

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: Proverbs 25:2 but the glory of kings is to search out a thing:

Beloved brother,

Thank you for your detailed letter outlining what happened since your telephone conversation. We feel for you all very much and I am sorry that I haven't had time to answer your letter I received just before going to Peterhead last week where we had 3 day meetings with E.T.Maynard. The time was profitable "Let my son go that he might serve me". Sonship, our brother felt was the answer to so much that has come in, in recent times, to know how to conduct ourselves in sonship in dignity but ever keeping the divine end in view that God might be served. The spirit in the meetings was good. Mr. Ephgrave was very helpful making very clear that we were not going back to an open position. In the last few months I have been at meetings with Mr.Hoyte, Mr.A.B.Parker and E.T.Maynard. I mention them as from New York where they came through their own very difficult exercises, and the spirit of J.T.Snr. comes through in those men seeking to stabilize the brethren and engage them, not with themselves, but with Christ. There is so much that I could write about these things here, but I feel I had better get some kind of reply off to your enquiry, that much will have to wait.

You ask about Aberdeen, and indeed it is a distasteful matter as you say to write of it, not the least being that both my wife and I cared very much for Mr. Jim and have never ceased to sorrow over what came in. How often since, we have gone over and over things before the Lord as to whether anything could have been done to save our brother, when he finally left the house about 5.30 a.m. Lord's day. I lay on the bed and wept more sore than ever I had done for him and for the poor brethren who had so trusted him. I had to accept in the end that the exposure was of the Lord. What the full issue He had with the servant we may never know, but his addiction to alcohol had affected his mind in some way, as was clear to us all there, though at times he was quite clear. That the Lord also had an issue with His people is evident too - our presumption in the way 'we are the church' was taken up (see the three ministry's comments, especially J.N.D. on this) and the fact that we made too much of the servant, but those and other things which are humbling, we did not see at that time. From 1960 on I don't think my wife or I deviated from J.T.Jnr's teaching, we were fully with him and would never have accepted any charge against him. The same would be said for J.A.G. and his wife, Jim Gray of Edinburgh and his wife, Dr. Bob Gardiner and his wife. All of us were known throughout Scotland at least, as being behind our brother. We had everything to lose by going against him, but we all had to go through a soul searching process to find that our allegiance to Christ and to divine principles had to have first place.

We arrived at J.A.G.'s house on Thursday evening. Mr. Taylor was in bed resting and joined us about 7 p.m. He very soon paid a great deal of attention to the sisters, spoke in a crude way of their having had relations with men and constantly asked different ones when the results would be ---"when is the delivery?" He made reference to bras, and to take them off and seemed obsessed with the sister's breasts. He made one sister after another sit on his knee, with one especially he kissed her for minutes at a time, putting his mouth over hers and sucking her in a most peculiar way, all the time fondling and caressing her body, making her husband look out the window while doing so. His tactics with other sisters he wanted, was to say that they didn't like his ministry, were not with him, and so on, until they came to him. This went on till the Kerrs came about 9 p.m. They should not have been there but Jim insisted they stay, so that J.A.G. and his wife had to sleep in most difficult circumstances. When he had gone off to bed we found the first sister he had handled was very upset. We found in the morning she was nearly hysterical through the night.

When he caught hold of her the next day her husband caused a diversion and she went out the back of the house, round the front and into her bedroom. He said the first night, 'I am a pure man. I can do this, no one else can', and we did our best to spiritualise it all, but the happenings, the language etc. were disturbing, and none of these mentioned slept that night. We heard in the morning that Mrs. Kerr had spent the night with Mr. Taylor, and later that day Alan Kerr said he had scarcely known his wife in his bed for two weeks. The same disturbing conduct continued on Friday - Mrs. Kerr in his bedroom in the break, and at night he had various young sisters who called, on his knee, made much of the fact that one young sister did not know what it was all about, then addressed the married sisters one by one - "You know what it is all about" with constant references to the brothers, "You want my job" "I'm

the only one that can do a job like this". He needed constant amusement at night, guitars, singing, and an electric organ, which had to be sent for at his request. He said to me when someone was playing, "This is my life." Music seemed to soothe him. After he had gone to bed we sat and talked and Mrs. Kerr, who obviously wanted to go to Mr. Taylor, went through in night attire, Alan Kerr clowning, until he had left her in Mr. Taylor's bedroom. When asked later what she did for so long, she said she washed Mr. Taylor's feet, but there was never any sign of water taken in there. We went to bed after a while more disturbed. The bedroom we had was next to Mr. Taylor's, and as we were awake, we heard Mrs. Kerr leave his bedroom about three hours later.

The next morning each brother and sister spontaneously said they could not break bread in the conditions in the house. It is hard to put on paper the atmosphere of madness. There was nothing spiritual that came into any conversation, all of which was dominated by Mr. Taylor. (I mean that he gave the tone.)

