

# THE EVIDENCE

*Andrew Evans*  
and the  
*AOG Insurance Agency scandal*

by  
**HENRY G. SHEPPARD**

*Aitch Gee*  
**PUBLICATIONS**

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# THE EVIDENCE

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and the  
*AOG Insurance Agency scandal*

Fifth Edition

*Aitch Gee*  
PUBLICATIONS

If your brother sins, rebuke him: and if he repents, forgive him.

Luke 17:3

Keep telling the truth.

(Advice given to victims of spiritual abuse by Johnson & VanVonderen. *The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse*, 1991, Bethany House Publishers.)

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather **expose them**.

Ephesians 5:11

Now when I had delivered the evidence...  
I prayed unto the Lord, saying, Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and outstretched arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: the Great, the Mighty God, the Lord of hosts is his name, great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings...

Jeremiah 32:16-19 (KJV)

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## Preface to the fifth edition

It has been widely reported that this book was banned by the District Court of South Australia because it was ruled to be “defamatory”.

The report is false.

It is true that Andrew Evans and some of his mates on the AOG National Executive used the people’s money to take action against me in the District Court — in direct contravention of the biblical injunction not to take a brother to court. It is true that they claimed to have been “defamed”.

But I refused to be tricked into wasting money on lawyers and attempted to defend the legal action on my own, without any legal training or legal advice. Andrew Evans’ team of lawyers was able to challenge my defence on a series of fine legal technicalities and had my defence “struck out”. Then, on the basis that I had “failed” to lodge an amended defence, the judge ruled that I be restrained “from publishing or distributing further copies” of *THE EVIDENCE*. This injunction applies across the full area of the court’s jurisdiction, which is to say, across South Australia.

One of Andrew Evans’ lawyers has made it clear that if he can ever prove that I have violated that injunction, he will arrange to have me “breaking rocks”. Having failed to obtain a court ruling of “defamation”, they are now planning to seek a ruling of “contempt of court” and have me imprisoned for telling the truth.

However, in the belief that God wants me to tell my story, I have now published a fifth edition of this book — including some of the documents from the court case — but in the state of Victoria. I mean no disrespect to the South Australian court, but I must obey God (Acts 4:19).

Henry G. Sheppard  
Kaniva, Victoria

28 August 1997

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## Author's Note

I first met Andrew Evans at Paradise AOG on 4 August 1983, when I attended a "New Friends" evening at the church. During the years that followed, I became heavily involved in the program, helping with the audio taping of services, assisting the lighting director, working as the props manager and stage manager in numerous church musicals, teaching in the New Christians program, the mid-week Bible study classes, and the evening Adelaide Bible College program. For seven years, my wife was the second-in-charge of one of the three ushering teams at the church.

Over those years I met privately with Andrew Evans once every few months, to discuss various situations, particularly as they related to my steady promotion through the teaching ranks at Paradise AOG. Amongst other things, I twice co-taught a course on *Bible Study Methods* with Lorraine Evans, Andrew's wife.

On 22 April 1992, I wrote to Andrew Evans, informing him of our decision to move to another AOG church. [Ever since we left, people have asked why we became unhappy and left Paradise AOG. The truth is that we were quite happy when we left. We simply felt a prompting to go somewhere else.]

The subsequent three and a half years have taken me on an extraordinary personal journey.

I was present when Greg Sowerby was ordered to leave the AOG Insurance Agency. I was present when he recovered his non-AOG Insurance program files. I was present the night the police raided his home. I was present when his first and second Circular letters went out. I was present when the police returned his non-AOG Insurance program files. I was present when Brian Houston and Steve Penny called the SA Police *liars* for saying that the AOG National Executive had complained about the investigating officer's performance.

**I am an eye-witness to many <sup>crimes</sup> committed by some of the leaders of the Pentecostal church in Australia in the last two years.** But this book is not my story.

**Rather, the documents contained in this book tell a story of their own.**

The first of these appears on the next page. It is a note that Andrew Evans dropped in my letterbox at 7:30 am on Sunday 15 October 1995. The essence of the message was that he had exhausted the first two requirements of Matthew 18 and was now going to take the matter to “the church,” by which he meant an Anglican church—Holy Trinity, Adelaide—where my wife and I had taken refuge.

His claims concerning his having fulfilled Matthew 18 — going to your brother privately, and again with a witness or two — were totally false, but his threat to embroil Paul Harrington, the local Anglican minister, was real.

This manuscript was assembled originally as a way to explain the history of the conflict to somebody who was, until the time of Andrew Evans’ intrusion, blissfully ignorant of the problems.

During my re-reading of numerous old documents, I recognised that they would be of interest to people from a wide spectrum of the community.

And having progressed that far in my thinking, it just seemed appropriate to complete Andrew Evans’ process of *telling it to the church*, by presenting a set of the documents to the Australian “apostles and elders of the Pentecostal movement,” with another, more formal, appeal for justice.

Andrew Evans had repeatedly threatened to sue me during the weeks leading up to December 1995 for attracting the attention of his congregation to the dark side of his personal agenda. He repeated the threats again in January 1996 through a solicitor. And then on 9 February 1996, following the publication of the second edition of this book, he commenced legal action, alleging that he had been “brought into odium, contempt and ridicule”.

[Page 5: Andrew Evans' note, 14/10/95. He says he will seek “a meeting with your new churches (sic) leadership” in an attempt to intimidate me into silence.]

14-10-95

Dear Henry,

I received your latest letter yesterday & was delighted that you have found a Spiritual home. Since I have followed Matt 18:15 & 16, I have decided to seek a meeting with the leadership of your new church concerning your latest allegations which from my perspective are liable.

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 "But if he will not hear {you}, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell {it} to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

It is time for verse 17 to be followed through on, so I will be seeking a meeting with your new churches leadership & possibly of the denomination, to resolve this issue. If this fails I will follow through on the last part of verse 17 & settle the matter accordingly.

Please receive my gift as an expression of my love.

Sincerely,



Andrew & Lorraine.

## Sacked!

My battle with “Dr.” Wilfred Andrew Lever Evans, National General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Australia, began on 5 November, 1993.

During the period of July to November 1993, I was employed within the AOG Insurance Agency to process contributions to the AOG Superannuation Fund, issue statements, maintain records and upgrade membership details onto computer.

The person who employed me was the AOG Insurance Agency manager at the time, Mr. Greg Sowerby. The person who signed my pay and expense cheques (over thirty of them) was the assistant manager at the time, Mrs. Betty Ethel Greaves.

The AOG National Executive formally decided to sack Mr. Greg Sowerby at an Executive meeting in Melbourne on 3 November 1993. Andrew Evans informed Greg of the decision on 4 November 1993.

The reason given for the decision was that the Executive had found a “successful businessman,” Robert Palma, who owned five companies (allegedly) and who had offered to take over the running of the Insurance Agency for nothing. He had promised to double the profits of the Agency in the first twelve months and convert the Superannuation Fund to a Public Offer Fund which would eventually attract deposits of \$50,000,000 and generate a 1% “Assets Under Management” fee to the National Executive. That’s right, half a million dollars per annum. (No wonder the AOG National Executive jumped at it!)

The ‘fly in the ointment’ was Greg Sowerby. So, he was simply sacked without notice. (“That’s how they do things in big business,” said Andrew Evans.)

My situation wasn’t even considered.

Norm Greaves, General Secretary/Treasurer of the AOG (and a cousin by marriage of Mrs. Betty Ethel Greaves) only rang me to tell me to get out of the building after the manager of *Minet Australia Ltd* — the insurance brokers within whose premises the AOG Insurance Agency operated — asked Norm where I fitted in the new setup.

I didn't.

Which would have been fine, had they simply done the right thing; which would have been:

1. To pay me the money owing to me, and
2. Give me a short note saying my services were no longer required, given their decision to restructure the Agency.

They did neither.

On 11 November 1993 I complained to Robert Palma that I had no formal notification of my position.

On 15 November 1993 I received a letter from Norm Greaves, backdated to 8 November 1993. Not only was the date dishonest, but the letter pretended that I had never been employed by the AOG Insurance Agency. The inference of the second paragraph is that my employment, and therefore my wages, were dependent on Greg Sowerby's association with the AOG. He was "no longer associated" with the AOG, and so "it follows that your services are no longer required."

This was a cowardly attempt to rip me off. Presumably it was motivated by my failure to follow the lead of the local AOG officials in kicking Greg Sowerby when he was down.

[Page 8: Norm Greaves' letter dated 8/11/93. It arrived ten days after I had been ordered to leave the building "by 5.00 pm" and pretended that the AOG held no responsibility toward me as an employee.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

8 November, 1993.

Mr Henry Sheppard  
5 Wood Street  
PARADISE SA 5075

Dear Mr Sheppard

It is understood that you have been employed by Greg Sowerby to work on behalf of the Assemblies of God Superannuation Fund. Unfortunately we have no record of this arrangement on the files in this office but we understand that you have been paid from Assemblies of God Superannuation Fund monies.

This letter is to confirm that as Greg Sowerby is no longer associated with the Assemblies of God Insurance Agency or the Assemblies of God Superannuation Fund it follows that your services are no longer required from close of business on Friday, November 5, 1993.

Yours sincerely

Norm Greaves  
GENERAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

## Threatened by AOG Solicitor

Following receipt of Norm Greaves' dishonest letter on 15 November 1993, I sent an invoice requesting that I be paid the monies due to me.

After waiting patiently for over two months, I sent an 'overdue' statement on 24 January 1994, warning that if I wasn't paid in full within seven days I would take legal action to recover the money.

I commenced debt recovery action (Action No. 94/2414) in the Magistrates' Court [Civil Division] South Australia on 16 February 1994.

On 21 February 1994 I received a threatening letter from Jame Lewis, the AOG's solicitor at the time. He repeated the lie of Norm Greaves that I had not been employed by the AOG "at any time," and attempted to palm all responsibility off onto Greg Sowerby.

He also promised that if I was to take any legal action, it would be "defended vigorously."

---

Just eight weeks after solicitor Jame Lewis wrote to me that the AOG "did not employ you... at any time," he wrote to the SA Police stating that I *was* employed by the AOG Insurance Agency, but asserted that my employment somehow involved 'fraud' on the part of Greg Sowerby. The police report shows the assertion to be complete nonsense, but we will get to that later (p.72).

[Page 10: AOG solicitor Jame Lewis' letter dated 17/2/94. It arrived the day after I had commenced legal action — a fact which he would not yet have known — and threatened an impossible vigorous "defence".]

Received 21/2/94

J LEWIS & ASSOCIATES  
SOLICITORS AND CONSULTANTS

Tel: (03) 614 5186  
Fax: (03) 629 8310  
Link ID: LA

5th Floor  
20 Queen St  
Melbourne Vic 3000  
DX 650

Also at Essendon

Correspondence:  
Box 138  
PO Market Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

17th February 1994

Our Ref: 431B:18:G

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Mr Henry Sheppard  
Sheppard Computing Services  
5 Wood Street  
PARADISE S.A. 5075

Dear Sir,

**A.O.G. Insurance Agency**

We refer to an account forwarded to A.O.G. Insurance Agency, and dated the 15th of November 1993.

We advise that we act on behalf of The Assemblies of God in Australia, and A.O.G. Financial Services Pty Ltd.

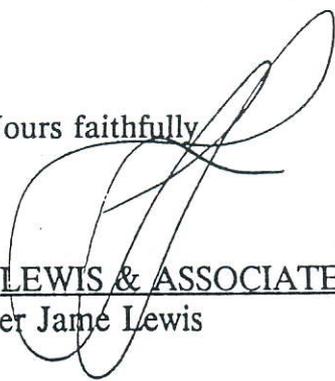
We note that our client did not employ you or any company for which you work at any time.

