

From: Rita Corbett <ritacorbett1234@gmail.com>  
Subject: Concern for India  
Date: March 26, 2018 at 11:38:30 AM PDT  
To: Ezras Lakra <ezraslakra@sudadventist.org>

Dear Brother Lakra,

It is with great dismay that I received the attached document, which has been translated into English for the reader's benefit. Both copies are included for reference.

For 21 months, multiple attempts have been made to get to the bottom of what initially appeared to be rumors of corruption at the Hope Center. Sadly, those inquiries have turned into very serious allegations. Summarized, my understandings are as follows:

1. In mid-2016, information was received indicating that officers of the South East Andhra Section may have robbed the local populace of 'assigned' land, and that requested building permits had not been obtained. Officers had apparently been warned, and a written response had been sent indicating that a Hope Center officer would comply. (All those documents are in hand.)

However, as time passed, it became apparent, in addition to the land issue, that funds appear to have been embezzled by officers—funds that were slated for Hope Center development. Some of this was achieved by inflating estimates.

2. Later in 2016, on December 7, as representative of the Williams Lake SDA Church, I had arranged a meeting to thank Division leaders for their support of the Hope Center project. When myself and a donor arrived, many additional officers were present. The group suddenly included the Division President, Secretary and Treasurer, the Union President, and the former and current Section Treasurers. Due to circulating rumours, a presentation was given in hopes of exploring the difficulty and offering a remedy for any irregularities. At that time further documents were promised, which have never been sent, even after further requests. There was no attempt to discuss or rectify the issues supported by leadership, and conversation simply ceased.

3. The above presentation by myself included:

- a. a summary of current understandings,
- b. suggestions as to how the issues could be resolved for the benefit of all, and
- c. specific requests for documents as noted in the signed agreement between the supporting church, Williams Lake SDA Church, and the South East Andhra Section.

4. Multiple letters have since been sent to various offices of the South East Andhra Section, East Central India Union, Southern Asia Division, General Conference, North American Division, SDA Church in Canada, the British Columbia Conference, and various of their legal representatives, including GCAS. In other words, contacts have been made requesting assistance from both sides of the issue up to all levels of the church organization. Donors and the sponsoring church have both been kept informed of the continuing lack of progress.

5. Another issue that has repeatedly arisen, while the agreement provides for a chosen committee to conduct an 'audit', is that the chosen committee has never been allowed to begin its work, even though input from that committee into the audit was also promised me by a legal voice for the church.

6. Some additional information that has been communicated with me I have been denied permission to disclose. Still, I believe each of these can be confirmed at present either by myself or committee members:

- a. the urgent contents of the document below
- b. that a Hope Center builder is willing to share his experience with estimates and payouts
- c. a government employee has lost his job as a result of a possible bribe from SDA officers
- d. much confidence has been lost in church leadership in the Section, Union and Division
- e. there is serious concern as to the long-term effect and safety of Adventist and Christian work
- f. requests for copies of relevant, agreed-upon documents have been repeatedly ignored
- g. a request was received from a large US newspaper for information
- h. President Ted Wilson's recent visit to India was highly controlled
- i. there are multiple officers who should apparently be released from their responsibilities, and sadly, could in some cases be jailed
- j. politics and financial gain appear to be driving multiple leaders
- k. some rank-and-file pastors and workers have been mistreated due to politics
- l. problems within leadership are not being dealt with, and nepotism is being practiced
- m. personal, monetary desires have become a driving force
- n. serious issues are not being handled because some leaders can be blackmailed due to their financial dealings, and are seen as "cheats".
- o. many items have now been reported to the government of India

- p. there has been a total refusal of the request for a 3rd party, independent audit
- q. communication with the General Conference indicates they will “leave it with the Division”
- r. it was urged to SUD leaders at Fall Council in 2016 that the ‘issues’ with the Hope Center be repaired, indicating that the issue is known.
- s. multiple persons have promised me reports or updates but none have materialized
- t. those to whom I have sent reports and documents no longer communicate with me
- u. donors are left with a sense of no accountability on the part of the church

Those that I believe should be suspended immediately from their positions due to possible complicity and multi-faceted issues until accountability is restored, include, but are not at all limited to the list below. General Conference and General Conference Accounting Services officers may also figure in, as may be multiple other connected officers.

- Ezras Lakra, President, Southern Asian Division
- Dr. M. Wilson, Secretary, Southern Asia Division
- Selvin Moorthy, Treasurer, Southern Asia Division
- Pr. John Victor Chinta, President, East Central India Union
- Mr. E. Pilli, Treasurer, East Central India Union
- Leroy Samuel, past Treasurer, East Central India Union
- Mr. Y. Subhakar Rao, Treasurer, South Andhra Section and former Treasurer, South East Andhra Section
- Mr. K. Prasad, Treasurer, South East Andhra Section
- Mr. V.P. Singh, President, North India Union

During the past few month, in view of the donor group's inability to observe any cooperation with the signed agreement in the face of serious issues, and with mounting evidence of fraud and corruption of various sorts, the donors group has contacted me. The donors are considering putting a multi-pronged approach into action in order to clear up the matter and re-establish integrity.

