

Adultery, fraud, false testimony, intimidation, and the rape of a minor.

A plea for the General Assembly of the PCA to investigate MTW missionary Kenton Wood and MTW International Director TE Steve Robertson regarding a number of serious allegations of sinful behavior.

To: The General Assembly of the PCA

C.C. Nashville Presbytery

According to highly credible allegations that have already been corroborated, an underage girl was raped in the home of a MTW missionary by an adult member of the missionary's family.

Did the MTW/PCA missionary (Kenton Wood, in whose home the crime happened) respond biblically to these disturbing allegations? Did MTW's International Director of the Americas (TE Steve Robertson) faithfully respond to this tragedy and scandal by personally travelling to Guadalajara or at least sending a representative to meet with the devastated and understandably upset family or did he simply ignore the grieving father's pleas for a face to face meeting?

It would seem from this and several other scandals that have all occurred in just one of MTW's mission fields that MTW and the PCA have learned very little from the sexual scandals that have done so much to damage the reputation of the Roman Catholic church, Hillsong, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

This case of sexual abuse is not an isolated incident amongst the MTW/PCA missionaries here in Guadalajara, Mexico. Abuse of religious authority, sexual misconduct, and other immoral and illegal activities (including adultery, fraud, embezzlement, abuse, false accusations, etc.) have routinely been both covered up and have been actively participated in by the local MTW/PCA missionaries as well as MTW leadership back in the States.

It is not that people haven't brought these issues to the attention of the PCA and MTW repeatedly. They have. However, the people that have spoken up about these various moral violations and civil crimes have faced intimidation from MTW employees including financial and reputational attacks¹.

I will attempt to give a brief history of just a few of these incidents here with the hope that the PCA will not follow the foolish road of the Roman Catholic church, Hillsong, or the SBC but will conduct a full investigation into Mission to the World and will call to account any of their members who have either actively participated in or turned a blind eye to the sin and corruption.

I want to be clear that this is not an attack on MTW missionaries as a whole. I am sure that many faithful missionaries are currently serving God and His kingdom all over the globe. For their sake, but more importantly for the sake of the Name of Jesus Christ among the nations, I plead with the General Assembly of the PCA to take the following testimony and evidence seriously and to promote the kind of face-to-face repentance and reconciliation that will purge the leaven of sin from the MTW/PCA lump for the glory of Christ and His Church.

¹ See: Appendix #5 and Appendix #6

Who I am is not very important. Compared to the highly politically and economically positioned Kenton Wood and Steve Robertson, I am a relative nobody. However, if anyone wants to know who I am, I will include a brief excerpt from my letter to the Nashville Presbytery in the footnotes².

Returning to the sexual abuse mentioned at the beginning of this letter; the road to the rape of this minor in Guadalajara was paved by many small steps over a period of nearly a decade.

Many years ago, MTW missionaries Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Trotter and TE Steve Robertson (who were part of the same church plant here back then) became aware that fellow MTW missionary Paul Fisher had committed adultery. Any reasonable church leader would have considered this an enormous red flag and would have immediately removed Paul Fisher from active ministry to get him and his marriage the help he and his wife so obviously needed.

This didn’t happen. The MTW missionaries simply hid the matter from the local church and their fellow MTW missionary (Paul Fisher) was allowed to continue in ministry as if nothing was wrong. I do not believe that I need to belabor the point of why it is enormously foolish to allow a sexually unfaithful man to continue in a position of spiritual authority over potentially vulnerable people.

When MTW missionary Paul Fisher was caught cheating again with a different woman by his own daughter, he promised his daughter that he would stop and once again the adultery was covered up. However, the cheating didn’t stop and Paul was once again caught again by another of his daughters and he was finally removed from ministry. Not of course by his fellow MTW missionaries who had only hidden his sin. Having moved on to other projects, fellow missionaries Larry Trotter and Steve Robertson were no longer in Guadalajara to continue covering up the adultery and so I, as the only ordained minister of the local church at that point, asked MTW missionary Paul Fisher to step down from ministry and worked to get him the help he needed.

