

Clarification Statement

August 18, 2009

An email sent by one of our shepherds has become widely circulated. It was intended to reach a small, select group of leaders in order to inform them and solicit their prayers for wisdom, courage, and persistence. Unfortunately, the email was forwarded beyond that scope and has developed a life of its own. Many people have called or written asking about the events and details of the email. This statement is intended to answer your questions and to clarify some details that became known after the original email was sent.

First, the events happened on July 19, 2009 at the prison in Snyder, Texas. It was a Sunday assembly held at the prison for followers of Christ. It did not happen, as some have misunderstood, as an interruption to one of our church assemblies at the Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas.

Second, the elders who were teaching in the prison that day were initially informed by the inmates that the instigator of the interruptions was a Muslim, but after the report was written we found out that the instigator was a member of a religious cult, not a Muslim as originally reported. However, later in the assembly, other inmates joined in to interrupt the assembly just as the email records.

Third, the email was meant to bring awareness to leaders of the Green Lawn Church of Christ about the prison ministry, and the potential dangers involved, so that they would go to God in prayer on behalf of the ministry and ministers involved. Like disciples of the past and present, we want to speak boldly, faithfully, and truthfully even in the midst of persecution.

Finally, the email was not meant to be incendiary or a rallying point for some Holy War against Muslims. Our hope is to call all men from all nations and races to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ. While there are obvious differences between Christianity and the Muslim faith that we would not overlook or minimize, we believe that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), not any type of religious or political turmoil.

We apologize for any confusion and hope that this will sufficiently answer your questions and concerns.