


>  
> RLV:wf  
>  
> C: Lovell R. Cary  
>  
>  
> December 19, 2003  
>  
> Dear Partners in Ministry:  
>  
> Christian greetings!  
>  
> For many years Word International Ministries (WIM) has enjoyed a  
> fruitful and harmonious relationship with its founding ministry partner,  
> the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee USA). It is now distressing to  
> learn of the decision of Emerito N. Paulate that he and some of his  
> colleagues are withdrawing from the Church of God as of his November  
> 24th letter.  
>  
> We want to assure you that this was their decision and was not the  
> initiative of the Church of God. We are also informed from a number of  
> WIM personnel that this decision does not, in fact, represent all the  
> pastors and workers in WIM internationally. Had we been informed  
> earlier, we would have made every effort to work toward continued  
> resolution of any concerns. Numerous discussions have been held over  
> the last three years whereby Church of God leadership has listened to  
> WIM concerns and has made an effort toward creating a flexible ministry  
> working space for WIM ministries within the body of their own  
> denominational covering.  
>  
> In addition, Church of God overseas field leaders (regional and country  
> leaders) as well as U.S. state overseers have sought to maintain a  
> cooperative and fair environment for Filipino ministries, making efforts  
> to include WIM churches and personnel in the overall ministry programs  
> of the Church of God. Over the years, the Church of God has provided  
> the following benefits for WIM personnel:  
>  
> 1. Legal covering in the U.S. and other countries.  
> 2. Assistance in securing properties and meeting places.  
> 3. International ministerial credentials giving entree to all  
> Church of God ministries and agencies, including chaplaincy  
> credentialing (military, institutional, community, etc.).  
> 4. Ministry training through MAP, MIP, School of Ministry, and  
> other non-formal training programs.  
> 5. Scholarships to national and regional seminaries as well as the  
> Church of God Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee.  
> 6. Access to all Church of God ministry resources by all WIM  
> constituents.  
> 7. Ministry leadership appointments by the World Missions Board  
> and International Executive Committee.

- > 8. Invitations and sponsorship to the General Assembly, regional
- > and state leadership meetings and training seminars.
- >
- > We are grieved by this unfortunate decision of WIM leaders, and the
- > Church of God intends to continue her efforts toward reaching the
- > worldwide Filipino harvest with all Filipino ministry partners who wish
- > to continue with us. Ours is truly an international fellowship of more
- > than 6 million members in 163 countries of the world. We have
- > international representation in our highest governing councils and
- > ministry departments. We will continue our mandate to reach all people
- > and include all people.
- >
- > We encourage you to continue your ministry with us, an international,
- > global body that gives you access to all nationalities and peoples in
- > our worldwide denominational family. If you choose to leave the Church
- > of God, then you will forfeit the legal covering, your ministerial
- > credentials (if applicable), and any status with the Chaplains
- > Commission, as mentioned earlier.
- >
- > We would invite you to communicate your decision in writing (e-mail,
- > fax, and/or surface mail) to our attention no later than February 15,
- > 2004. A response line is included for your convenience at the close of
- > this letter. We hope you decide to remain with the Church of God.
- >
- > For the Harvest,
- >
- >
- >
- >
- > R. Lamar Vest, General Overseer
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- > Lovell R. Cary, Director
- > Church of God World Missions
- >
- >
- > cc: World Missions Field Directors and Overseers
- >
- >
- > Response regarding withdrawal of Word International Ministries from the
- > Church of God:
- >
- >
- >  I wish to continue as a member and/or minister of the Church of God
- > (Cleveland, Tennessee U.S.A.)
- >