We further note that on the 8th of November 1993 a letter was sent to you from the General Secretary of our client setting out our clients understanding.

We believe that you were employed by Mr Greg Sowerby, and we would suggest that you take this matter up with him.

Please note if any action is taken by you in relation to the purported invoice this will be defended vigorously.

Yours faithfully

  
j LEWIS & ASSOCIATES  
per James Lewis

## My Response

I sent a letter to Norm Greaves on 23 February 1994 that challenged his lie that I hadn't been employed by the AOG.

It summarised the evidence in support of my claim to having been employed by the AOG Insurance Agency, including the facts that:

- I had spoken on the phone to dozens of Superannuation Fund members across Australia;
- Andrew Evans had rung me at that office;
- His wife, Lorraine Evans, had rung me at the office;
- I had written to literally hundreds of members as part of my job;
- Mrs Betty Ethel Greaves had signed some thirty-four separate cheques that were made out to me; and
- I had signed probably fifty deposit slips for the Superannuation Fund account with the State Bank over that period, representing a total sum transferred well in excess of \$250,000.

Not bad for someone who they "did not employ...at any time"!

[Pages 12 & 13: My response to the solicitor's letter, sent to Norm Greaves, the General Secretary / Treasurer who would have authorised the legal threats against me and who would have been paying the lawyer's bills using AOG Fellowship funds.]

Henry & Rainee Sheppard,  
5 Wood Road,  
Paradise, 5075,  
South Australia

23 February, 1994

Norm Greaves,  
Assemblies of God in Australia,  
PO Box 336,  
MITCHAM, VIC, 3132

COPY

Dear Norm,

**re: Letter from J. Lewis & Unpaid Wages**

I have received the letter from Jame Lewis of 17 February, 1994. My disappointment in you grows steadily, Norm. A man in your position should know better. I'm sure God expects more, and I am absolutely certain the fellowship expect more.

I consider young Jame's statement, "*if any action is taken by you in relation to the purported invoice this will be defended vigorously*", to be a fair indication of his true ability as a solicitor. Even minor government clerks are aware that an action in the Adelaide Magistrate's Court concerning an amount less than \$5,000 is restricted to the plaintiff, the defendant and the magistrate. What would be the source and focus of this *vigorous defence*? When Betty Ethel Greaves and I stand in front of the magistrate, will young Jame be shouting and whistling from the sidelines? Or will he operate a voodoo doll to impair my performance?

You hold a responsible position as the National Treasurer, Norm. You are paying yourself and your wife an impressive sum of money – \$58,492.00 p.a. (\$37,146.00 p.a. plus \$21,346.00 p.a.), not counting perks and expenses, which totals almost half a million dollars (\$467,936.00) over your eight year term – and for what?

It was irresponsible of you to approve the sending of a solicitor's letter which threatens an impossible "vigorous defence" in a totally indefensible case.

You are well aware that I was employed by the manager of the AOG Insurance Agency to look after the AOG Superannuation Fund. During my four months in the position I spoke to many dozens of Fund Members from churches across the country. I wrote to literally hundreds of them. Most of those letters still exist in filing cabinets around Australia. **Andrew Evans** rang me at the office to discuss one matter and **Lorraine Evans** rang me at the office to discuss another. Both Andrew and Lorraine will be granted the privilege of explaining to the magistrate why they would phone a person at an office where that person was not employed.

The **State Bank** will be given the privilege of providing copies of some thirty-four cheques drawn on the AOG Superannuation Fund account and made out to either "Henry Sheppard" or "Sheppard Computing Services" (being either wages or expense amounts), everyone of which was signed by **Betty Ethel Greaves**. B.E.G. will be given the honour of explaining why she made out thousands of dollars in cheques to someone whom the AOG Insurance Agency "*did not employ...at any time.*"

The State Bank will be given the privilege of providing copies of every banking deposit slip provided to the AOG Superannuation Fund over the period July to October 1993. Fifty or more deposit slips will show my signature.

The manager of the AOG Insurance Agency who employed me, **Greg Sowerby**, will be given the opportunity of informing the court of the facts concerning my employment contract. He will also have an opportunity to explain how he came to lose his position as manager and how those circumstances resulted in the non-payment of wages due to me, the very issue of the court hearing. In support of this description, a letter from **Norm Greaves** – stating that "*Greg Sowerby is no longer associated with the AOG (and)... it follows that your services are no longer required*" – will be provided to the court.

And you, Norm, will be given the opportunity of explaining to the court what information you obtained from Greg Sowerby to establish the bizarre assertion that "*our client did not employ you*".

**Betty Ethel Greaves** will have the opportunity of making whatever statement she chooses to the court. She will subsequently have the privilege of defending herself as a reliable witness, as someone not given to fraudulently altering legal documents in order to obtain access to other people's money, in whatever fashion she chooses. (I have had extensive discussions with the woman in charge of the Justice of the Peace section of the Attorney General's Department. The only way they can act on the problem is if the facts are included in the transcript of a court hearing. Given that ANSVAR are not about to act on the matter, nor is the AOG Insurance Agency, the only way to obtain the necessary transcript is to have the matter examined within a court hearing relating to a separate matter, e.g., a debt collection case, a libel and slander case, etc.)

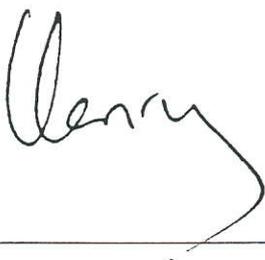
The bottom line in all this, Norm, is that I have nothing to lose. It would be nice to receive the money owing to me, but I can live without it. On the other hand, I believe that I have an obligation before God, under Matthew 18, to tell my problem to the church. You may have heard of the three-stage process commanded by Jesus in that chapter:

1. *...go and reprove him in private...*
2. *...if he does not listen, take one or two more with you...*
3. *...if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church...*

I have been systematically prevented, by yourself and **Andrew Evans**, from attending any forum where I could satisfy the first two steps involving private confrontation.

Greg Sowerby has been able to take his problem to the church via direct mail to 1,000 local churches. Apparently that process will be repeated regularly until a genuinely Christian resolution is achieved. I do not have the financial capacity to apply the same method, but I still have a Biblical responsibility to fulfill. My solution is to take the problem to the churches via the print and television media.

I waited three months for an honourable Christian resolution and you have shown yourself to be incapable of rising to the necessary level. I am very disappointed in you, Norm.



## “An act of Christian grace”!

On 7 March 1994, I received a cheque and a letter from Norm Greaves.

The letter makes fascinating reading, even today, for it clearly demonstrates the attitude of the AOG National Executive. (There is absolutely no possibility that Norm Greaves took the decision to spend this \$1,500 without the full knowledge and approval of a majority of the AOG National Executive members.)

### “...your claim is not justified”

- Then why did he pay the money?
- The National Treasurer holds a position of significant trust. How could he hand over \$1,500 of AOG Fellowship funds to someone who had no right to it?
- Was this a common practice for Norm when he was Treasurer?
- How many other people have been paid on claims that were “not justified”, and for what total amount?
- When can we expect to see a full accounting of “not justified” payments made by the AOG National Office?

### “...payment is made on an ex gratia basis”

My dictionary says “ex gratia” means *a favour; not a legal obligation*.

Which raises the questions:

- If they were unconcerned about their legal rights, why did they pay a solicitor to threaten to have those rights “defended vigorously” ?
- How much has it cost the Fellowship to have lawyers threaten legal action in cases where the National Executive have paid out money “ex gratia,” as *a favour; not a legal obligation*?
- And when will the Fellowship receive a full accounting of the cost of these quixotic legal forays by the Executive?

**“...a denial of liability”**

This means that, as far as the AOG National Executive are concerned, I was not employed at the AOG Insurance Agency and I did not earn the wages to which I continue to lay claim.

The evidence to the contrary is overwhelming.

And nothing will dissuade me from continuing this battle with Andrew Evans and his associates until my rightful claims are publicly acknowledged and properly met.

At a meeting at Adelaide Airport in December 1994, Brian Houston offered to make the payment out of his local church's funds. I refused to accept it from them. Those people owe me nothing.

**“...an act of Christian grace”**

This is a mockery of the word “Christian” and a confusion of “grace” with “waste of other people's money.”

---

My persistence in laying claim to the wages owed to me is only exceeded by that of the Bible, which characterises my money in Andrew Evans' pockets as “crying out” to God, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

*Behold [Andrew Evans], the pay of the labourers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts.*

James 5:4

[Page 16: Norm Greaves signed it, but this letter reflects the dishonesty and the willingness to twist words that I have discovered to be the two chief characteristics of the AOG National Executive in Australia.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

4 March 1994

Mr Henry Sheppard  
Sheppard Computing Services  
5 Wood Road  
PARADISE SA 5075

Dear Henry

*WITHOUT PREJUDICE*

The matter of the amount of money claimed by you has been reconsidered, and although it is believed that your claim is not justified, it has been agreed to pay the amount of \$1527.50 as claimed by you. A cheque to this value is enclosed herewith.

This payment is made on an ex gratia basis with a denial of liability and constitutes what we intend is an act of Christian grace.

Yours sincerely

Norm Greaves  
General Secretary/Treasurer

Enclos.

## Extraordinary about-face...

Andrew Evans published a booklet called *A New Wave of the Holy Spirit* in March 1995, which purported to show the Scriptural basis for the Toronto “blessing” under a group of four headings. The quality of his exegesis can be seen by the references included under the heading of Weeping. Of the two verses he quoted to support the weeping at Rodney Howard-Browne meetings, one verse does not mention weeping, and the other specifically says “Do *not* mourn or weep.” [Nehemiah 8:9, and Acts 2:37.]

I published a critique of his teaching, *A New Wave of the Spirit?*, which has never received any response focusing on the Scriptures (plenty of irrational abuse, but no reasoned Biblical debate). At our meeting on 9 May 1995, Andrew Evans himself refused to discuss the matter with me, waving his hands dismissively, and saying it was a case of mere “theological differences”.

On 6 April 1995, following the release of *A New Wave of the Spirit?*, Andrew Evans sent me a letter in which he appealed to Matthew 18; insisting that he was “not worried, as the Lord has clearly given me a number of promises which will prove, in time, to be a blessing”; described me as “a Christian Brother”; and stated that he would be “more than delighted to meet with you and discuss any issues you may have, face to face, as the Scriptures require.”

This was such a dramatic change from his previous position that I wrote him a letter (which is reproduced on the following two pages).

[Pages 18 & 19: Letter to Andrew Evans dated 10 April 1995, which briefly examines his history of applying Matthew 18 to my circumstances.]

# Henry G. Sheppard

---

10 April, 1995

Andrew Evans  
2 Crowle Road  
Paradise, SA 5075

Dear Andrew

I received your letter today. It mentions several things which I would like to explore further.

The first is your statement that you “would be more than delighted to meet with you and discuss any issues you may have”. This is an extraordinary about-face from your position twelve months ago when you instructed Greg Johnston to ring Greg Sowerby and warn him that you would not attend a particular meeting “if Henry Sheppard was going to be there”. What has happened that I should now be so warmly returned to grace?