However, Paul Fisher proved to be so hardened in his sin that he was eventually excommunicated from the local church by the elders after a very long and arduous attempt at restoration.

What did MTW do with the knowledge that this unrepentant serial adulterer who was separated from his wife had been excommunicated? They did fire him to get him off the official roles (a PR necessity at this point). However, MTW (through MTW missionary Kenton Wood), quickly locally rehired this known sexually immoral man to preach and serve as music minister in one of the congregations of his church while in the state of excommunication. Which is to say, while continuing in unrepentance, Paul Fisher was once again given spiritual authority over potentially vulnerable people by MTW. This is outrageously irresponsible and foolish behavior.

PCA TE Steve Robertson was aware of all of this, not only because he had served on the mission field here in Guadalajara and personally knew everyone involved in the situation, not only because he had helped cover up Paul’s previous adultery in the past, but also because he was now Kenton’s supervisor as International Director

² “My name is Thomas Robert Kunkel Jr. Christ saved me over a quarter century ago through the faithful witness of my mother, the daughter of a Presbyterian Scottish immigrant, through the love and patience of one of the founding members of the PCA, and through the solid preaching of a PCA church planter who planted a church near the college that I was attending. Also, for what it is worth, I have a master’s degree in theology from Westminster Theological Seminary having studied under some of the most influential Presbyterian professors and ministers of our times, for which I am enormously grateful. For over a decade now I have served alongside my Mexican-born wife in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico as an ordained minister of the INPM1, nine years of which were served in a church called Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) that was planted by the PCA through Mission to the World (MTW). That is to say, I not only have over a quarter-century of connection with the PCA but also over a decade of experience working alongside MTW missionaries.... My primary purpose with this letter isn’t to defend my name. Christ clearly told us in the Scriptures that as His followers we would be hated so attacks on our name as ministers of the Gospel is to be expected. However, the fact that sin is being willfully committed in the name of the PCA, MTW, but above all Christ Himself has caused such pain and division in the Lord’s Church here in Guadalajara that it should be of deep concern to anyone who, like myself, have been so richly blessed and edified by God through the PCA.” (Excerpt from my letter to the Nashville Presbytery dated 01/24/2022)

of the Americas for MTW. TE Steve Robertson made no visible effort to put a stop to this high-handed scandalous behavior against Christ and His kingdom for over a year. It wasn't until I, as a local pastor, questioned Kenton's behavior before the local presbytery here in Guadalajara that Paul Fisher was eventually removed from his position of authority.

Did Kenton Wood or TE Steve Robertson finally admit that Kenton Wood hiring a known, unrepentant adulterer was flagrantly wrong? No. On the contrary, in a case of abuse of authority and intimidation, TE Steve Robertson gave provably false testimony against me on MTW letterhead³ and then used what he knew to be lies to try and pressure my home PCA church to no longer support my family and I on the mission field. I will include my letters to TE Steve Robertson's presbytery (Nashville) which contains the context, as well as evidence, of his sinful behavior along with this letter⁴.

As outlined in my letter to the Nashville Presbytery, TE Steve Robertson made his false accusations against the explicit rules of both the Book of Discipline of the INPM⁵ and the BCO of the PCA⁶. Under what authority are MTW missionaries? Can they simply flaunt both the PCA's rules as well as the rules of the local denomination in which they are serving? Is there anyone to whom they are directly accountable in a judicial/discipline sense or are they only "accountable" in an internal/corporate sense? Which is to ask (and this is a serious question) is MTW and its employees under the direct authority of the PCA or not?

The evidence suggests that they are not. Kenton Wood and TE Steve Robertson have been allowed to flaunt the PCA's rules with impunity. When I raised a concern/complaint about TE Steve Robertson's actions before the Nashville Presbytery⁷, even with the multiple serious charges that were made, the Presbytery found "no strong presumption of guilt⁸" on the part of Steve Robertson. This is very curious considering that the Committee on Judicial Business never even bothered to speak to me before making their decision in the matter. In fact, none of my witnesses were spoken to and none of my evidence was ever considered although interestingly they did contact and receive testimony from the other side. Is it standard practice to only investigate one side of a matter in the PCA?