This is being done entirely for the sake of the future of the Adventist Church work in India and worldwide. Their efforts may include, but not be limited to:

- i. legal means available in Canada, the US, and India
- ii. the assistance of Canada Revenue Services
- iii. the assistance of the Internal Revenue Service
- iv. involvement of inquiring reporters
- v. involvement of the Indian Government
- vi. recovery of all funds, legal costs, and damages

Donors have informed me that due to the lack of response from the church organization this is the last opportunity they will have to communicate on this matter personally and directly.

Frankly, there seems to be no cause for further delay, given that reports of 'cover-up' and such continue. It appears to me that the integrity of the Section, Union, and Division are in dire straits. Furthermore, multiple charitable agencies that have long cooperated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church have reported similar troubles to me. Donors have requested from me copies of all documents in my possession relating to the Hope Center. Those currently number in the thousands.

The donors' desires have never been other than to help, even now—to support the church, enable evangelism, and offer positive development. It is beyond sad when practices within an Adventist organization do not reflect those same values. They care nothing for the funds. Donors wholeheartedly believe that once funds are given to the church, they are no longer ours, but God's.

However, some feel they have a responsibility, an accountability to God, in the case of planned, serious, misdirection. My personal hope is that involved leaders in the church in India will once again recognize they have been called to be servants.

Donors have hesitated to take action for a long time as their thought was initially to let the wheat grow with the tares, but it now appears, given how widespread the issues appear, that it is no longer a case of wheat and tares, but rather a case of wolves scattering the sheep. Those who have impeded the work of God in India may have a terrible price to pay. The cost in the judgment may be beyond our saddest imaginations. Personally, my primary concern is for the villagers and the errant spiritual leaders in the church, whom I have loved as my own family.

Sincerely,

Rita Corbett

cc: All mentioned in the email  
Various involved church levels & advisors  
Committee chosen according to agreement

Vallur

Date: 12. 02. 2018

Notice

It is to let South East Andhra Section that is in Vallur Grama Panchayat know through this notice is,

You have constructed buildings in Vallur Grama Panchayat without Grama Panchayat permission. We issued notice in the past. Then you informed Grama Panchayat in written form on 2. 04. 2015 that you would construct buildings only after taking permission from Grama Panchayat. But so far you have not produced any document to Grama Panchayat for permission. Therefore, on receiving this notice, within 7 days you need to submit concerning documents to Grama Panchayat. If not, it is to let you know that Grama Panchayat will take legal action against you.

Panchay Secretary

Grama Panchayat

Vallur

Tanguturu Mdl: Prakasam dist

గ్రామపంచాయితీ కార్యాలయము,


వల్లూరు.

తేదీ: 12-02-2018

### నేటిసు

ఇందుమూలముగా వల్లూరు గ్రామపంచాయితీ నందు గల శ్రీ సౌత్ ఈస్ట్ ఆంధ్రా సెక్షన్ ఆఫ్ సెవెంత్ డి అద్వెంటీస్ట్ చర్చి వారికి ఈ నేటిసు ద్వారా తెలియ చేయునది ఏమనగా,

మీరు వల్లూరు గ్రామపంచాయితీ నందు గ్రామ పంచాయితీ అనుమతి లేకుండా భవన నిర్మాణమును చేసియున్నారు. గతములో మీకు నేటిసులు జారీ చేసి యున్నాము. అప్పుడు మీరు అన్ని అనుమతులు తీసుకొని నిర్మాణము చేయుదమని గ్రామ పంచాయితీ వారికి తేదీ 02-04-2015 న వ్రాత పూర్వకముగా తెలియచేసినారు. కానీ ఇంతవరకు మీరు పంచాయితీకి ఎలాంటి అనుమతి కొరకు పత్రములు సమర్పించలేదు ఇందు వలన ఈ నేటిసు అందిన 7 దినములలో మీరు గ్రామ పంచాయితీ నందు గల మీ సస్యకు సంబంధించిన సంబంధిత పత్రములను గ్రామ పంచాయితీ కి సర్పంచ గలరు లేనిచో ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ గ్రామ పంచాయితీ చట్టము ప్రకారము మీ పై చర్యలను గ్రామ పంచాయితీ తీసుకొనబడునని తెలియచేయబడున్నాము.

  
12/2/2018  
PANCHAYAT SECRETARY  
GRAMA PANCHAYAT  
VALLURU (Vill.),  
Tanqutur Mdl, Prakasam Dist

