

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS "CO-PASTOR" OF THE LIGHTBEARERS

Jan-Aage Torp September 16, 1998

Letter to the Pastors Group in Oslo on September 16th, 1998.



Introduction:

When I am going to give a truthful account of my experiences with the Lightbearers, specifically with the objective of explaining why I cannot any more share responsibility for this movement among individuals within "alternative movements" (i.e. new age), it is important for me to first make some positive statements. If it had not been for all the positive elements, I would not have put so much time, money and effort into this work, which has the potential of reaching modern men and women with the living gospel of Jesus Christ.

First of all, it is good to recognize that good things have happened among the Lightbearers. This fits well with what is happening around the world within world religions (i.e. hindus, muslims and buddhists who in miraculous ways encounter the Jesus of the Bible as Savior and Lord), and also with New Testament accounts (Paul on the Damascus Road etc.). Here we see the burden on God's heart for humanity, going to hell without Christ. My involvement with the Lightbearers has strengthened my desire to get involved, more than before, with seekers within world religions. Experience proves that it is possible to communicate successfully, when the communication is done on the basis of Christian integrity and in the power of the true Gospel.

Most of the Lightbearers are men and women who got involved in this movement because they longed for spiritual liberty; for unconditional love; for a personal relationship with God. Some have entered into a true relationship of discipleship with Christ, casting behind "sin and worldliness". For some this is more difficult, in line with the experiences of countless men and women in the world who have struggled with giving everything to Christ. However, there are testimonies of how light displaces darkness. There are also testimonies of how new Christians have been set free from unclean demons, spiritism, covenant with the devil, deceiving spirits, and other demonic bondages. This is absolutely necessary in post-Christian Norway, especially with the background that many of the Lightbearers have within new age phenomena.

It is also of the utmost importance for me to declare my appreciation of Kjell Aasmundrud, who is the actual leader of the Lightbearers, for the good example he set during the 1990`s of pioneer ministry, Christian integrity and godliness. Nothing that is written in this document can depreciate the fact that Kjell

Aasmundrud is anointed by God for ministry, and that he deserves the encouragement, practical support and intercession of Christian brothers and sisters in good and bad days..

Many good things can also be said about Svein Erik Hellstrøm, another key leader among the Lightbearers, and a man I have grown to love. His evangelistic gifting has been a blessing to hundreds of men and women in the Lightbearer work during the past year, at times with a prophetic element which has helped new Christians and "old Christians" to enter into greater boldness. Svein Erik, also, deserves our encouragement, practical support and intercession.

My Shared Responsibility

On September 5th, 1998 I announced that I had to withdraw from my shared pastoral function which I had been given, quite unexpectedly, during the winter of 1998. I had repeatedly, orally and in writing to Kjell Aasmundrud, Svein Erik Hellstrøm and the two other co-pastors of the movement (Olav Garcia de Presno & Egil Svartdahl), expressed my burden and concern for the development of this movement that started with a message to new age people of salvation in Christ. After five months of active involvement, traveling together to different nations, and hundreds of hours of conversations with Svein Erik and his fellow workers, and even days and weeks in intercessory prayer unto God on behalf of the Lightbearers, I had to convey that I could not accept any more secrecy in questions about connections with the opposite sex outside of marriage (i.e. ties in soul, body and spirit); mixing with new age phenomena such as rebirthing etc. My efforts at communicating were downplayed, perhaps because the others felt that my "old Christian" attitudes would be damaging. I will readily

accept that other leaders are preferred instead of me; but when the reason is deception, then I have a responsibility to give a warning. During these months I have learned a great deal about the many aspects of the Lightbearers' foundation and experiences that need pastoral guidance and correction. Naturally, such a movement needs supervision relating to its occult and spiritistic roots, as well as relating to the real danger of an unclear mixture between Christian and non-Christian spiritual influences. This aspect of the Lightbearer movement has not been given adequate attention. To a large extent, experienced Christian leaders have behaved as "school kids", considering the new age phenomena to be so interesting, that very little active guidance and correction has been given. Prophecies have barely been tested and tried. Rather, there has been much talk about "old Christians" having to sharpen our spiritual faculties; this can be done by learning from new age people who have "big spiritual ears". In that way, many prophecies from new Christians among the Lightbearers have been considered as revelation of the highest degree.

I contend that we need to operate in a totally different dimension of soberness and testing!

One particular area has concerned me especially during the past five months of involvement with the Lightbearers, namely the relationships outside of marriage, crossing natural boundaries between male and female. Before I knew anything about the deceptions, I felt God speaking to me about strengthening the marriage relationships among the Lightbearers. My ministry as pastor and spokesperson on ethical issues have taught me the significance of this.

Wives - in plural

I will now focus on a prophecy which I quite recently gained a fuller knowledge of. It had been alluded to during the Easter holidays, but vaguely. However, the next few paragraphs deal with far more than one single prophecy. I speak here of a pattern of development which I have observed myself during a period of five months. So it would be wrong for anyone to dismiss this assessment as a minor matter, pertaining "only to one single prophecy". I would be more than willing to substantiate my assessments extensively.

"In the end times, the servants of the Lord shall live with one carnal wife who looks after the home, and one spiritual wife who lives with him in the spirit".

Svein Erik Hellstrøm called me on the morning of Thursday, September 10th, 1998. He wanted to persuade me into changing my decision which had been conveyed to him and the other co-pastors some days previously about my resignation from my pastoral role among the Lightbearers.

