

May 26, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

In recent years, General Conference administration has received numerous inquiries and objections concerning the work of David Gates, leader of Gospel Ministries International, an independent ministry with headquarters in Tennessee, USA. This ministry is not affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization. According to these messages, David Gates' ministry in various areas of the world has been accompanied by extraordinary interpretations regarding the end of time and unsubstantiated claims about the Church and its leadership.

General Conference leaders have discussed these matters with David Gates.

While he has agreed to be less critical of Church leadership and not to engage in expressing speculative presentations, there is another aspect of his work that he is not inclined to fully comply with or change. This relates specifically to his unreadiness to function in a collaborative and cooperative relationship with church field units as outlined in General Conference *Working Policy* K 05 05 6.

This policy asks supporting ministries providing services outside their own division territory to consult with, and secure approval from, the division administration concerned regarding the nature, extent and duration of services rendered within that division.

During a meeting of division leaders with General Conference officers in April 2013 this matter was again brought for consideration. It is the conviction of world leadership that the independent approach that David Gates uses when working in different parts of the world brings disunity, confusion and misunderstanding. Until such time that David Gates and Gospel Ministries International agrees to comply with Working Policy K 05 05 6, the General Conference and division leaders cannot endorse the activities of David Gates and wish to express strong concern about his frequent approach to working independently from local, union, and division administrations. General Conference and division leaders discourage field units and local churches from arranging or providing opportunities for David Gates (or other representatives of Gospel Ministries International) to engage with church members or speak at church events.

In the event that David Gates reconsiders his relationship to General Conference Working Policy K 05 05 6, and is willing to fully comply, cooperate and work in a collaborative manner with the church, and expresses this desire in writing to the General Conference, world church leadership is willing to reexamine his relationship to church activities and entities. Let us continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will soften hearts and build a spirit of unity as we work together reflecting the Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy approach to a united and supportive setting for accomplishing the proclamation of the three angels' messages announcing Christ's soon return.

Orville Parchment, on behalf of General Conference Presidential  
Assistant to the General Conference President  
General Field Secretary