More disturbingly, as was communicated to me by the current moderator of the Nashville Presbytery (Dr. George Grant), the case had been "turned over" to MTW⁹. Does MTW have ecclesiastical jurisdiction in discipline cases? Is turning a case over from the body that at least (in theory) is in authority over TE Steve Robertson to a body where Steve is in authority not a conflict of interests?

But this only gives us a clearer understanding of how men can participate in increasingly sinful and outrageous behaviors as missionaries. They know that there will be no consequences for their behavior but that their sin will be protected by MTW. The biblical and denominational rules simply do not apply to them.

This arrogant disregard for the rules can also be seen in Kenton Wood's use of the title "pastor" here in Guadalajara. Kenton has never graduated from any seminary nor has completed the prerequisites to be ordained in any Presbyterian denomination, yet he dishonestly presents himself as an ordained minister. Would any PCA pastor be allowed to continue using the title, be allowed to vote in the local presbytery, etc. if it was discovered that he had been falsely presenting himself as ordained? Of course not. Then why does Kenton Wood continue to do so with International Director, TE Steve Robertson and MTW's approval?

³ See: Appendix #4 – My response to these false accusations can be found in Appendix #6

⁴ See: Appendix #5 and Appendix #6

⁵ INPM stands for "Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de México" (Mexican National Presbyterian Church), the local denomination with which the MTW missionaries were serving at that time.

⁶ BCO Appendix I

⁷ See: Appendix #5

⁸ See: Appendix #7

⁹ See: Appendix #7

Is it because they feel that they, the American missionaries, are above the rules of the local developing-world denomination and its members? Kenton regularly enforces the denominational rules over local Mexican pastors yet feels no need to live under the same rules himself. This is the kind of soft-racism that hurts the name of Christ here in Guadalajara. Why does Steve Robertson and MTW continue to support this double-standard and Kenton's continued dishonest use of the title of pastor?

This issue makes a difference. Mexican culture tends to still (thanks to God) have a high respect and trust in pastors. It was precisely this trust that overcame the rape-victim's father's concerns that his underage daughter was over late at Kenton Wood's house. The father was promised that his daughter would be in a safe, Christian environment by a man only pretending to be an ordained pastor. Perhaps his daughter wouldn't have been violated if he had known that Kenton was lying about his pastoral credentials with MTW's support. The father of course had no idea that this unordained missionary had a history of putting sexually immoral men in authority over potentially vulnerable people and that anyone who spoke out against this outrageous behavior were intimidated and silenced. Again, all of this happened under TE Steve Robertson's watch and with his support.

The last meeting that I attended as an ordained pastor of the local presbytery here in Mexico was in February of this year (2022). It was announced at the meeting that yet another complaint had been brought against Kenton Wood and his Rey de Reyes church but that the letter would not be read aloud in the meeting much less discussed. Furthermore, the presbytery decided that no future letters would be received from this unnamed family without the "permission" of the Rey de Reyes church.

Imagine insisting that the accused spiritual leader has to give their permission before the victim can be heard. Imagine an entire presbytery silencing a victim of rape to defend the MTW missionary who had put her in danger. It all becomes far less surprising when you know that the president, vice-president, and secretary of the presbytery at that time were all pastors of MTW-planted churches. This is evil.

But certainly the victim's family could appeal directly to MTW when their voices were silenced by the local presbytery. They tried. The rape victim's father contacted MTW International Director Steve Robertson asking for a face-to-face meeting. Steve couldn't be bothered to either show up in person or send a representative. When the obviously anguished father again insisted on a face-to-face meeting, Steve simply stopped speaking with him¹⁰. Maybe that is the textbook way MTW deals with rape victims and their families. But still, ignoring the victim's father was still better than what Steve did to me when I brought a similar complaint about Kenton's scandalous behavior. In that case, Steve used his high position at MTW to launch false accusations to smear my reputation and attack my family's financial support¹¹ as can be attested to by former and current PCA pastors and elder¹²s. As an additional note, Steve Robertson also tried to intimidate me into not investigating his friend Humberto Carrillo's embezzlement of church funds after Steve himself was directly responsible for his friend not being under supervision while controlling the church's money. But that will have to be further spelled out in the attached documentation.