The second is your crack, “If you had applied Matthew 18...”. Surely we should be asking how things would be today if only *you* had applied Matthew 18:

- **Before** you circulated those rumours three years ago about me “dumping the Bible College”. *The truth was that you sacked me from the Bible College in a bungled attempt to manipulate me into staying at Paradise, and then falsely accused me.*
- **Before** you lied about me inventing the story that you had transferred the ownership of the manse to your own name. *The truth was that I had acted to investigate the story, discovered it to be untrue, and acted to protect your good name. In return, you attempted to destroy my reputation.*
- **Before** you told Greg Sowerby that I was unstable; that I had drifted from church to church; and that I would desert him at a crucial moment. *The truth is that when his world collapsed (through your designs), I proved to be the only person who stood by him through all the successive crises.*
- **Before** you ordered Norm Greaves to sack me from the AOG Insurance Office and withhold the wages that were due to me. *How different it all would be today if you had simply paid me the money that was owed me! Instead I have regularly prayed James 5:4 ever since.*

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

*My wages cry out against you day and night, and the Lord hears those cries.*

- **Before** you ordered the Melbourne lawyer to threaten legal action against me for simply asking for the money that was owed to me. *Once I took out the summons against Betty Greaves, you went to water, Andrew. You had the perfect opportunity to refute my claims once-and-for-all (if they were unjustified), but none of you had the necessary character to stand in front of a Judge.*
- **Before** you ordered Norm Greaves to go through the childish charade of making an “ex gratia” payment to me, while specifically denying me the wages that were owed to me. *You escaped the legal consequences of your earlier actions, but not the moral and spiritual consequences. You have attempted to make me into a liar before the Living God. He is my witness and I continue to cry out to Him for justice.*
- **Before** you told Stan Sowerby to “be careful of Henry Sheppard. He was involved with ROLEC, and a lot of people lost a lot of money through ROLEC.” *As you well know, I was only an employee of ROLEC, and I lost thousands of dollars in unpaid wages. Your deliberate attempt to insinuate that I was somehow responsible for the ROLEC disaster is one of the most despicable things I have ever heard.*

The third issue I would like to explore is your plea that “the Lord has clearly given me a number of promises.” If you would care to look in the Bible, you will see that God gave David many promises, but when David sinned, judgement came on his house. God gave many promises to Solomon, but when Solomon sinned, God judged him also. God gave Nebuchadnezzar many promises, but once his heart became proud, Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to eating grass like a cow. Indeed, your attitude is like that of Nebuchadnezzar, who said:

*Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty? (Daniel 4:30).*

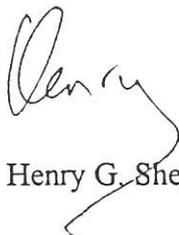
The Assemblies Of God in Australia was built by many thousands of people, but you want to take the glory for it all to yourself. But you shall be like Nebuchadnezzar:

*The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes (Daniel 4:31).*

As for your plea for a meeting, I am very busy with work and study commitments, but have managed to clear an hour at 7:30 pm on the evening of Tuesday, 18 April 1995. Please feel free to drop in at that time for a frank discussion of all the issues outstanding.

In the meantime, I take pleasure in forwarding the first copy of my Open Letter to you.

Yours faithfully



Henry G. Sheppard

## 'Evidence' from Andrew Evans

Over the last two years, Andrew Evans has frequently stated that he has 'evidence' to prove that he is innocent of all wrong-doing. He has 'letters' which *prove* that he has never done anything wrong.

On 9 May 1995, following repeated invitations, Andrew Evans visited me at my home. He handed me a photocopy of the fax shown on the next page, smugly stating that this note from Norm Greaves constituted 'proof' that he was not responsible for any of the troubles. (Notice that it had arrived just hours before our meeting.)

The fax does three things:

1. It talks about the "termination of the services of Mr Henry Sheppard" without indicating:

- What services?
- For whom?
- Where?
- When?

This could relate to my involvement in any of dozens of projects in various AOG churches in the last twenty years.

2. It declares that Andrew Evans was not "involved in the other areas about which accusations have been made."

In what 'other areas' is Andrew Evans 'not involved'?

- The *AOG National Executive*, of which he has been the National General Superintendent for some twenty years?
- The *AOG Insurance Agency*, of which he was the chairman of the Insurance Sub-committee for some seven years?

This is complete nonsense!

3. The letter serves as an excellent example of the kind of work that earned Norm his reputation for incompetence.

[Page 21: An example of the kind of 'evidence' Andrew Evans produces to defend his paralysis in the face of the creeping evil which has overtaken the operations of the AOG National Executive in recent years. Andrew Evans is "not responsible," according to former General Secretary/Treasurer Greaves.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to advise that Pastor Andrew Evans was not responsible for the termination of the services of Mr Henry Sheppard, neither was he involved in the other areas about which accusations have been made.

Yours sincerely

Norman R Greaves  
General Secretary/Treasurer

9th May, 1995

Handed to me by  
A.E. at a meeting  
at my home.  
7:30 pm 9/5/95

## *General Superintendent Evans*

While my own small battle had been unfolding, Greg and Meredith Sowerby and their two daughters suffered an onslaught of evil that astonishes me to this day.

The first letter attacking them, sent to every Pentecostal church in Australia on 11 November 1993, was signed by Andrew Evans. It also proved to be the last public document to which he would put his name in this matter, as a result of the negative response to it from within the AOG Fellowship. As soon as he recognised a tide of contrary opinion, Andrew Evans invented a retrospective disability: his hands had been "tied".

For months after that, everywhere he went, Andrew Evans loudly proclaimed that he had nothing to do with the events. The inference was that, if any wrongdoing had occurred, other wicked men had overruled him and forced this dreadful situation on him. He was powerless. As National General Superintendent, all he could do was wring his hands helplessly and hope that everything would turn out for the best.

Of course, an <sup>innocent?</sup> man occupying the highest office in the organisation would accept responsibility for whatever actions had occurred under his administration, investigate where problems arose, and take whatever action was appropriate to repair the damage.

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The other major item of interest in this letter is his carefully worded statement that the Insurance Agency was going to be transferred to Melbourne. Over two years later, there is no evidence of any such move to Melbourne.

[Page 23: The only public document to bear the signature of Andrew Evans, the General Superintendent.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

11 November 1993

Dear Pastor

re: AOG INSURANCE AGENCY

Greetings in the Name of Jesus.

I am writing to inform you that Greg Sowerby is no longer associated with the Assemblies of God in Australia, Insurance Agency. His services were terminated as Manager on Friday November 5, 1993. It is understood that Greg Sowerby will be pursuing his own business interests (I.M.S.) but it should be noted that he is in no way associated with the business affairs of the AOG Insurance Agency.

For some time now the National Executive Presbytery has been considering the desirability of moving this agency to Melbourne to share the National Office premises in Mitcham. At a recent National Executive Presbytery meeting it was decided that this would be a very practical course of action. It is anticipated that this move will occur some time in 1994 and we will of course keep you informed concerning this matter.

In the meantime it is business as usual and it is our intention to continue to provide you with an efficient level of service commensurate with the value we place upon you as our client. It is expected that the restructuring that is currently in process will result in increased efficiencies and competitive insurance rates which are achieved by our bulk-buying ability.

Mrs Betty Greaves is now acting manager of the Agency and I am very confident that any enquiries you may have will be attended to in her usual efficient and courteous manner. The following address is still current:

AOG INSURANCE AGENCY  
PO BOX 420  
CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074  
Phone No. (08) 231 7693 or (08) 212 5844  
Fax (08) 212 1328

Sincerely in Jesus,

Andrew Evans  
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

## Robert Palma (1)

On 11 November 1993 (the same day that Andrew Evans signed the first official AOG letter designed to ‘crush’ the Sowerbys), I attended a meeting at the offices of *Minet Australia Ltd*, the Insurance Broker for the AOG Insurance Agency, as an independent witness for Greg Sowerby.

Also present at the meeting were Robert Palma (the “successful businessman” who was about to double the Agency profits before our very eyes), Betty Ethel Greaves, and some insurance people from *Minet*.

Robert Palma controlled the meeting from beginning to end. He was obviously intent on proving to us all his superior grasp of insurance and business matters. Unfortunately, he kept making fundamental errors that had to be corrected by the people from *Minet*. Eventually he became so embarrassed that he opted for safety by laying claim to the high moral ground he thought rightfully his as an AOG “pastor”. He even attempted to quote Scripture, but made such a hash of it that I had to correct him. Robert abruptly closed the meeting after that.

The exercise was high on posturing and low on substance. Believe it or not, I felt sorry for him — a boy in a black suit, sent to do a man’s job.

I would have spoken no more than three sentences during the whole meeting but, thereafter, Robert Palma was adamant that Henry Sheppard would not be permitted to attend any more meetings.

The fax on the following page is one of many from Robert that demonstrate his attitude. In this one he is ordering Greg Sowerby to rearrange his schedule and instructing him as to who else would be permitted to accompany Greg to a meeting.

[Page 25: One of many faxes from Robert Palma. The inference of his fourth point is that Henry Sheppard was not welcome at any more meetings.]

## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD INSURANCE AGENCY

7-1 King William Street,  
ADELAIDE S A 5000

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FORM

FAX NUMBER: 396 5334  
COMPANY: Insurance Management Services  
ATTENTION: Greg Sowerby  
SUBJECT: MEETING - 8TH DECEMBER, 1993

FROM: Robert Palma  
DATE: 26 November 1993  
NO. OF PAGES: 1  
(incl. this one)

PLEASE REPLY TO FAX NO: 08 212 1328

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Dear Greg,

Thank you for your fax dated 25th November, 1993.

In response:

1. All your Management Reports will be made available to you.
2. The meeting place and time is set at 8th December, 1993 in Melbourne. Please rearrange your schedules to suit that date as previously advised.
3. As stated previously, monies will be made available to G.M. & M.A. Sowerby at the meeting.
4. We believe that the only suitable I.M.S. representative allowable is Mrs. Meredith Sowerby. If she is unable to attend, then you will be asked to bring Pastor Greg Johnston or come alone.

Please confirm your attendance.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Palma

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## The AOG Declares War

Once Greg Sowerby had been sacked, he needed to find an alternative source of income. The area he knew best was church insurance, so he started to organise a new business in that field.

When Meredith Sowerby asked Andrew Evans in November 1993 why they had been sacked without notice, he replied that it was a “business decision designed to cut off your (financial) survival.” They already feared that Greg would go into competition with them. So when the Executive became aware of Greg’s move back to insurance, they panicked and did what they always do when threatened. They told .

The letter from Phil Hills to every Pentecostal church in Australia signalled the start of a war which has not (at the time of writing) ended. This letter is of interest as it contains the basic set of which the AOG National Executive have repeated across Australia for the last two years. While keeping in mind the fact that the AOG were now simply facing something as ordinary as competition in business, let’s consider Phil Hills’ statements.

1. **“It is our unfortunate task to now draw your attention to the fact that there are a number of matters of very serious concern including financial issues...”**

This clearly implies that some financial irregularities involving Greg Sowerby had been uncovered. And as such, it was a lie. As we will see a little later, Greg Sowerby was falsely accused to the SA Police, who seized some of his property and subjected him to an investigation over a period of twelve months. No “matters of very serious concern including financial issues” were uncovered.

Phil Hills, Andrew Evans’ best friend and fellow Executive member, is a .

**2. “The date set for this meeting is December 8, 1993...”**

At the time they were attempting to entice Greg into a Kangaroo Court, using every possible means to pressure him into attending. He wisely refused to go because he didn't know what charges he was going to have to defend himself against.

Believe it or not, the AOG National Executive have never provided any details of the “serious...financial issues” that Phil Hills was so anxious to warn people about. The simple fact is that they never existed, but were invented to blacken the reputation of an innocent man who made the mistake of going into business for himself in opposition to the AOG National Executive.

Their plan for 8 December 1993 was to crowd Greg into a room where he would be outnumbered twenty to one (with no independent witnesses), shout him down and falsely accuse him, then announce that he was certainly guilty but that they had exercised “Christian grace” and let him off with a warning. From that time on the Church would have believed the “official” story and Greg's credibility would have been destroyed.

The basic strategy of isolating an innocent man, falsely accusing him and bringing in a “guilty” verdict can be found in the four gospels. The spirit of the Sanhedrin is alive and well in the Assemblies of God in Australia.

