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From: @qwest.net<
To: <e@marshallchurch.org>
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2007 2:12 AM
Subject: Please pray

Brothers:

For the purpose of full disclosure, that we may all walk in the light, I share these facts from this past evening: At 5:38 pm on Sunday evening, I received an e-mail from Pastor Jamie notifying me of a mandatory meeting later that evening at 8:15. Present at that meeting were Pastor Mark, Pastor Jamie, Pastor Scott, Pastor Bubba, another pastor that I will not name, and me. To the best of my recollection of what was said, Pastor Jamie started out the meeting by telling me and the other pastor that we were "Terminated. Effective immediately." Pastor Mark spoke after Pastor Jamie. The other elder and I were told that we had two choices: to either resign as elders or face a "full elder investigation" and that the executive elders already had "all the evidence we need." We were not informed of what that evidence is, nor of any sin - other than "disrespect", however, no specific instances were named. No discussion was allowed. The meeting lasted maybe five minutes. Pastor Mark concluded the meeting by stating that "no further discussion was necessary - only repentance." And he left the room.

Our current bylaws provide a process for justly resolving such a situation as this (Article III, Section E). Although, I would far prefer that we could resolve this as brothers who love Jesus, and even when we disagree in robust discussion, at the end of the day we can go home as brothers in Christ who share a common vision and goal and love each other. That is my hope and prayer. My heart is broken by the strife that has come upon us as of late. I harbor no malice towards my brothers. It is my prayer that this will all still be able to work out in a way that glorifies our Lord and spares us all the anguish and dishonor to Him and ourselves. Please pray for me, for my family, for Christ's beloved church, and for this eldership that we will remain a biblical eldership of faithful men that is true to Jesus. We are sinners saved by grace. May we walk in constant repentance and humility. May God's will be done.

In Jesus,

~ Paul