

Dr. and Mrs. Donn Ketcham
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September 13, 1989

Dear Friends:

You dear friends at _ have supported and prayed for the Ketchams for many, many years. We have sensed your love and concern and have been greatly encouraged by it. Thank you for your faithfulness over the years.

In view of your support and love, it especially grieves me to have to tell you that I have disqualified myself from further work as a missionary. I Timothy chapter 3 spells out the qualifications for the man who would have the honor of being a minister of God. By my own sin, I have removed myself from such a position. The grief and the shame are bitter indeed.

It is important that you understand that:

full disclosure has been made to the appropriate persons here in the States, including the mission home office and the pastor of my own home church.

I am submitting to the authority of my home church as regards any discipline they see appropriate.

I will be starting counseling immediately. There must not and will not be future recurrence of this sin.

My colleagues in Bangladesh warmed us and humbled us by the love and forgiveness and support they lavished on us. One of them sent me a note which simply quoted Isaiah 57:18-19. "I have seen his ways, but I will heal him. I will guide him. I will restore peace to him, and I will create praise on the lips of those who mourn..." The healing has already started, but, of course, there is more to go. I recognize that God's guidance often comes through the ministry of others. Thus, I am seeking counseling in the immediate future. At this particular moment, the peace that has been promised is yet to come. As I have more time and opportunity to realize the magnitude of my sin and the number of people who have been offended by it, the pain and sorrow grow deeper. God's forgiveness is there. There is no doubt about that. I no longer bear the guilt, but I certainly bear the shame and the sorrow. But, the promise is there that eventually there will be the restoration of peace as well. I am praying that there will also be praise on the lips of those who sorrow with us as they (you) see God somehow bring glory to His name out of all of this.

Pray much for us. Pray for healing. Pray especially for Kit whom I have hurt so deeply but who is such a loving and gracious gift from God.

In Him,

Donn W. Ketcham, M.D.