**3. “...he had to be escorted from the premises...”**

This is another lie and may still be the subject of a libel action in the South Australian Supreme Court.

**4. “...registered the business name of ‘AOG Insurance Agency’...”**

Any thinking business person will want to know why the National Treasurer had not registered the business name years before. The short answer is that Norm was incompetent and, as he was now publicly attacking other people's management skills, Greg decided to demonstrate Norm's real level of competence.

Greg never used the business name 'AOG Insurance Agency', nor did he prevent the AOG from using it. He would have been happy to negotiate a civilised transfer in exchange for the return of his management reports. We attended the 11 November 1993 meeting with that as part of our strategy, but Robert Palma's ignorance concerning basic business negotiations prevented that possibility. The name was voluntarily surrendered in December 1993 and, as of some six months ago, remained an unregistered name which was available to anybody who wanted to register it for themselves.

**5. "Mr Sowerby subsequently took files from the office of the AOG Insurance Agency without authorisation."**

Yes, he did, and I accompanied him on that trip to collect his non-AOG Insurance business files.

It was a perfectly legal exercise, whereby we walked into the building, collected the files, and returned to our car with no more than a short toilet stop on the way. The critical factor in the exercise was the timing. We met no one on the way in or out. Depending on your point of view, we either experienced an extraordinary succession of coincidences or the hand of God guided us.

Two months after we recovered the files, the SA Police impounded them. Then, following an investigation into the ownership of the files and other questions, the police returned the files to their legal owner — Greg Sowerby.

The most telling aspect of this operation was the AOG Executive's reaction to it: they invented a James Bond story in which we supposedly bribed a cleaner to let us in. By repeating that lie they placed an innocent woman's job at risk.

[Page 29: The infamous "concern about financial issues" letter from Phil Hills, dated 29 November 1993, which started the AOG National Executive campaign of lies, half-truths and distortions in support of "their" insurance business.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

29 November, 1993

## U R G E N T

Dear Pastor

re: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD INSURANCE AND SUPERANNUATION AGENCIES

You will have recently received correspondence from the AOG and subsequently from Mr Sowerby of Church Management Services regarding the church insurance schemes and other related issues.

It is our unfortunate task to now draw your attention to the fact that there are a number of matters of very serious concern including financial issues about which we have on several occasions requested Mr Sowerby's presence at a meeting in Victoria. The date set for this meeting is December 8, 1993 but to date he has not indicated his willingness to attend. Due to Mr Sowerby's actions and his subsequent misinformation to yourselves, we feel that it is necessary to provide the following information.

1. Mr Sowerby's services were terminated by the National Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God in Australia and he had to be escorted from the premises by the associated Insurance Broker, Minet Australia Limited.  
  
On the day of, or just after his departure, Mr Sowerby registered the business name of "AOG Insurance Agency" under his personal ownership, thus technically rendering our use of it null and void. To overcome this difficulty a new name of 'AOG Financial Services Pty Ltd' has been registered with business on a firm footing and proceeding as usual.
3. Mr Sowerby subsequently took files from the office of the AOG Insurance Agency without authorisation.

It is strongly recommended that in view of the behaviour of Mr Sowerby that you disregard the correspondence sent by himself and his company to you, as it grossly misrepresents the Assemblies of God and our agencies.

We are committed to you and your fellowship to continue to provide low cost insurance, and plans are in hand to provide health cover, low interest finance, superannuation and other related services for your benefit. As always, intended profits from these schemes will be ploughed back into the Kingdom of God and not for the benefit of individuals.

Yours sincerely

Pastor Phillip Hills  
ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT  
AOG NATIONAL EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY  
CHAIRMAN - INSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE

## Robert Palma (2)

The AOG National Executive plucked the date 8 December 1993 out of the air and ordered Greg Sowerby to attend a meeting with them in Melbourne on that date. (Remember that these people had sacked Greg without warning and without paying him any of the money due to him at the time, then tried to order him around as if they owned his soul. Incredible arrogance!)

If you look back at the previous fax from Robert Palma (p.25), you will see references to “Management Reports” and “monies” being made available. Greg had requested copies of the annual management reports he had prepared over his seven years as the Manager of the Agency. They contained the only written history of the business and are quite significant for establishing the truth about a range of issues. Numerous promises have been made to supply copies of these reports to Greg, most noticeably by Andrew Evans, but they have never arrived. This is only one example of the AOG National Executive, under the administration of Andrew Evans, either withholding evidence or failing to produce “evidence” which never did exist.

As part of the bait to attract Greg to a Kangaroo Court in Melbourne on 8 December 1993, Andrew Evans — through Robert Palma — offered to provide copies of the reports and to pay him some “monies,” though no details concerning them were ever provided.

As part of their strategy to keep me out of any meeting, Andrew Evans decided that Greg could be accompanied by one of Andrew’s staff called Greg Johnston. Yes, you read that right. Andrew Evans *ordered* that his own lackey could be “chosen” by Greg as a representative, or else Greg would go without!

Either way, there would be no independent witnesses.

[Page 31: Another fax from Robert Palma, dated 1 December 1993. This one issues an ultimatum, contains an implied threat of legal action, and once again – by implication – bars Henry Sheppard from attending “their” meeting.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO GREG SOWERBY, IMS

FROM: ROBERT PALMA

DATE: 1 December 1993

FAX: (08) 396 5334

Dear Greg

Please advise by close of business 2 December, 1993 whether or not you will be attending the meeting as planned.

If not, we will assume you will not be attending and that you have no intention to resolve the serious issues that are now pending.

As stated previously, if Mrs Sowerby or Pastor Greg Johnson are unable to attend, then you will be asked to come alone.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT PALMA

## The AOG's *Bouncing Cheques*

The final fax from Robert Palma concerning their planned Kangaroo Court of 8 December 1993 came on 2 December 1993. This fax is significant for its statement that “we unconditionally guarantee that **the monies owed to your wife** will be given to you only at the meeting...”

These monies were payable at the time of the sacking. Andrew Evans promised Greg over the phone that same day that Meredith would receive her money and Betty Ethel Greaves handed over two cheques before they left the building. But the cheques bounced, thereby not only depriving the Sowerbys of their housekeeping money for two months, but incurring a substantial penalty fee from the bank as well. A little light humour from Andrew Evans!

Meredith Sowerby went around to his home and requested her money. Andrew Evans promised her, to her face, that he would pay the money, but it never turned up. Superintendent Evans' version of the story, these days, is that one of the employees of the AOG National Office physically prevented him from keeping his promise.

A summons was taken out against Norm Greaves (as the National Treasurer) in the Adelaide Magistrates Court on 25 March 1994 (Action No. 94/4714). The full amount owing to Meredith Sowerby, plus bank charges, plus costs, was paid a few days later. This was only one of a total of nine separate actions that, at the time of writing, have been commenced in the Adelaide Magistrates' Court in relation to various aspects of this business. The police report (p.90) notes correctly that “each of those civil actions has fallen in favour of (either Greg or Meredith Sowerby, or myself)...”.

The fax also falsely promised that Andrew Evans would make “all your management reports” available. Two years later, those reports have still not arrived.

[Page 33: A fax from Robert Palma dated 2 December 1993, acknowledging that the AOG owed money to Meredith Sowerby.

Page 34: A copy of the State Bank letter dated 11 November 1993 informing the Sowerbys that Meredith's cheques from the AOG Insurance Agency had bounced and that the Sowerbys were now being penalised \$14 for 'dishonour' fees.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To: Greg Sowerby  
From: Robert Palma  
Date: 2 December 1993  
Fax: (08) 396 5334

Dear Greg

Thank you for your fax dated 1 December 1993.

I regret that you seem to think that issues have been ignored and that nothing has been achieved.

In response:

1. We unconditionally guarantee that the monies owed to your wife will be given to you only at the meeting on 8 December 1993.
2. You are able to call Pastor Andrew Evans and access all your management reports that he has in his office, just in case we missed some.
3. It is unfortunate Greg that you have thought to take legal advice. However, so you see that we desire to sit down and discuss the issues outlined in my original fax of 18 November 1993, we are prepared to let you bring a qualified solicitor at your expense to the meeting. You have put us in a situation where we also will have a solicitor present. This is most unfortunate.

Please notify us before close of business today as to whether you will be at the meeting on 8 December 1993 at 9.a.m. at the National Office - 11-13 Station Street, Mitcham Victoria.

God bless

Yours sincerely

Robert Palma



NORTH ADELAIDE  
Phone 267 2666  
11th November, 1993

G M & M A Sowerby,  
16 Claridge Court  
St Agnes SA 5097

Dear Customers,

ACCOUNT NO. 133/493707440...

Sometimes cheques deposited by our customers need further clarification before we can honour them and make any payments.

Two cheques for \$1578.58 each drawn by Assemblies of God Insurance Agency No 1 Account on State Bank Hillcrest Branch lodged for the credit of your account have been presented to that bank for payment.

However, payment has been declined, the answer given being "PAYMENT STOPPED".

Two amounts of \$1578.58 respectively have been debited to the account and the cheques are returned to you.

A dishonour fee of \$7.00 for each cheque has also been debited to your account. Please contact this office if you have any further queries about this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P M Lillywhite".

P M Lillywhite  
Customer Service Officer

## A Christmas Threat

On Thursday 23 December 1993 (ten days after the AOG's false accusations had been passed to the SA Police's Fraud Task Squad), Greg and Meredith Sowerby received a threatening letter from solicitor Jame Lewis, which was especially sent by *express post* to make sure they received it in time for Christmas.

The letter told lies about what Greg was allowed to do and not to do with regard to his own non-AOG church insurance program.

It advised that the National Executive "reluctantly acceded (sic) to our advice that they must have the police notified" about the fate of two wrongly addressed cheques.

Another lie. No crime had been committed (as Andrew Evans well knew). No attempt had been made to obtain Greg's explanation of the facts. There was no need to involve the police, unless they wanted to create problems for him. And that is exactly what someone wanted.

The letter goes on to threaten injunctions, claims for damages, proceedings to prevent Greg running his business, and the possibility of defamation proceedings.

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Dear Reader,

This might be a good place to stop and contemplate the fact that a solicitor was paid out of church funds to amass a weight of legal threats for no other reason than that Andrew Evans wanted to prevent an individual exercising his legal right to set up an opposition church insurance agency!

---

[Pages 36 & 37: Another threatening letter from solicitor Jame Lewis, sent by *express post* in order for it to arrive on Christmas Eve, 1993. Merry Christmas from the AOG National Executive! ]

J LEWIS & ASSOCIATES  
SOLICITORS AND CONSULTANTS

Tel: (03) 614 5186  
Fax: (03) 629 8310  
Link ID: LA

5th Floor  
20 Queen St  
Melbourne Vic 3000  
DX 650

Also at Essendon

Correspondence:  
Box 138  
PO Market Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000

22nd December 1993

Our Ref: 431B:9-10:G

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Mr Greg Sowerby  
16 Claridge Court  
ST AGNES SA 5097

Dear Sir,

**Assemblies of God in Australia**

We advise that we act on behalf of the National Executive of Assemblies of God in Australia and A.O.G. Financial Services Pty Ltd.

We have been provided with a comprehensive set of correspondence and documents relating to A.O.G. Insurance Agencies, and the subsequent matters that have transpired since the 5th of November 1993.

We have attended meetings with our client and provided them with advice based on all the information that is currently to hand.

We advise that we are extremely concerned about a number of issues including the management of A.O.G. Insurance Agencies, the banking of A.O.G. funds into an account in the name of G.M. & M.A. Sowerby, businesses that were operated from A.O.G. funded premises, letters written to and comments made to insurance companies, opposing information given to Minet compared with the insurance sub-committee, and a substantial range of other issues.

