except until recently.

Today, N.T.C.C. is no longer what it once was. This is not at all a reference to the apparent growth in numbers, licensed ministers, churches and assets. This is a reference to something deeper and something spiritual. Over the course of the last five years, in dealing with various people, it has become obvious that the mission and emphasis has changed. It used to be all about reaching souls with a deep-seeded love and compassion to help. Now, the spoken, underlying goal and objective has become the pursuit of individual happiness. The fiber in the hearts of many has become evil and selfish and the pursuit of personal agenda and success has taken precedence over meeting the need of the people. First love and love for souls were things which once moved us and now we are pushing the program. God has only one program. It begins in prayer and righteous living and it produces results, i.e. souls saved, filled with the Holy Ghost and sanctified! There has been a total departure from our first love. The love that is now, if any, is only superficial and artificial, because real agape love has been traded for P.R. There is drive in people, but drive for the wrong reasons. In this new era of numbers growth, people are now viewed as only a means to generate church finances and to produce an increase in church attendance. We are losing them with a business type love, enough to secure their tithe and continued attendance, but Jesus said that it was better to give than to receive. Why have we changed so much? Is the ministry only about new homes, new computers and the development of our own families? I realize that there is a place for houses, lands and material things, however these are not to be what our heart beats for. The ministry is not a means to a selfish end, it’s not a vehicle for the production of personal wealth, but rather it is a selfless life of dedication fueled by the love of Calvary. Furthermore, various types of worldly entertainment that were at one time forbidden and declared to be sinful are now embraced within the hierarchy and worldliness and innovation have replaced holiness and the leadership of the Holy Ghost.

These things have caused a gap in the organization. There is now an ever-increasing gap between those being swept away in this wave of selfishness and those who are clinging to the things we were founded upon; love, prayer, true holiness, dedication to God in spiritual things, and the unity of the Spirit. The cohesion that once sealed us together has eroded and has been displaced by constant racial tension. The heart of N.T.C.C. is being destroyed by a feud and lack of unity. We have taken every measure possible to stop this from happening. We have labored long in prayer, tried to make peace, given love in spite of the hatred and jealousy, and on many occasions tried to influence change, both directly and indirectly, but all to no avail.

In God, politics should never be an issue, however, today, in the organization, there is now an environment of politics. It is whom you know and whether or not you fit a certain profile. There is a feeling of pressure in the minds of those who are around and those they are raising up that if they don’t play the politics game, if they don’t kiss up to this one and that one, and if they don’t jockey for a position or an appointment that they will never get anywhere in God. Appointment based upon human qualities is not Heaven’s mode of operation. What ever happened to divine appointment, certified by heaven and confirmed by the backing of the Holy Ghost with signs following? It seems that spiritual qualifications are not necessary. Such things have been replaced by human qualities; i.e. skin color, refinement of speech, etc. There is also the issue of partiality and inconsistencies in the fair treatment of ministers based on family and relationship. Family relationship and friendship have been the criteria that have been given precedence over character, spirituality, and divine
confirmation. This type of partiality has superseded true, sound judgment. Such has created a ruling class. It has discouraged the sincere and it is contributing greatly to the ruin of N.T.C.C. And, by all means, this is not an attack on any specific individual. No, it is far greater and larger a problem than one individual, but the failure of a system that once was great, but has gone awry. It is not an individual to blame, but a system.

Perhaps the most sorrowful part of this whole dilemma is the gross failure of not addressing and correcting these issues. There is a crime in the horrifying negligence of these things or turning a blind eye in spite of multiple attempts, both directly and indirectly, to make these issues known. The observers standing by have closed their eyes and refused to acknowledge these obvious malignancies. They have chosen rather to follow the destructive path of worldliness, material achievement, self-enrichment and human legacy. In various ways we have fought for change, praying for the madness to end, knowing the impact that this would have and the sorrow it would bring, but all of our efforts have been in vain. The message has been sent to us and we have heard it loud and clear, ‘We don’t want to change and we aren’t going to change.’ You see, we did not just leave, but rather we were pushed out of the door. Our departure was not deliberate, neither had we any joy in it. In our hearts, we didn’t want this to be the end, we would much rather see the Lord correct the many ruinous evils, God knows, but there is no longer any room left for those who cling to the founding principles of holiness, love and spiritual dedication.

In Christianity we follow men as they follow Christ. When the leadership of an organization ceases to follow the direction of God they cause those who are following them to also cease from following God, but the Bible says in Acts 5(21) that “we ought to obey God rather than men” and in Acts 5:38-39 “if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.” If 35 years ago it was okay for God to raise up a new organization then why is it not okay now? There have been several accusations made against us and God knoweth, but the question is not who is on House of Prayer’s side or who is on NTCC’s side, but who is on the Lord’s side?

