

At 04:14 AM 2/20/2007, Jose Tale wrote:

Dear Brothers,

*I know it is late, not only because of the time I'm writing this (2 am), but also because we have signed the statement and have agreed on the plans for the Teaching Night.*

*I know it will look like I'm vacillating, or having cold feet, but I will do it just the same, because I believe it is the right thing to do, for ourselves and the community which we all love. Brothers, this is a last minute appeal, to all of us, but particularly to Tony, Frank and Lachie, to reconsider their resignations.*

*I am sorry not to have pushed this suggestion earlier. But if you heard me say it, I did ask earlier, "Tuloy pa ba?" That's because something significant did happen earlier last night that gives reason for us to revisit our decision.*

*I now think more clearly, that with what happened in our discussions, where Gerry clarified that the vicious letter did not come from her, and Tony accepted, we have just lost basis for proceeding with what we planned. Sure, there were hurts, but there were clarifications, there was acceptance, there was asking for forgiveness, and essentially, a decision to restore relationships and move forward. So why are we still proceeding with the resignations?*

*We cite our failings to be true brother and sisters, but for resignation to be the consequence, the failings should be of such gravity as to preclude any other option. But were the failings so grave in this situation, after the explanation and the acceptance? How do we really explain the reasons why there have to be resignations?*

*As I expressed in the household, I am affirmed and upbuilt by our capacity to face our problems and resolve them as true brothers and sisters, by our humility to accept that we may have hurt others and to ask forgiveness for it, and for those hurt, the strength to rise above the hurts and move on. If this be the case, why still resort to resignations?*

*I believe we share the realization that the poison letters were the work of the evil one and persons he used to try to do damage to the community and particularly to the work of Gawad Kalinga. If we allow this machination to result in the resignation of our top leaders, will we not be allowing the evil one to succeed in his plot? Won't Lorenzo Cruz, whoever he is, gloat like anything for succeeding in his evil game? Won't we be falling into the trap that has been laid out for us? Will we allow that and act like a loser when we know we have a victorious God?*

*When we discussed this whole matter with our daughter Rica as we got home from our household, she said many things that jolted me in rethinking our response. She said, among others:*

- no matter how it feels right personally to those resigning, resignation will be like a nuclear bomb to the whole community, *sobrang laking gulo!*
- No matter how you explain it, it will be negative news, affecting all the leaders and even the members not only of CFC but all the ministries, especially the young; it will be difficult to understand; it will affect us emotionally, mentally and spiritually; it will crush our hearts
- Even if those resigning will still serve, resigning per se would mean turning back from your purpose and responsibility
- Resignation means failure or escaping from your problems
- People will endlessly talk about it, searching for reasons they will never understand, the talks turning to chismis which will make matters worse
- It will cause leaders and members to doubt not only the Council, but the whole CFC community and its credibility which may even lead to doubting God.
- It will negatively affect members who are just starting to have passion for the community because of the inspiration they get from Tito Frank, Tito Tony, and Tito Lachie
- It will affect those who are losing passion for community and may just serve as their reason to leave

- *It will affect even those who have been in CFC for the longest time, who have given much of their lives because they believe in you and are inspired by your great passion for God*
- *As top leaders, this will be a huge accountability to the Lord*
- *If decision is really to step down, do it discreetly to protect the whole community and its members; please wait till June, till the elections, and you may say no to the nominations; there's only 4 months to wait, and maybe your decision may change*

**Brothers, out of the mouths of babes...Rica was crying as she was saying this. She said this was like receiving news that one's parents are separating. *She told me to BEG you not to proceed with the resignations.***

**Come to think of it – while we may be “logical” in our reasons, the effect could be emotional, and if this happens, it will be difficult to stop. Come to think of it again – if we proceed, and some of our leaders also resign out of frustration over us, we are in no position to convince them otherwise because we gave in to resignation ourselves.**