You will appreciate that formal investigations are now taking place into all these matters and a more comprehensive letter will be forwarded to you in the near future.

We have now received confirmation in writing from a Bank of A.O.G. funds that were paid into your account and the National Executive of the Assemblies of God has reluctantly acceded to our advice that they must have the Police notified of this position immediately.

We have attended to this matter on their behalf.

-2-

You will appreciate that you were acting on behalf of A.O.G. Insurance Agency and the National Executive of the Assemblies of God in Australia.

You were not permitted to sell insurance apart from personal contacts of your own. Your personal insurance did not include independent individuals where the contact was not directly your own or churches other than the Assemblies of God Churches.

This is re-enforced by your operations and advice given to insurers and discussions held with organisations such as Minet and Ansva and in fact is substantiated in the written reports you have provided to the insurance sub-committee and the National Executive of the Assemblies of God, all of which are in our possession.

Please note that you are hereby formally advised that you must not contact any client of the A.O.G. Insurance Agencies, Assemblies of God, or A.O.G. Financial Services Pty Ltd. These include the independent churches and all contact and correspondence must cease immediately.

You will appreciate that at common law you do not have a right to contact those parties, and we have advised the National Executive of the Assemblies of God that if it persists they are open to take injunctive proceedings against you, in addition to claims for damages.

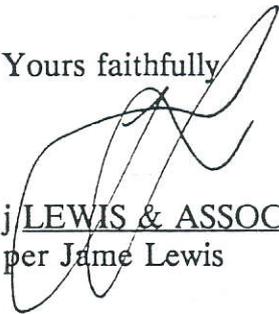
If we learn of any further attempts to contact clients of our client we will immediately take steps to obtain instructions from our client to issue proceedings if this is what is necessary to stop your current actions.

Please ensure that there are no incorrect or misleading comments made in relation to the Assemblies of God, as any such matters would necessitate us seeking instructions from our client to issue defamation proceedings.

If not already attended to please immediately arrange for the return of all files taken from our clients office.

We trust that in the circumstances and in terms of the parties involved this will not be necessary.

Yours faithfully



j/LEWIS & ASSOCIATES  
per James Lewis

## More Lies from Phil Hills

On 4 January 1994, Assistant Superintendent Philip Hills celebrated the New Year by launching another national attack on Greg Sowerby.

### 1. **“It was necessary to dismiss Mr Greg Sowerby.”**

As . . . The AOG National Executive dismissed Greg because they were on a promise of doubled profits from the AOG Insurance Agency and a half million dollar annual income from the Superannuation scheme. It was never “necessary”.

### 2. **“...an investigation by an independent external auditor...necessitated that certain matters be placed in the hands of authorities.”**

Two more lies. The “auditor” was far from independent, he was one of Robert Palma and Jame Lewis’ business partners! (More on that later.)

And there were never any matters that needed to be placed in the hands of “authorities” (which was proven by the subsequent police investigation), though a number of things should have been referred to Greg for clarification.

For their part, the AOG National Executive fall back on their absurd Kangaroo Court proposal as “justification” for their failure to seek answers to the questions from Greg. If they had ever been genuine about the matter, they would have faxed, phoned or posted the full details of whatever question they thought needed clarification. That has not happened up to the present day.

Nor has the report of the “investigation by an independent external auditor” ever been provided to Greg Sowerby. The police have a copy, but they refused to release it under FOI because it “could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on” the affairs of the AOG National Executive (see p. 87).

**3. “Fuel Card...we do not give our recommendation to this activity”**

This was the first public signal of the AOG National Executive’s full blooded attempt to destroy Greg’s *Fuelcard* business.

The quieter side of their assault included having Robert Palma warn the Mobil Oil Company that they were about to lose “millions of dollars” because of Greg Sowerby; saying that Greg was “about to be arrested” for criminal misappropriation of funds.

The AOG National Executive also attempted to hijack Greg’s *Fuelcard* business, offering unlimited funds to Mobil to support the operation of a substitute AOG Fuel Scheme.

To their eternal credit, Mobil Oil refused to participate in Andrew Evans’ evil plan to destroy Greg’s business.

[Page 40: Another letter from Assistant General Superintendent Philip Hills dated 4 January 1994. It repeats some old lies and launches another public attack on Greg Sowerby’s capacity to earn a living.]



# Assemblies of God in Australia National Conference

THE EVIDENCE

4 January 1994

URGENT

Dear Pastor,

## A.O.G. FINANCIAL SERVICES PTY LTD

You may have been aware of some changes that have taken place recently within the A.O.G. Financial Services (formerly AOG Insurance Agency). We wish to confirm recent events relating to this department of our Fellowship for your information.

1. Unfortunately it was necessary to dismiss Mr Greg Sowerby as manager of the AOG Insurance Agency, effective from November 5th, 1993.
2. Subsequently an investigation by an independent external auditor into the agency and its affairs has regrettably necessitated that certain matters be placed in the hands of authorities.
3. **FUEL CARD**  
There has been some confusion among our brethren as to the activities of fuel card and its ownership.  
The A.O.G. National Executive Presbytery confirm that **Fuel Card is not an AOG initiative**, and that we receive no benefit from this activity.

We therefore do not give our recommendation to this activity.

Due to the above, we do not endorse any of Mr Sowerby's services whether directly or via Church Management Services Pty Ltd.

We regret to have to confirm these details, but trust you will understand our position.

We are continuing to pray for you and believe with you for a great year in 1994. We thank you for your prayers and continued support in this decade of harvest.

Yours in Christ,

Philip Hills  
Assistant General Superintendent  
for the National Executive Presbytery.

## Andrew Evans cancels *Fuelcard*

During the South Australian AOG State Conference at Victor Harbour in March 1994, Andrew Evans repeatedly stated publicly and in private conversations that he “fully supported” *Fuelcard*. He only wanted “the best for Greg Sowerby” and “wouldn’t do anything to harm him.” The “proof” of Andrew’s generous spirit lay in the fact that Paradise AOG were still part of Greg’s *Fuelcard* program.

But as soon as the State Conference was out of the way, on 22 April 1994, David Cartledge, AOG National Executive member, cancelled the Southern Cross Bible College’s membership of *Fuelcard*. The letter states that “we have now opened an Account direct with Mobil for the College’s fuel.” This meant that the College would now pay far more money for their fuel. (If that was the price for harming Greg Sowerby, it appears that someone thought it must have been worth it.)

Andrew Evans followed this up on 1 July 1994 by withdrawing Paradise AOG from *Fuelcard* and (following David Cartledge’s example) opened an account direct with Mobil.

Once again, church members would have to pay far more for the church’s fuel—contrary to Andrew Evans’ lies that Paradise AOG obtained a *better* price for fuel this way—and at a time when he was pressuring the people at Paradise AOG to give more money.

Andrew Evans insists that the decision was made by the Board, against his every desperate attempt to keep the church within the *Fuelcard* program. But Andrew was only the National Superintendent, the South Australian State Superintendent and the Senior Minister of Paradise AOG and, as such, had absolutely no influence over any of the Board members who, despite Andrew’s best efforts, mysteriously became convinced that Greg was a crook.

[Page 42: While it suited him to score propaganda points at a State Conference, Andrew Evans kept Paradise AOG within the *Fuelcard* program. But, as soon as public attention had wandered away from the question, Andrew Evans quietly pulled the pin on Greg Sowerby.]



ASSEMBLY  
OF  
GOD  
PARADISE

INCORPORATED  
2 Crowle Road, Paradise  
South Australia 5075  
Phone (08) 336 3333  
Fax (08) 365 1744

1st July 1994

ATTENTION: Greg Sowerby

Fuelcard Services  
PO Box 10  
CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

Dear Greg

Greetings in Jesus' Name!

I am writing to advise that it has been the decision of our Board to change our fuel purchasing and, therefore, close our account with Fuelcard services.

As we receive back all existing Fuelcards, I will return them to you. Thank you for your services to this point.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darko Pucek', written in a cursive style.

DARKO PUCEK  
BUSINESS MANAGER

## Robert Palma (3)

Robert Palma was presented to the AOG Fellowship as a “successful businessman” who owned five companies.

There were some elements of truth in the story, at least he owned shares in five companies. Five non-performing private companies, that is.

The story of how the truth slowly unravelled about this mysterious “businessman” deserves a book of its own. Sufficeth to say here that Robert Palma was part of a group of prominent businessmen who included both Jame Lewis, the ever threatening solicitor, and David Arundell, the equally mysterious “independent external auditor.”

The fourth member of the team, Thomas Leslie Camp, is well-known to a number of Melbourne pastors as a result of his activities in the areas of finance and real estate.

The two big questions will probably never be answered:

*Exactly whose funds were they planning to “manage” through the Joseph Funds Management Limited company?*

and:

*Just how much did some of the AOG National Executive members know about the plans of the people they were getting into bed with?*

The Australian Securities Commission printout listing the directors of the Joseph Funds Management Limited company as at 8 February 1994 appears on the next page.

[Page 44: “Independent auditor” David Arundell, threatening solicitor Jame Lewis, “successful businessman” Robert Palma, and prominent businessman Thomas Leslie Camp (all snuggled up in a shelf company they had purchased together less than twelve months before the sacking) and ready to “manage” some funds.]



## COMPANY EXTRACT

08/02/1994 15:41:27 PAGE: 1

058 190 266 JOSEPH FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED

DOCUMENT NO

AUSTRALIAN  
SECURITIES  
COMMISSION

Australian Company Number: 058 190 266  
 Incorporated in: NEW SOUTH WALES  
 Registration Date: 27/11/1992  
 Principal Activity: SHELF COMPANY

## Current Organisation Details

Name : JOSEPH FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED 003 556 240  
 Name Start: 27/11/1992  
 Status : REGISTERED  
 Type : AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC COMPANY  
 Class : LIMITED BY SHARES  
 Subclass : UNLISTED PUBLIC COMPANY

## Registered Office

139 VICTORIA PDE, COLLINGWOOD, VIC 3066 003 556 668  
 Start Date: 07/12/1992

## Principal Business Office

STE 2B 1ST FL, CNR INGLEBURN & OXFORD RDS, INGLEBURN 003 556 240  
 NSW 2565  
 Phone no: (02) 829 3211  
 Fax no: (02) 618 3190

## Directors

DAVID ANTHONY ARUNDELL 003 097 945  
 3 BEECH ST, CAMBERWELL, VIC 3124  
 Born: 20/09/1961 - TERANG VIC  
 Appointment Date: 27/11/1992

THOMAS LESLIE CAMP 003 097 945  
 34 FREW ST, FRANKSTON, VIC 3199  
 Born: 06/11/1960 - DUNDEDIN NEW ZEALAND  
 Appointment Date: 27/11/1992

JAME STANTON LEWIS 003 097 945  
 6 FITZGERALD RD, ESSENDON, VIC 3040  
 Born: 26/04/1956 - COBURG VICTORIA  
 Appointment Date: 27/11/1992

ROBERT PALMA 003 097 945  
 UNIT 3, 276 SPRING RD, DINGLEY, VIC 3172  
 Born: 20/09/1965 - CAULFIELD VIC  
 Appointment Date: 27/11/1992

## Secretary

DAVID ANTHONY ARUNDELL 003 097 945  
 3 BEECH ST, CAMBERWELL, VIC 3124  
 Born: 20/09/1961 - TERANG VIC  
 Appointment Date: 27/11/1992

## Shocked by AOG attack

It is easy to be wise after the event, especially when you know the details of Andrew Evans' attempts to destroy Greg Sowerby's *Fuelcard* business.

But back in January 1994, the details were very sketchy. The fax on the next page is only one of dozens that Greg sent to Andrew Evans, pleading for an end to the assault on him and his family, and for Andrew to make some real attempt at reconciliation.