For the record, this was not a departure to fulfill my own selfish or personal desires and it is not a departure from service unto God, but because it is the Lord that has called us to do a work for Him, we are continuing to serve Him, taking heed to and fulfilling the ministry that we have received from Him. I asked the Lord for guidance and direction, and after nights and nights of prayer He has deemed it necessary that an organization be created, one that has and holds the same founding principles, ideals and doctrines that N.T.C.C. had at its outset. The doctrinal structure is the same. Of course, because this departure was not the result of a personal compromise of holiness in mine or my wife’s life, neither was it due to a doctrinal issue, but rather the Lord’s response to a failed system that was once right and successful; therefore, we are laboring to reach the lost in all cities and countries, reaching out to all classes of people, from the ghettos to the suburbs, not just focusing our resources on the evangelism of one city. Our mission statement is purely the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20) (Mark 16:15). We desire to reach the lost at all costs, from the west to the east, to the uttermost parts of the earth. Our vision is not just the creation of a name or the building of a church in only one city, but to prepare the world for the coming of the Lord. We presently have works in California, Washington, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee and Missouri. We are also pursuing opening new works in Louisiana, Arizona, New York and Oklahoma with many more to come!

We now have Bible Colleges in Hinesville, GA and Fayetteville, NC and soon to be in Washington and California. They are Bible Colleges where God-called men and women can be trained in prayer and dedication, along with being adequately furnished with the knowledge of the Word of God, so that they will be able to work
together in unity and peace, apart from politics and prejudice, and at the direction of Holy Ghost to effectively reach this world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit.

The Lord has provided a place where we all can pray with organized prayer meetings, where collective prayer won't be ridiculed, or devalued as unnecessary, but a place where it will be given the same priority and emphasis that was given to it by the early church. Not some loud and uncontrolled shouting session as some have alleged, but rather a place where we all may sincerely seek the face of our God together, according to the Biblical pattern. We have been living under a blanket of fear for years that if a man or woman operated outside of N.T.C.C. that he or she would be damned to hell. This, however, is not true, because no single organization can effectively evangelize the entire population of the earth in sufficient time. That is unreasonable.

N.T.C.C. was once a great organization, raised up by God to reach the world and carry the standard of holiness, but greed, racism, politics, family partiality, lack of vision, desire for human legacy, and lack of love have terminally wounded its soul. If these things go uncorrected imminent death will be unavoidable.

This, by no means, was an overnight decision, nor is it an attempt to discredit the organization, but simply to establish a clear record of the facts, one that is not clouded with speculation or supposition, one that isn't as some may accuse, "Only in our eyes." We are sure that the accusations will fly, "They were proud. They were prejudice. They just wanted more money. They were jealous. Etc." But our record speaks for itself. You and I both know the certainty of these problems. More than that, the Lord Himself knows. We are not leaving, because we want to, but because we have been given no choice and, honestly, there is no animosity in our hearts, but there still remains a deep love for Pastor and Sis. Davis and all of the brethren. This was our family. As I said, our record of love, care and loyalty speaks for itself. We wish it could be another way, but the time has come for us to move on.

This, by no means is an attempt to proselytize, but an explanation to set the record straight and an invitation if you would desire to join. Such a decision should not be hasty, but God-directed; therefore much prayer over this matter is requested. A Holiness, Trinitarian, Full Gospel church organization has been established. It is called House of Prayer Christian Churches of America, Inc. All who are interested may join. Materials relating to House of Prayer Christian Churches of America, Inc. have been included for your reference. Please feel free to call me anytime at (912) 492-2620. God bless you!

For His Glory,

R. Denis
February 26, 2004

Dear Rev. Yorke,

Greetings in the name of the Lord! We welcome you to House of Prayer Christian Churches of America, Inc. We thank God for your recent stand for righteousness and are encouraged by your unwavering resolve to follow the Lord. We know that you made a difficult choice in departing from N.T.C.C., but as we all know, the facts are the facts and our decision was not in vain, but ordained by the Holy Ghost. All throughout time, the Lord has always been with the minority, especially when the minority seeks God. Though we are the minority, the Lord is with us and together we shall overcome.

Having made a bold stand for righteousness, we feel you have demonstrated to God and to us those qualities becoming of ordination in the ministry. Therefore, it is our esteemed honor and privilege to ordain you a Minister of the gospel with House of Prayer Christian Churches of America, Inc. With heaven’s seal of approval upon us, we have a bright and promising future that awaits. We look forward to laboring together with you to reach the world for Jesus Christ. We will see you soon and expect the Lord’s blessings and many victories in the conferences and fellowship meetings to come. As we go forward, if you ever need anything, please don’t hesitate to call on us, because we are here to help and to serve.

For His Glory,

Rev. R. Denis

Rev. A.F. Bradeen

Rev. E.P. Hanna

Rev. R. Denis
(912) 492-2620

Rev. A.F. Bradeen
(912) 572-7972

Rev. E.P. Hanna
(912) 492-5636