**So, if we don't proceed as planned tomorrow, what do we do?**

- *Frank can still give the talk, but with a twist, to work harder for unity, etc.; I'm sure he can figure something out*
- *Tony can still give a sharing to rally the leaders to be strong and overcome obstacles and not allow anything to stop or derail the work*
- *We can still issue a statement, expressing our support and confidence on Tony vis-à-vis the poison letters*
- *We can proceed with reorganization that is called for, especially in view of the “one service” rule*

**Brothers, it is late, but there is time. We can have an emergency meeting before the Teaching if we really want to. I strongly suggest we do, at the very least, to consider the points raised here. The consequences for the community can be more serious than we first thought, and thus, this whole decision deserves one more look.**

**Joe Tale**

**Frank Padilla** wrote: Date: Tue, 20 Feb 2007 11:50:09 +0800

To: Jose Tale <>,  
Rouquel Ponte <>

From: Frank Padilla <>

Subject: RE: Revised Council Statement!

CC: Ernie Maipid <>,  
Joe Tale <>,  
Joe Yamamoto <>,  
Lachie Agana <>,  
,Tony Meloto <>

*It is good to have a second thought about this, so we can have greater certainty about our action. I have not responded immediately, but went into extended prayer. As I read this email, I shed tears. As I prayed, I shed tears. Indeed, there have been instances during these challenging times that I have shed tears. It is a good thing. As we all shed tears, one aspect is already being brought about by the Lord -- tears of sorrow and repentance. The way is set.*

*We do need to learn the lessons of Lamentations. I do believe that the present situation, and what we resolved to do, are very positive and not negative. What is happening now is a reflection of God's mercy, grace and faithfulness. Because God loves us and CFC so much, and because God has such an awesome purpose for us, He will not allow us to fall into deeper infidelity. God is faithfully acting now, so that we will not suffer worse consequences later. God is acting now, so that the right foundation for the work for the next 25 years are put in place.*

***It is not just a question of Gerry clarifying and Tony accepting and they reconciling. Sandra's email and Lorenzo Cruz later were just the trigger.*** God allowed it to happen, God allowed evil forces to do their dirty tricks, in order that He would bless us through our lamentations. Again, while Tony offered to resign due to the personal attacks on him, what we are doing now is not just about that. Even if that did not happen to Tony, God would have wanted us to come to this point, because of our infidelities and those of CFC leaders and members.

*Our failings are indeed of great gravity. It is not about how we consider the extent of our sins to be, since none of us are killers or rapists or such. But it is in view of the covenant we have with God. Any unfaithfulness is an abomination to the Lord!!! Given His blessings upon us in the past 25 years, given the awesome work He gives us the privilege to do, given our covenant, given His plans for the world in which He intends to use us, given the call to holiness, any infidelity is grave!!!*

*I too am upbuild by our humility and ability to reconcile. So why still resign? Because it is not about our personal relationships with each other. It is about our relationship with God, as individuals and as a community. We have failed Him in many ways, and we are in danger of failing Him even more. Our lamentations, which include the resignations, are actually a gift from Him so that we will not suffer greater consequences.*

*Will we allow the evil one to succeed and "Lorenzo Cruz" to gloat? The evil one will indeed gloat, but he will not succeed. Did he not gloat when Jesus hung crucified, seemingly powerless and defeated? But that was the inscrutable plan of God at work. When Jesus rose from the dead, only then did the enemy realize how utterly wrong he was, but it was too late, he was already totally defeated. God's victory was in the seeming loss and defeat of His own Son.*

*Now allow me to address specific concerns of Rica, which probably would be the concerns of others among our brethren as well.*