Outsiders will probably find it difficult to follow the intensity of his pleas, but we need to remember that Greg was writing to his pastor, the leader of his local church and the denominational head of that church, a man with whom he had been associated for some fifteen years, someone in whom he had confided, trusted, followed, laboured for, and honoured as a man of God.

Greg Sowerby found it very difficult to adjust to the truth about Andrew Evans.

[Page 46: Greg Sowerby pleads for the right of his family to be allowed to survive economically. The fear and confusion of that period come through clearly.]

# Facsimile Cover Sheet

<b>To:</b> Ps. Andrew Evans <b>Business:</b> Paradise AOG <b>Fax:</b> 365 1744	<b>From:</b> Greg Sowerby <b>Business:</b> Fuelcard Services Pty Ltd <b>Fax:</b> (08) 396 5334
--	--

10 January, 1994

Dear Pastor Andrew,

## AOG Attack On Fuelcard Services

The letter sent out by the Committee last week about Fuelcard has done much to widen the gap between us and the AOG at a time when I had hoped we were beginning to come to some resolution. I sent you a fax last week offering to return the files and the AOG name, as you had asked, and what do I get in return? A letter sent out to all AOG and non-AOG churches attacking Fuelcard and CMS. What provoked this? What have I done to warrant sending such a letter? Hasn't the AOG done and said enough about me already? You say there was confusion about the ownership of Fuelcard amongst some AOG churches, which may be so, but why has it become so urgent to now? Why was the letter sent to non-AOG churches? You don't know how many non-AOG churches are part of Fuelcard. What right do you have to write to these churches about Fuelcard? What do you hope to gain by this? You say that, *in your opinion*, this letter is not harmful to us, yet we have Pastors contacting us (both AOG and non-AOG) expressing serious concerns about the future of Fuelcard. The fact that you *believe* the letter is not harmful to us is not the issue. The reaction we have had so far is proving to be potentially very harmful.

My only source of income is Fuelcard and the AOG is now setting about destroying this part of our lives as well. Why are you doing this? You say you want reconciliation and we make moves to resolve the issue of the files and then you send out a letter designed to take away the only thing we have left. We just don't understand why you are doing this. It simply does not make any sense. I would have thought the AOG would have much to gain by trying to resolve things rather than bullying us with letters to our Fuelcard clients. Regardless of what you want to think, this latest unprovoked attack on us is potentially very damaging.

What evidence is there that the AOG wants a resolution? You continue to bring hurt to us as a family, and destroy the things we have worked for. What more do you want?

We simply do not understand why the AOG is doing this.



Greg & Meredith Sowerby

## *Pastor Evans*

The only other document that Andrew Evans put his name to during this long process was a private letter to Greg Sowerby's father.

Stan Sowerby had only been a Christian for about six months at the time of the sacking. He, like many of us, naively believed that there had been some simple mistake and he went along to see Andrew Evans to straighten things out.

Stan went to the meeting expecting to speak to his pastor. Instead, he met the real Andrew Evans for the first time. After reflecting on what he had seen, Stan wrote Andrew a letter.

The response he received is on the next two pages. It contains two particularly interesting sentences which reveal the ugly spirit that exists under Andrew Evans' thin "Christian" veneer.

*"As, probably, the majority of members of Fuel Card are AOG Pastors it would be wise for Greg to work something through with the Committee."*

*"May I appeal to Greg, through you, to come, recognising that his customers are largely members of the Assemblies of God and by fighting us, he will discover that people remain loyal to their fellowship. This is always the case."*

[Pages 48 & 49: Andrew Evans puts some of his threats against *Fuelcard* in writing.]



ASSEMBLY  
OF  
GOD  
PARADISE

INCORPORATED

2 Crowle Road, Paradise

South Australia 5075

Phone (08) 336 3333

Fax (08) 365 1744

13th January 1994

Mr Stanley Sowerby  
14 Hambledon Road  
CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

Dear Brother Stan

Greetings in the Name of Jesus!

Thank you for your letter. I am so sad that things have deteriorated to this level. I really enjoyed our time together and sought not to be negative, concerning Greg, in any way.

In view of your letter, however, I would like to point out that this whole issue could have been resolved, if, at various stages, Greg had sat down and worked things through with the Committee.

1. The first of these times, was when he was informed of the decision. It would have been much more in keeping with his separation, if he had waited to talk to Robert Palma and discuss all aspects of the separation. Instead, he took action on the files and the Assemblies of God name.
2. When we sought to meet with him to finalise issues, we were willing to pay his fare to Melbourne to discuss things, however, he chose not to come, which was a crucial mistake, as everything in that meeting could have been sorted out, including the future of Fuel Card and all parties could have left in peace.

As, probably, the majority of members of Fuel Card are AOG Pastors it would still be wise for Greg to work something through with the Committee. They are not out to destroy his Fuel Card activity, but many people thought that this was an AOG initiative, rather than a private venture. The facsimile that was sent out informed people of that.

Greg is also aware of a couple of other issues which Greg indicates that they are a very clear explanation for, if he was to request a meeting with the Committee in Melbourne and explain this problem and then work something through to the satisfaction of all for Fuel Card, the situation could be turned around for the glory of God.

...../2

- 2 -

I know you feel rather upset about the circulars which were sent by Greg, but he, also, informed the churches of things concerning the Assemblies of God which were inaccurate.

May I appeal to Greg, through you, to come, recognising that his customers are largely members of the Assemblies of God and by fighting us, he will discover that people remain loyal to their fellowship. This is always the case.

As you have a strong faith in God, along with your wife, Greg and Meredith, we can resolve things by His Grace.

May God bless you.

Yours in Him,



PASTOR ANDREW EVANS

## The first Circular Letter

On 11 February 1994, Greg Sowerby wrote a Circular Letter and posted it to some 1,000 Pentecostal church leaders across Australia.

At the time of writing Greg was still reasonably confident that he would be able to set up another insurance agency. That was not to be, however. The murk generated by the AOG National Executive and their employees frightened off the big insurance companies, who were fearful of getting involved in anything which could hurt their reputation.

[Pages 51-55: Greg Sowerby attempts to explain his plight to 1,000 Pentecostal church leaders across Australia. The tragedy was that almost none responded, and most of those who did indicated that they sympathised, but were afflicted by a paralysing fear of Andrew Evans and his mates. A very few showed genuine support, and some even sent money.]

11 February, 1994

«Contact»  
«Church»  
«street»  
«suburb» «state» «zip»



## Circular Letter: AOG Insurance Agency & Superannuation Fund

I am writing to explain my present position and provide details of some of the recent developments in the area of the AOG Insurance Agency and the AOG Superannuation Fund. By way of introduction, The CMS Group (Church Management Services) is the new operating name of Greg & Meredith Sowerby.

On Friday November 5, 1993, I was instructed by Norm Greaves to cease my duties as Manager of the AOG Insurance Agency. My wife was also dismissed. (The decision was made by the AOG National Executive at the same meeting at which Jim Williams was "disciplined".)

I had been manager of the AOG Agency since its inception seven years ago, and had really loved serving the AOG Fellowship in this role. I thought I had been faithful, loyal and effective in my position, but the AOG National Executive decided - behind closed doors - to dismiss me without notice. We were simply "thrown out on the street" without a second thought. We could not believe what was happening to us.

Some days later my wife, in a very distressed state, asked Andrew Evans why we were suddenly dismissed without notice. He replied that it was a "*business decision designed to cut off your (financial) survival.*" Apparently the National Executive were afraid of us going into competition with the AOG Insurance Agency and so they decided to dispose of us in a "business-like" fashion.

I have written to every single member of the AOG National Executive, **twice**, offering a basis for discussion and, hopefully, resolution of the present situation. Not one member of the Executive has so much as acknowledged receiving my letters, much less entered into some meaningful discussion.

Their total disregard for me as an individual, as a Christian, and as a former fellow-pastor, has shocked and dismayed me.

They have consistently written and spoken against me in a fashion which **implies** that I have committed some dreadful crime. They make slanderous references to me being "escorted from the Insurance Office" (an outright lie) and being under "investigation".

This "investigation" relates to their feverish attempts to "dig up some dirt on me" in an effort to justify their decision to sack me without notice. The best they could find was a couple of cheques which involved some commission monies rightfully due to me, but incorrectly made out to the AOG Insurance Agency in error. (As Manager of the Agency I was a consultant, not an employee of the AOG National Executive, and so my income came in the form of commissions and fees). I admit that I foolishly banked the cheques, trusting that common sense would prevail.

In the same fashion, the AOG Insurance Agency has banked numbers of cheques incorrectly made out to Insurers, and even one made out to me personally, but rightfully belonging to the Agency.

P.O. Box 10, Campbelltown  
South Australia, 5074  
Phone: (08) 396 5149  
Fax: (08) 396 5334  
Mobile: 018 806 384  
018 371 795

### **An attempt to bring Resolution**

A week before Christmas I posted Christmas cards to every member of the AOG National Executive, reasoning that though we may have had some unresolved differences between us, Christmas was a good time to remember that Jesus Christ came into the world to provide us all with forgiveness and a basis for a restored relationship with Him.

The National Executive replied by Express Post two days before Christmas with a letter from their solicitor which was filled with legal threats and which politely informed me that they had reported the matter of the cheques to the Police. (Merry Christmas!)

I have done every thing possible to achieve a sensible Christian resolution to this dispute. The Bible requires Christian brothers to work things out together – to “keep the unity of the Spirit,” to “go to” a brother where there is a problem. Even non-Christians understand that this is the correct approach.

**The AOG Executive has made no attempt to reconcile this fundamental breach of Biblical practice on their part.** They will tell you that I refused to attend a meeting in Melbourne, a meeting that I originally requested shortly after my dismissal. I made a genuine appeal to meet face-to-face with the Executive and sort things out – as the Bible instructs.

### **Kangaroo court**

The AOG Executive then took the opportunity to put together a “kangaroo court” and promptly *ordered* me to attend, saying that it would be a “meeting for reconciliation”. Their idea of reconciliation included nine representatives of their own, while I was informed that I could only take my wife or a Pastor chosen by them, but I could have no representative of my own choice.

In addition to this, a number of secret “charges” would be laid against me but no warning would be given of what those “charges” might involve, and I could have no access to any of the relevant documents until after the meeting was over.

*A court of justice requires that all charges be laid well before any court hearing, in order to allow the defendant to prepare a reasoned defense. A court of justice requires that all relevant evidence be made available to the defendant, for the same purpose.*

Needless to say, I didn't attend their “kangaroo court” facade in Melbourne.

**Biblical Christian practice would require that I be confronted with my "crimes" before being sacked (Matthew 18). Today, fourteen weeks after being sacked, I have still not been informed of my "crimes".**

### **Underwriters and the March renewal**

The one great “victory” for the AOG National Executive to come out of the “meeting” charade was their success in cutting me off from ANSVAR, my previous Insurance Underwriter. ANSVAR rejected my application for an Agency with them, citing their reluctance to offend the AOG as a large client (especially with the March renewal coming up).

However, they have said they will gladly grant me Agency status in the Church Insurance market *if the AOG National Executive give their written approval.*

The AOG have stated they are not trying to prevent me from operating in Church Insurance (as this would be restraint of trade), but they will **not** put their approval in writing, effectively cutting me off from dealing with ANSVAR. For the moment, therefore, I am unable to place most insurance covers.

However, I am involved in continuing negotiations with another International Insurance Broker. With the March renewal coming up shortly, we don't have enough time to put our new program together before September. We recommend that Churches renew their policies for six months to 30th September with either the AOG Agency or direct with ANSVAR. It is my intention to offer a cut-rate renewal in September which will both save the churches money and reduce the pressure on them to find large sums of money early in the new year.