Directly due to MTW's lack of willingness to deal with the sin of their missionaries, the rape case has now gone to open court. But it isn't the only case of Kenton Wood's misbehavior to do so. Perhaps the PCA could also look into why Kenton Wood has so far been allowed to defraud a Mexican ordained minister, Carlos Amaro, out of what now amounts to somewhere around 1.25 million pesos¹³. Why and how did the entire elder-board of a MTW/PCA planted church go along with this sin against the explicit teaching of the Scriptures¹⁴? Does MTW know about this defrauding/theft? If they claim to not currently know about it, now that they do, will

¹⁰ See: Appendix #2

¹¹ See: Appendix #5 and Appendix #6

¹² TE Colin Peters, TE Alex Dean, and RE Jim Pocta of New Saint Peter's Presbyterian Church in Dallas, TX. (PCA)

¹³ See: Appendix #3

¹⁴ James 5:4 "Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts." See also: Leviticus 19:13.

they insist that Kenton Wood stop defrauding this pastor and to pay him what is owed, or will they continue to give their tacit support to this sin through their silence as they have with so many other issues? Documentation of this charge will also be given in the footnotes.

Perhaps we could also speak about the MTW missionaries and reconciliation. What does any true Christian want, who has been wronged by another who also says that they are a Christian? It is not vengeance. (See: Romans 12:19). But they do desire repentance and restoration, both for the sinner's good as well as the glory of God. I personally contacted Kenton multiple times asking to speak to him face to face seeking resolution in these matters but was of course ignored. The same with Steve Robertson who I have also contacted multiple times according to the Lord's instructions in Matthew 18:15-16. In contrast (and against the teachings of Scripture) both tried to bring me up on false charges, specifically seeking punishment without ever seeking me out as a brother. Religion and religious discipline when used as a weapon with no intent toward repentance/reconciliation is an obvious evil.

This is a pattern among the MTW missionaries here in Guadalajara. When Carlos Amaro sought that Kenton's defrauding/theft be fixed the right way, he was simply ignored. The rape victim's father was also ignored. Once again, politically and economically "important" people like Steve Robertson and Kenton Wood are protected by MTW while those who raise the concerns are ignored or attacked. It is understandable then why the victims turn to the law, turn to the media, turn to social networks for help and protection when the very church that was supposed to be the representatives of Christ and His love and reconciliation turn out to be abusers, not shepherds of the flock.

Christ Himself gave very direct instructions for such situations. Issues of sin are not to be handled bureaucratically, they are to be handled face-to-face with the explicit goal of restoring the erring brother through repentance and reconciliation for the peace and purity of the church but above all, for the glory of God in Christ Jesus. We are seeking that end directly through the leadership of the church (PCA) rather than through the agency MTW which has consistently shown a pattern of cover-ups, slander, abuse, and secular corporate behavior in these matters.

I love the PCA. The PCA has been such a tremendous blessing to me both as a Christian and as a minister of the Gospel. But unless there is true confession, reconciliation, and restitution in these matters, I don't know how the PCA can claim any moral difference between these situations and the pedophile and other scandals of the Roman Catholic church, Hillsong, and the SBC. In each case, the primary public criticism wasn't due to the sin itself but the church's stonewalling and cover-ups.

May God give the leadership of the PCA the integrity to fully deal with this in a godly and biblical manner, free of the stain of corporate politics. There are multiple families ready and willing to testify to these things along with hard evidence to support these charges. We strongly hope that each of these situations will be fully reconciled and resolved through face-to-face meetings with the direct supervision of representatives of the General Assembly of the PCA. May what has been done in the dark be brought to the light.

In the Name above all names,



Thomas Kunkel

P.S. To organize the face-to-face meetings that I and the other victims are requesting with missionary Kenton Wood and TE Steve Robertson in the presence of the PCA General Assembly leadership, please feel free to contact me at trkunkel@yahoo.com.