- no matter how it feels right personally to those resigning, resignation will be like a nuclear bomb to the whole community, *sobrang laking gulo! --> Perhaps. But if so, that is God's purpose as well. It cannot just be business as usual. Something (the nuclear bomb) needs to happen to really shake all of us out of our unfaithfulness, complacency and infidelity.*
- No matter how you explain it, it will be negative news, affecting all the leaders and even the members not only of CFC but all the ministries, especially the young; it will be difficult to understand; it will affect us emotionally, mentally and spiritually; it will crush our hearts. --> *It might seem like negative news, like the "defeat" of Jesus on the cross, but it is not. Difficult to understand? Certainly, as Lamentations is not that easy to understand. But this is precisely the manifestation of God's love for us, in giving us this difficult situation, so that we might all try to understand what God is doing, and ultimately learn the lessons of Lamentations. Indeed it might crush our hearts, for now. But resurrection will come, and then our lamentations will turn to joy.*
- Even if those resigning will still serve, resigning per se would mean turning back from your purpose and responsibility. --> *This is why I do not agree that our resignation should be from all our involvement. God still intends to use us, and we cannot turn our back on God's call and responsibilities (the new Council will decide what these are). But resigning to the extent we have talked about is just about the gift of Lamentations that God graciously offers us.*
- Resignation means failure or escaping from your problems. --> *(same as above).*
- People will endlessly talk about it, searching for reasons they will never understand, the talks turning to chismis which will make matters worse. --> *Perhaps this gives us the opportunity to deepen the lessons of Lamentations. Perhaps we should go around and teach our people what God is teaching us. So the search of people is good. We just hope that they ultimately understand.*
- It will cause leaders and members to doubt not only the Council, but the whole CFC community and its credibility which may even lead to doubting God. --> *I hope not and I do not think so. As long as we properly situate our actions in the context of Lamentations, it becomes very positive. Hopefully our brethren will in fact think that the Council is responsive to God and humble enough to take the right steps.*
- It will negatively affect members who are just starting to have passion for the community because of the inspiration they get from Tito Frank, Tito Tony, and Tito Lachie. --> *We agreed that Tony will still do the GK aspects of developing partners and sponsors. I still see him as the champion, the spokesperson, the face of*

*GK, the one anointed by God for that aspect of the work. He will still be there to inspire others. For Lachie and myself, may the Lord also still use us in whatever service we have to inspire others as well.*

*- It will affect those who are losing passion for community and may just serve as their reason to leave. --> On the contrary, the message of Lamentations is indeed for such people. Through this, may they be jolted into really searching their hearts, then led into repentance, then inspired to revive their passion.*

*- It will affect even those who have been in CFC for the longest time, who have given much of their lives because they believe in you and are inspired by your great passion for God. --> Our passion for God has not diminished. In fact, with Lamentations, our passion should increase and deepen. For all others, it is again time to learn the lesson that only God is our Father and only Jesus is our ultimate inspiration and only the Spirit is our source of power. Great leaders will come and go, some will even turn away from God, but God alone is there as rock forever.*

*- As top leaders, this will be a huge accountability to the Lord. --> It is precisely because of such accountability that we are taking this step.*

*- If decision is really to step down, do it discreetly to protect the whole community and its members; please wait till June, till the elections, and you may say no to the nominations; there's only 4 months to wait, and maybe your decision may change. --> Then there will be no lessons of Lamentations to be learned. Further, when it is time to act, then it is time to act. Indeed, this is the perfect time. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, and we can ask all there tonight to really repent of whatever failings they have. Then we have Lent, which will be a time of deeper reflection on the lessons of Lamentations. Then there will be Easter Sunday, the day of victory, and the start of our next 25 years.*

*I am firm in the conviction that this is the right thing to do. I am firm in the conviction that this is not negative at all but very very positive. I am firm in the conviction that God gave us Lamentations as our theme for a real purpose, and now it is being revealed, and we should continue to be bold and humble enough to respond fully.*

*If we are indeed reconciled in the Council, then our offering and our sacrifice to God has become pure. If we were still fighting, then resigning would not have had much meaning for God, because the offering would be tainted.*

*It is right to continue to shed tears, but not just of sorrow but of great joy, and not just dread of God but great hope in Him.*

*The reading for today is especially for us all. It is a message of hope. From Sirach 2:1-11. But just taking verses 5-6: "For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him."*

*God bless us all.*