## Non-AOG Churches 30/9/94 Renewal

Those non-AOG Churches who have kindly supported us through this difficult time will realise that it is in their best interests to leave their Insurances with the AOG Insurance Agency until 30th September. This is our recommendation.

**However, we can still act for you and arrange changes to your policy covers and process claims to Insurers.** We had hoped to have other arrangements in place by now, but much has been done to prevent us from gaining access to Insurance markets at the moment. We are confident that we can overcome these difficulties.

### The love of money

This whole dispute has been initiated and presided over by a small group of men who claim for themselves various titles as Christian leaders but who have consistently ignored every aspect of Christian love and Biblical practice.

I was sacked without warning after the AOG Executive met with a "business consultant" from Alun Davies' church (Robert Palma) to decide the future of the AOG Agency and the AOG Superannuation Fund. Andrew Evans told me that this consultant, who has no General Insurance background, made promises to the AOG Executive to **double the Insurance Agency profits in one year, and take the AOG Superannuation Fund to a massive \$50M investment in five years!** No wonder they were so keen to get rid of me, for I was certainly not promising that kind of financial miracle!

The major increase in income is supposed to come from the growth of the AOG Superannuation Fund, whereby the existing \$2.5 million will increase to \$50 million in just five years.

Members of the Fund should be asking: How will this massive goal be achieved? By large housing development projects in Queensland? By share market speculation?

### The miracle investment team

Who is going to handle this dramatic bid for Superannuation Fund profitability?

The National Treasurer, Norm Greaves, says that the whole exercise is in the hands their "business consultant" **Robert Palma**, a

property / finance / life insurance salesman who is the owner of Joseph Holdings Pty Ltd.

**The truth of the matter is that Robert Palma is the front man for a small group of prominent Melbourne businessmen.**

He doesn't own any shares directly in *Joseph Holdings Pty Ltd* (A.C.N. 054 049 777). He used to have control of almost 40% of Joseph Holdings Pty Ltd via another company, *Savcourt Pty Ltd* (A.C.N. 054 052 210), but we were advised by the Compliance Section of the *Australian Securities Commission* on February 8, 1994, [Phone: (051) 77 3988] that deregistration proceedings have commenced against this company because of irregularities dating back to 1991.

The other major shareholder in Joseph Holdings Pty Ltd, with almost 40% of the shares, is *Gideon Securities Pty Ltd* (A.C.N. 007 381 651).

This company is owned by **Thomas Leslie Camp** and Karen Ann Camp. Mr. Camp is a prominent businessman who comes from New Zealand. He and Robert Palma are well-known to a number of AOG pastors in the Melbourne area for their activities in the area of finance.

The most interesting company involving Mr. Palma and Mr. Camp is *Joseph Funds Management Limited* (A.C.N. 058 190 266).

This company has two other directors: **David Anthony Arundell**, senior partner with *Tantau Wallis, Chartered Accountants* and **Jame Lewis**, principal partner of *J.Lewis & Associates*. Mr. Lewis is the solicitor acting "on behalf of the National Executive of Assemblies of God in Australia and A.O.G. Financial Services Pty Ltd," who sent the threatening letter to us last Christmas. He is generally presented by Norm Greaves as being completely independent, but his business partnership with Robert Palma is well established.

As you are probably aware, the AOG Insurance Agency is now under the control of *AOG Financial Services Pty Ltd* (A.C.N. 062 448 122). The two directors of this company are Norm Greaves and Robert Palma.

Details of the shareholders were unavailable though the Australian Securities Commission as at February 3, 1994.

## AOG Superannuation Fund

The assets of the AOG Superannuation Fund are presently invested with *National Mutual*. They cannot be moved without the signed approval of the members of the Fund.

A request for signatures to transfer your funds could come in many guises. We strongly recommend that the members make every effort to acquaint themselves with every fact relating to any request for signed approval to rollover or transfer money outside *National Mutual*.

**Where individuals or companies are presented as "Fund Managers" we suggest that the fullest independent investigation of their history and credentials be made before any papers be signed. There is no other way to protect your Superannuation investment.**

### National Executive seize my business

During my tenure as Manager / Consultant to the AOG Insurance Office, I kept the Executive informed of my other activities, which included arranging Insurance Schemes for non-AOG Churches. The Executive were quite happy for me to set up these schemes, which brought in up to \$40,000 profit to them each year. My Consultancy was responsible for the interstate travel costs and other marketing expenses in gaining this business.

During this time the Executive prepared their own internal report of my "other insurance activities," supplemented by my own regular reports. As an independent Consultant this was clearly my own insurance business and the Executive have been aware of this since 1989. Then, in late 1993, when my usefulness had been expended, I was sacked without notice and the Executive seized all my non-AOG Church insurance business. Since then there has been an ongoing dispute as to the ownership of this business. The Executive refuses to accept or discuss any evidence that points to my ownership.

The former National General Secretary of the AOG in Australia, **Pastor Philip Powell**, has contacted Andrew Evans in support of my version of the facts involving my position as a consultant with the AOG Insurance Agency.

He said, in part:

"During my term of office it was clearly established that Greg was employed by Assemblies of God as a Consultant with the clear understanding that he carried out certain businesses separate from Assemblies of God, who had no jurisdiction over the non AOG business which he conducted." ... "I believe you (Greg) have an open and shut case re non AOG Insurance files...and I am prepared to support you as a witness in that regard" ... "It was my unfortunate discovery during my tenure of office that the National Executive is capable of breaking original agreements with impunity. I am prepared to bear witness to that fact..."

### National Executive attacks Fuelcard

The AOG National Executive has persisted in the process of slandering my name and now they have launched an attack on my Fuelcard business.

When Fuelcard was first set up, I went to Andrew Evans and he told me that I must not write to AOG Churches about any project without Executive approval. **He went on to explain that Fuelcard could be stopped by him simply picking up the phone and making a few calls.** I was very intimidated by this, thinking he had the power to sway the whole Fellowship, and so I submitted my Fuelcard project to the Executive in April 1992.

After finding out that we had no plans to provide profit to the Executive (by cutting into the level of discount we provide to the churches), a disclaimer concerning the ownership of Fuelcard appeared in the next Minister's Bulletin.

Andrew Evans has now written to my father, saying, "*As, probably, the majority of members of Fuel Card are AOG Pastors it would still be wise for Greg to work something through with the committee (Nat. Exec.). They are not out to destroy Fuel Card, but...*"

And: "*May I appeal to Greg through you, to come, recognising that his customers are largely members of the Assemblies of God and by fighting us, he will discover that people remain loyal to their fellowship. This is always the case.*"

Thurs  
at 4  
X

trial  
matches

11:30  
12:30

Whilst in discussion with Andrew Evans, my mother asked him, "Where is the love, Andrew?" but he made no reply. Others have asked Andrew Evans about his responsibilities in all this as National Superintendent, but he just smiles and says, "My hands are tied."

Andrew Evans has told us that as National Superintendent he cannot assist us in any way or become involved in this dispute at any level, as he has been prevented from doing so by his National Executive brethren.

The threats in his letters, coupled with the letter sent by Phil Hills on 4/01/94 to most Pentecostal churches in Australia, indicate the real attitude of the AOG National Executive. We anticipate they will persist in this matter.

**Legal action**

When Paul the Apostle returned to Jerusalem and was attacked by the unrighteous religious leaders of his day, he appealed to Caesar (Acts 21:27-25:12).

Unfortunately we find ourselves in a very similar situation today and may also have to take legal action.

Another individual involved with the Superannuation Fund at the time of our sacking has already been forced to institute legal action in an effort to obtain his outstanding pay.

**The Word of the Lord**

This whole affair, especially being abandoned by those at the highest level of the AOG Fellowship, has been devastating for us.

Where a Christian is involved in some sin (which I am not), the Lord's instruction to people occupying National Executive-type positions is:

*Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual – who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit – should set him right and restore and reinstate him, without any sense of superiority and with all gentleness, keeping an attentive eye on yourself, lest you should be tempted also (Galatians 6:1). [Try reading verses 2 and 3, as well.]*

Instead of a Biblical response, the Executive have sought to manipulate us, through intimidation, so they can dominate and control us.

They continue to stubbornly resist any attempt by us to resolve this situation. We are dismayed, but determined to expose the things that are wrong in His sight.

**A note of Thanks**

Many Pastors from both AOG and non-AOG churches have extended their kindness and prayers to us at this very difficult time.

We cannot express in words how wonderfully helpful this has been to our family. I thank God for the many caring Christians who have expressed their support.

For my part, I have done nothing wrong and will continue to be involved in the field of insurance to the limit of my ability – according to God's calling on my life.

We are sorry this matter has continued unresolved for so long.

In His service,

Greg Sowerby

**P.S.** This letter has gone out to over 1,000 Pentecostal churches across Australia in the hope that the people of God will pray.

We desire that God will grant the present AOG National Executive the gift of repentance: this is our prayer.

We have been both \_\_\_\_\_ and warned by others of possible \_\_\_\_\_ in the future. Please pray for our \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of our children. **Please pray.**

A Private Investigator is currently obtaining further evidence in New Zealand, Queensland, Melbourne and Ballarat which may be helpful for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your Superannuation Funds. If appropriate, we will (God willing) send further details of all developments.

## Police Raid!

At 6:05 pm on Tuesday 15 March 1994, two detectives (led by detective Senior Constable Brenton John Rowney) from the Adelaide C.I.B. arrived at the Sowerby's home, instructed them to remove their children to another room, and questioned them for an hour and a half with regard to a mysterious \$83,000 that the AOG National Executive claimed they had stolen.

Finally, they seized five filing cabinet drawers full of files relating to Greg's Independent Churches Insurance program, all their cheque books, cheque book stubs, and bank statements, and took them away to the Angas Street Police Station.

As intended, the shock of the police raid caused a massive disruption to the Sowerby's family life and to their status within the street where they lived.

But, contrary to \_\_\_\_\_, the police raid served to harden their determination to tell the truth about their situation to every Christian in Australia who would listen.

[Page 57: A copy of the General Search Warrant under which Greg Sowerby's home was entered by two detectives, and under which they seized the contents of five filing cabinet drawers full of files relating to his non-AOG Insurance business. The Search Warrant authorises Detective Senior Constable Brenton John Rowney to "enter into and search any house...where you have reasonable cause to suspect that...there is anything which may afford evidence as to the commission of any felony...".]



## SUMMARY OFFENCES ACT, 1953

**GENERAL SEARCH WARRANT**

To Detective Senior Constable Brenton John ROWNEY

No. 2781/4

You are hereby authorized at any time in the day or night, with such assistants as you think necessary, to enter into and search any house, building, premises or place where you have reasonable cause to suspect that –

- (a) any felony or misdemeanour has been recently committed, or is about to be committed;
  - (b) there are goods obtained by any felony or misdemeanour;
  - (c) there is anything which may afford evidence as to the commission of any felony or misdemeanour;
- or
- (d) there is anything which may be intended to be used for the purpose of committing any felony or misdemeanour,

and to break open the house, building, premises or place and to break open and search any cupboards, drawers, chests, trunks, boxes, packages or other things, whether fixtures or not, in which you have reasonable cause to suspect that –

- (e) there are any goods obtained by any felony or misdemeanour;
  - (f) there is anything which may afford evidence as to the commission of any felony or misdemeanour;
- or
- (g) there is anything which may be intended to be used for the purpose of committing any felony or misdemeanour,

and to seize any such goods or things, to be dealt with according to law. This warrant remains in force for 6 months from its date.

Dated this.....1st.....day of.....December....., 1993.....

Deputy


 Commissioner of Police

## The second Circular Letter

After the first Circular Letter was greeted with such spectacular silence, we all agreed to just give up and get on with what was left of our lives.

Then the Police arrived.