When Svein Erik called me this morning, he seemed genuinely desperate. However, he boldly declared to me a prophecy which he had received from "the Father" in the winter of 1998, a prophecy which he felt would show me that it is necessary to acknowledge the behavioral pattern which I had spoken against.

"The Father" had revealed to him the truth about the end time plan of the Lord for His servants to have both a carnal and a spiritual wife. Such a double relationship would be "a prophetic testimony" of God's love, breaking traditional barriers between the sexes.

Moreover, the end time ministry will be so demanding, that a true servant of the Lord will need two types of wives, one who is devoted to intercession.

This false prophecy is in line with an experience that Svein Erik had during a ministry trip to Seattle in April. He received a word from a new age person, declaring that Svein Erik's female intercessor, who was accompanying him on this trip, is "the woman who gives your soul strength". On several occasions, Kjell has maintained that this message from the new age person, is "a word from the Father".

This "slip of the tongue" about the double wives relationships was undoubtedly a "tactical mistake", from Svein Erik's perspective. Until September 10th, this had been kept a secret for me and the two other co-pastors. At last the many secretive hints about "new revelation" were put into a more complete context. Now I understood how an inappropriate behavioral pattern (i.e. expressions of love which are reserved for marriage) between fixed "couples" outside of marriage, could unfold during the course of several months - directed by "prophetic revelation" which is intended to redefine the Bible; and which made the admonishments of experienced and godly Christian leaders into threats. Paul Cain, Mike Bickle & Co. gave strong warnings against these specific deceptions, but their warnings were belittled and partly countered. I thank God for these men who even risked friendships, so as to bring correction to the Lightbearers.

I will bring into remembrance something which I several times brought to the attention of Kjell and Svein Erik, namely historical parallels to the deceptive aspects of the Lightbearers. In particular I have mentioned the cult "the Children of God". Here was a confusing mixture of prophecies and loose sexual experiments. Thanks to resolute confrontation and decisive action against this movement, which started within evangelical Christendom, by mature Christian leaders, clear signals were given to seekers about the deceptions, so that the damages would not reach even more

people than the young men and women who were already caught into the Children of God. There are also other church historical parallels which professional historians could tell more about. Let us learn from history. (Naturally, the problems of the Lightbearers are of another sort than the Children of God's problems. However, the parallels are clear.)

Kjell and Svein Erik know that I have been worried for months about these unhealthy relationships between the sexes. Now the time has come to find a solution before God and with brothers and sisters that is not founded on superficial camaraderi, but on true and healthy relationships. Here we are addressing something which is no less than deception, that will contaminate many people if it is not brought to a halt. I cannot take responsibility for such a development. Here, humility and repentance from sin is required.

Relevant History

I have know the Lightbearers personally for five months. My involvement started unexpectedly on February 18th at a meeting of the reknown "pastors group" in Oslo. The leader of the group, Kjell Aasmundrud of Oslo Vineyard, brought a guest from the media focused revival in Trondheim among new age people, Svein Erik Hellstrøm, a man who was described as the key instrument and "the prophet of the Lord for the end times". In this meeting Svein Erik prophecied over me. He procleimed me as the fourth pastor of the Lightbearers. Mighty things would be accomplished through me.

Six weeks later I succeeded at last to meet with some of the key Lightbearers in Trondheim. Here I met a wonderful group of people who in some way or other, were fascinated by Jesus. Mixed together with aroma therapy, reincarnation and rebirthing. I

reasoned, from my fifteen years of experience as a pastor, that these new age elements would be plucked off during the course of time. A person who really has Jesus as Savior and Lord, will inevitably settle such matters.

My enthusiasm over the Lightbearers was great to begin with. Most of all because I saw the parallels to other missiological advances in the world today.

It was at the beginning of May that I fully understood the dimensions of the Lightbearer's problems. From that time onwards I wrote several emails to Kjell Aasmundrud, and I made serious attempts to get together with the pastors so as to assess the situation together. But pastors are often busy people, and it proved to be difficult to come together. Simultaneously, I received assurances from Svein Erik, in part also from Kjell, that the Lightbearers had repented of their unhealthy relationships. Even though I wanted to believe these assurances, I carried a constant uneasiness which I only communicated to my wife, Ann-Christin, and my closest associates.

A positive experience in relation to the Lightbearers came in the middle of July when the Hellstrøm family took part in my church's summer camp. I could see that we were a good influence on their family. Now I came to know Kari Hellstrøm personally, and I discovered that she is a genuine Christian who truly wants to be a spiritual support for her husband.

September 5th I conveyed to Svein Erik, Kjell, and also Olav Garcia de Presno and Egil Svartdahl, that I could no longer give covering to the Lightbearers. As of that day, I pulled out of any responsibility as a co-pastor. However, I emphasized that I would be available to discuss the matters with them.

Closing Remarks:

I am aware that some would rather that I pulled out of the Lightbearers unnoticed. Some would perhaps even say that this statement is an expression of my personality traits, which I assume is true. Some would perhaps also belittle my role among the Lightbearers, so that my words would carry less weight. If it were true that my role has been insignificant, I would agree, in that I should probably have given even more time and effort to the Lightbearers.

My conclusion can barely be stated in one sentence. The whole document must be read and understood as a whole. If I were to express what must first be done ("First things first!"), then I believe that Kjell and Svein Erik have a particular responsibility to receive the admonishments from other people and from myself. Then, and only then, will the efforts to reach "alternative movements" (i.e. new age people) with the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ really begin.

My love for Svein Erik and Kjell, and their families, and the other wonderful individuals among the Lightbearers, has made my withdrawal painful for myself. I had hoped to be an instrument to lead many new Christians into the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. It is still not too late.