However, the Saturday morning session was the most sane of all the meetings. Mr. Taylor seemed more normal and the brothers round him all responded. He spoke then about the Spirit hovering over waste and empty, and likened it to his being sympathetically near when the devil was at you in weakness, and said a number of things that made us think he was judging something. At home he was brighter. I sat next to him talking (I had done this from the Thursday and had never left his side as I tried to understand what was happening.) For about 30 minutes his conversation was interesting about happenings over the years amongst brethren. He didn't seem to drink a lot at once, but sipped whisky continually, and then his demeanour changed, as though something came over his mind. He became nasty, almost animal like and his conversation unclear. Others have spoken of the two Jim Taylors at evidence at different times. I don't pretend to interpret all this. I only state facts as I know them. We were heartened with the morning still however, and when Mr. Taylor retired J.A.G. ensured he had everything to make him comfortable, and told Mrs. Kerr who wanted to go through to him, "to leave him at rest, " as he thought she had a bad effect on our brother. She became very impudent and when J.A.G. reminded her that he was the head of the house and responsible for things in it, she said very definitely, "I don't accept you as head of this house."

The conduct of her husband and self after that could never be supported. There has been much said about plots, etc. (J.L.'s presence and Stanley McCallum's) but this was innocent entirely. It came from Bob Gardiner's suggestion that Stanley's presence, (Jim spoke well of him the day before) might help to ease Mr. Taylor away from his obsession with the sisters. The fact that Mrs. Kerr had been prevented from being with him at the break seemed to crack something in Mr. Taylor, hence the last session on Saturday when he fooled around when brothers prayed at the start and close of the reading. The reactions to this can be heard on the tapes, as the tapes were recorded. He constantly used abusive and vile language and created a kind of mass hysteria which was almost beyond description.

When Mr Taylor returned to J.A.G.'s house he went to his bedroom and was followed by Mrs. Kerr. Stanley McCallum and Mr. Lovie with his wife joined us for a meal as arranged. The atmosphere was a bit tense, as we in the house were aware that Mrs. Kerr was with Mr. Taylor, which fact was not disclosed when first S. McC. arrived. Then J. Lovie asked A. Kerr where his wife was. He said "she is resting." An hour or two passed in conversation and a number of enquiries were made as to when Mr. Taylor would appear and when Mrs. Kerr would appear. Alan Kerr diverted all enquiries about his wife. S. McC. said, "There is something wrong in this house." Bob Gardiner said quietly to J.A.G. "I think we should tell him what has been happening".

He was taken aside and told that Mrs. Kerr was spending most of her time in Mr. Taylor's bedroom and with the background of other events, the brethren were concerned about it. S. McC. asked the husband as to it but he refused to intervene. J.A.G. then said in the hearing all of us. "I am responsible for what happens in my house and the time has come for me to know what is happening".

He knocked on Mr. Taylor's door and said he was coming in. (Much has been said by Mrs. Kerr and others that the door was open and nothing was hidden). That was not so. The door was closed but could not be locked - a fact that Mr. Taylor, in my presence, earlier complained of. J.A.G. was definitely shocked at finding Mrs. Kerr in bed with Mr. Taylor, her clothes on a chair at the bedside. He challenged Mr. Taylor with the rightness or otherwise of his conduct. J.T.Jnr claimed he was pure.

When the clothes were referred to, he said, "You can't prove they are her clothes." S. McC. at that juncture said he was leaving the house and went out to a car with Mr. & Mrs. Lovie. J.A.G.'s wife and another sister pleaded with him to come back, Mrs. Gardiner weeping and saying "Don't leave us Stanley. Please don't leave us like this." S. McC. said to me, "I will come back in because the sisters in this house are nearly hysterical". (I can say this now with all the talk of ambush etc. dear brother, the Lord was never in all the suffering the sisters went through. I don't think they will ever get over it.)

J.A.G. then asked S. McC. to come with him as Mr. Taylor wouldn't listen to him and S. McC. put it to Mr. Taylor that it wasn't right to be in bed with another man's wife, adding, "What would Renee say?" to which J.T.Jnr said, "I suppose you will tell her."

Both J.A.G. and S. McC. were very shaken by what they had witnessed but I never saw anything but concern to help our brother and S. McC. said, "We must be careful not to charge our brother with fornication, but what he is doing is unseemly and is not Christian conduct." J.A.G., S. McC. And J. Lovie phoned James 3rd. J.A.G. spoke once or twice to all of us to go and see J.T.Jnr and Mrs. Kerr in bed but we felt there was adequate witness. None wanted to witness one we respected in such dishonour. J.A.G. after some time asked Mrs Kerr to come out of the bed and said that the Kerrs were to leave his house. I heard J.T.Jnr reply, "If she goes, I will go. That's my woman." but J.A.G. told J.T.Jnr to stay. He, J.A.G. then prevailed on A. Kerr to get his wife out of bed and go. Tom Bennett arrived at the house about then. His reaction was to go in where they were still in bed and use the javelin, but I told him that the matter was covered as it was committed to New York. It was late by the time the Kerrs went and Tom Bennett and J. Gray held Mr. Taylor back as they felt he was not in a fit state to leave. Whatever has since been made of this incident, I'm sure it was done to protect J.T.Jnr. I heard Jim Gray tell J.T.Jnr that loving hands were holding him. J.A.G. went for Dr. Thomson as J.T.Jnr had said earlier that he was treating him, and when he came in he gave him an injection and told him to stay in bed which he obeyed. When James 3rd arrived J.T.Jnr was very docile, but the medical treatment quietened him and in some way it may have given James 3rd an idea that J.A.G. was exaggerating.

J.A.G., Bob Gardiner, J.T.Jnr and J.T. 3rd left us about 5.30 a.m. on Lord's day and I saw nothing but kindness and concern shown J.T.Jnr at that time. J.T.Jnr's ticket for America couldn't be found and Bob Gardiner called at Perth on the way to Glasgow to get 150 pounds which he gave to James 3rd for J.T.Jnr's fare. J.A.G. drove the car and as he had had practically no sleep on the previous days it all added up to a great deal of self sacrifice which puts the lie to plots, hostility to the servant, and other things that have been suggested.

(The days are passing, dear brother, and I will have to wind this up and write more later.) From then on divine principles were set aside by J.T.Jnr. and those with him. Even if our witness has been false, it should have been looked into on the basis of Deuteronomy. 19:15-19. See J.TSnr.'s ministry on this.

What my wife and I could scarcely credit was J.T.Jnr. telling lies about it all. He said she was not in the bed, see the letter to Miss Hindle, and he said the same thing on Tuesday after to brothers in Britain who enquired by phone. Indeed she said that to us and told brethren this side at the same time, that not only was she in bed with him but she was naked. Finally J.T.Jnr. admitted she was in bed but said she was clothed. There was a definite attempt to get rid of witness, this can be proven. In Falkirk here, various charges were pressed against me despite the fact that I was not at the stage talking, and publicly stated I left the matter to New York. An issue was finally forced by Robert Gibb, stating that J.A.G.'s house and those who had been in it were leprous and refused to accept the Aberdeen judgement in assembly on the Tuesday night clearing him of this charge so that we had to withdraw from him. The manifest lack of conviction in what he did and his unfair pursuit saved the brethren here, as all stayed, apart from Ian Gibb, his brother. Ian said the charge of leprosy was proved. (the Cushite as wife), and that J.T.Jnr could take another wife. "He was the man of God, and could do anything he liked." All over Britain, "take a sister as wife." "Abishag." and similar scriptures were used to justify this conduct. You probably know the sequence, J.T.Jnr named J.A.G.'s house leprous on the Tuesday, and on Wednesday or Thursday named Aberdeen and area leprous, and told Robert Gibb to set up a table, withdrew from A.B.P. for being in contact with Aberdeen, who he said were out of fellowship. A few weeks later, New York. The details are again condemnatory. All can be proved. Because Bill

Peterson tried to raise it on the Saturday meeting he instigated a police charge through N. Walker, stating Bill P. had disrupted a divine service (a criminal offence in N.Y.).

He brought the press and the television into it. (He did that, the Brethren with us never did.) He sent the police to those of us who were in the house. My wife and I were interrogated for one and a half hours by the police here. How shameful it was to have to speak about these things to worldly men. All was an attempt to criminalize us and set aside testimony. He also lied to A.B.P, Mr. Hoyte and Mr. Midgley. This can be proven.

There are so many things. The brethren with us could read anything that came, the others were forced to destroy unread all we wrote, but truth even as to facts can never be permanently hidden, and I am more sorry than I can say to write all of this. It has been a great grief, but read it all as I write it dear brother in the light of the Song of the Bow.

If there are details you require I will do my best to help. G. Field of Nelson was sent a copy of the tapes. (There were three recorders working.) We have sent your name to others in N.Z. who may contact you, they are afraid to be contacted. You are probably in contact with Ray Simpkin and others by now.

We are being helped here and are definitely confirmed of the Lord, though he has much to say to us. We lost 180 in all in Scotland. 3, 000 stayed, the facts were better known here than anywhere.

There are many difficulties to face. It is very much a day at a time, but the help is manifest, we are like the third part of Zechariah 13:9.

I am sorry this letter is so long. There are many letters and notes that were circulated at that time. Most are in Mr Stott's book, and we will send whatever you require.

The brethren constantly remember you in our prayers. Indeed prayers since Aberdeen have been constant for recovery. What assembly sorrow there is, but the Lord has taken us this way for His glory I am assured. My wife joins with me in sending our love in Christ to you both.

Affectionately your brother in him,

Signed (Ted Steedman)

I have read the letter and witness that these facts are true.
Joan Steedman