A second Circular letter was posted to the same 1,000 churches on 19 April 1994. It contains a number of references that deserve some additional comment.

The letter has Greg's first reference to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. Obtaining documents under FOI from the SA Police department is an agonisingly slow process, especially when you are waiting to discover such basic information as what crime you have been accused of committing. (It might be a legal system, but it isn't always justice.) Most of the requested documents were eventually released and we will get to them later.

Why did he publish the details of Norm Greaves' salary? To expose more hypocrisy. Norm Greaves was a superannuated public servant who stated publicly that he would do the job for nothing. Then, when he was the Treasurer, he paid himself and his wife almost half a million dollars of Fellowship money during his term in office. The same man constantly accused Greg of trying to steal money from the Insurance Agency. (I believe psychologists call that "projection".)

What about the reference to Betty Ethel Greaves and the "very interesting insurance bonus monies"? We will look at that question next.

[Pages 59-64: The second Circular Letter — sent in response to a police raid on Greg Sowerby's home that was caused by false accusations from the AOG National Executive. Amongst other things, the letter refers to the financial pressures that were forcing Greg to put his home on the market. The house was subsequently sold and the Sowerbys have been living in rented accommodation ever since.]

19 April, 1994

«Contact»  
«Church»  
«Street»  
«Suburb» «State» «Zip»



## Circular Letter #2: AOG Insurance Agency & Superannuation Fund

I am writing again to 1,000 churches in order to acknowledge some of the responses we received to the letter of 11 February, 1994, to follow-up with answers to queries from some readers, and to keep you informed of the subsequent developments.

At 6.05pm on Tuesday 15 March, 1994, two detectives from the South Australian Police Force arrived at our home. They instructed us to remove our children to another room and then questioned us for an hour and a half with regard to \$83,000 that the AOG National Executive claimed we had stolen. Finally, they seized five filing cabinet drawers full of documents, all our cheque books, cheque book stubs, and bank statements, and took them away to the police station.

### Distressed wife and children

The experience was humiliating and has been a source of ongoing distress for my wife and two children.

Since the police visit I have had to try to answer the questions of my eight and ten year-old daughters: *Why did Pastor Andrew send the police to our house? Why did we have to stay in the other part of the house while they talked to you? Why did they take away all your business papers? Why is Mummy crying all the time?*

**I doubt that my family will ever fully recover from the trauma and stigma of having had their home raided by the police.**

### National Executive rely on police

I have now written to every member of the AOG National Executive on three separate occasions (14/11/93, 19/1/94 & 24/2/94) seeking reconciliation, but without any real response.

Andrew Evans rang me on the Sunday before the SA State Conference, supposedly to ask me what I meant by "public reconciliation" (*that's a reconciliation where everyone else knows about it*), but really so he could say to people at the conference that he had made contact with me. Sadly, the phone call did not include any genuine attempt to resolve the situation.

John Lewis wrote me a very interesting letter. Though dated 7 March 1994, it was postmarked 15 March, the same day that the police raided my home and seized my files. He said:

*Dear Greg,*

*It is most unfortunate that you continue to write seeking reconciliation in correspondence with the National Executive and yet you recently expressed consideration of legal action in the letter sent to 1000 churches.*

*It would seem inappropriate for any communication with myself until the legal issues are dealt with.*

*Yours in Christ,  
John C. Lewis*

You can tell a true man of God by the test Jesus provided: *The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep* (John 10:11). The Police informed us that the AOG had pressured them to raid our home because they feared we would burn our own files! We still don't know the details of the accusations against us and have had to apply under the Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) Act for a copy of them.

In hindsight, it is obvious that the AOG National Executive have not bothered with any serious attempt at reconciliation because **they believed that the accusations they passed to the police would intimidate us into silence.**

P.O. Box 10, Campbelltown  
South Australia, 5074  
Phone: (08) 396 5149  
Fax: (08) 396 5334  
Mobile: 018 806 384  
018 371 795

## Independent confirmation

A few people read our last letter with all its detail concerning various companies and then said, *I can't tell if this information is true or not.* Worse than that, Andrew Evans is reported to have been telling people that *"Greg Sowerby admitted in a private phone conversation that he made it all up in order to hurt the AOG."*

**Everything I published in that letter is true.** (If it wasn't, I would have been immediately sued by half a dozen people.) Anyone who wants independent confirmation of the details provided in the letter of February 11, 1994, can obtain them as follows:

- **Australian Securities Commission**

For the cost of a local phone call you can quote any of the A.C.N. numbers listed in our last letter and the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) will confirm that they are valid numbers and they will give you the name of the relevant company over the phone. For any additional information you will have to apply on an official form and pay a fee.

- **S.A. Police Records**

You need to apply under the Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) Act. Either obtain a copy of a **Freedom of Information Application Form** from any SA Police station, or write a letter to: **SA Police F.O.I. Unit, G.P.O. Box 2332, Adelaide, SA, 5001.**

In the letter request *"access to all documents relating to Gregory Mark Sowerby and the accusations made against him by A.O.G. Financial Services and Minet Australia Ltd."*

Consent: The Police will need my consent to release this information to you. Provide them with a copy of this letter. (The SA Police will contact me to confirm that I have given my consent.)

Cost: The cost for processing the Application is twenty dollars (\$20.00), unless the applicant is in receipt of any Commonwealth Benefit or Pension (just show your Health Care Card, if you have one.)

- **Copies of letters and faxes quoted**

There are dozens of pages (possibly more than a hundred) included in the various letters and faxes we have quoted in these circular letters. We are currently considering having copies of them printed, bound and made available for a fee that will (hopefully) cover the expense. Costs are our major problem. If you want copies, please let us know how many and how much you are prepared to contribute towards the cost.

## Wages withheld—Finally paid

At the time of our sacking in November 1993, another individual—Henry Sheppard—was employed in the office to look after the AOG Superannuation Fund. Some of you would have spoken to him on the phone and many received letters from him. He was the person who wrote the *SUPERNEWS* newsletter that many of you will have read. I first met Henry in June of 1993, and he quickly became a friend.

For this reason—his friendship with us—Henry was also sacked on 5 November, 1993. **Norm Greaves** wrote him an amazing letter in which he said *"Greg Sowerby is no longer associated with the AOG (and) it follows that your services are no longer required"*.

As a special parting gesture, Norm Greaves refused to pay Henry the wages due to him at the time of the sacking, with the extraordinary claim that Henry had never been employed!

After waiting patiently for his money for almost three months, Henry sent an overdue account. Norm instructed **Jame Lewis**, the famous solicitor and business partner of **Robert Palma** (see ACN number 058 190 266) to send Henry one of his threatening letters in which he promised that *"if any action is taken by you in relation to the purported invoice this will be defended vigorously"*.

On 16 February, 1994, Henry issued a summons in the Adelaide Magistrates Court against the present Manager of the AOG Insurance Agency. (You can independently confirm this by ringing (08) 226 0100 and quoting Action No. 94 2414, Sheppard versus Greaves.)

He also wrote to Norm expressing his disgust and outlining the overwhelming evidence that supports his action. In part, his letter to Norm said:

*You hold a responsible position as the National Treasurer, Norm. You are paying yourself and your wife an impressive sum of money – \$58,492.00 p.a. (\$37,146.00 p.a. plus \$21,346.00 p.a.), not counting perks and expenses, which totals almost half a million dollars (\$467,936.00) over your eight year term – and for what?*

*It was irresponsible of you to approve the sending of a solicitor's letter which threatens an impossible "vigorous defence" in a totally indefensible case.*

Norm wrote back on 4 March 1994 saying:  
*"The matter of the amount of money claimed by you has been reconsidered, and although it is believed that your claim is not justified, it has been agreed to pay the amount of \$1527.50 as claimed by you. A cheque to this value is enclosed herewith.*

*This payment is made on an ex gratia basis with a denial of liability and constitutes what we intend as an act of Christian grace."*

This cowardly and dishonest response raises several important questions:

- Why is the National Treasurer making payments to people when he believes they are not entitled to them?
- How many other such *ex gratia* payments has he made out of Fellowship funds?
- If the payment was really *ex gratia*—out of gratitude—what was he grateful for? (Henry's hard work with the Super Fund?)
- If he is so full of "*Christian grace*", why didn't Norm make the payment back in November, when it was due?
- Or is it really the case that the payment was made to keep **Betty Ethel Greaves** from appearing in court and having to explain her behaviour with regard to some very interesting insurance bonus monies?

### Relatives rule. OK?

The whole matter of **Norm Greaves**, National Treasurer of the AOG in Australia, employing his wife, **Sarah Elizabeth Greaves**, in the National Office and his cousin's wife, **Betty Ethel Greaves**, as the AOG Financial Services Manager, and her daughter, **Shiralee Greaves**, in the AOG Insurance Office, begs the question of **What are the rules concerning the employment of relatives in the AOG?**

Andrew Evans wrote me an interesting letter on the question on 26 November 1990. In it he says: *"... the National Executive made it very clear that they would not be in favour of ever again having a husband/wife or families working together in one office. The reasons for this were that when a couple goes on holidays, it leaves the office unattended or if they leave altogether, it means 2 positions have to be filled rather than one and so, when Phil Powell requested that his daughter be employed by the National Office this was refused. It was also made very clear to him that his wife and Norm Greaves' wife also could not be employed..."*

Andrew Evans has since apologised to Philip Powell for the inaccuracy of the comments in this letter about Philip's wife and daughter.

The letter goes on to say "*... that the Executive (would) be very upset with the Sub-Committee for making one rule for one lot and a different rule for others.*" Yet this is exactly what has happened in the full employment program of the Greaves family.

### ...but rather expose them...

Some people have expressed anxiety regarding the fact that we are acting to make the truth known throughout the Body of Christ. We have a clear Biblical obligation before God, under Matthew 18, to tell our story to the church. The three-stage process commanded by Jesus in that chapter is:

1. *... go and reprove him in private...*
2. *... if he does not listen, take one or two more with you...*
3. *... if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church...*

We have been systematically prevented by the National Executive from sitting down with them in order to satisfy the first two steps involving private confrontation.

The only method left to us is to take this problem **to the church** via direct mail to 1,000 Pentecostal churches. The process will be repeated regularly until we achieve a genuinely Christian resolution.

In addition, we believe that the Lord has given us the following specific command: *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them* (Ephesians 5:11).

### Keep Telling The Truth!

Jesus is the Truth, and He is fully opposed to those who seek to suppress the truth: *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness* (Romans 1:18).

The most helpful book we have read with regard to our problem with the AOG National Executive, *The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse*, advises people in our situation to "**Keep telling the truth.**"

(You can independently confirm this by purchasing a copy from either **Scripture Union** or **Koorong Books**: Johnson, D. & VanVonderen, J. 1991, *The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse*, Bethany House Publishers, Minnesota, USA.)

## Authority and submission

Still others have demanded our total submission to these unrighteous church leaders on the basis that they represent God and somehow actually sit in the seat of Christ.

In a spiritually abusive church system, *questioning leaders is equal to questioning God. After all, the leader is the authority, and authority is always right. This causes people to misplace their loyalty in a leader, a church, or an organisation* (The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse, p. 76).

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account" (Hebrews 13:17).

*In spiritually abusive systems, however, that verse is stripped of its spirit and translated legalistically to mean, "Don't think, don't discern, don't question, and don't notice problems." If you do, you will be labelled as unsubmitive, unspiritual, and divisive. The fact of the matter is that while we should give "double honor" to those elders who "rule well" (1 Timothy 5:17), not all elders rule well* (The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse, p. 171).

During recent years a shadow has hung over the AOG National Executive. A few years ago one member left reluctantly following a media scandal. Last year another member was removed from office for admitted adultery and immorality.

**Not all elders "rule well"!**

God does not require us to submit to the manouevering of such people.

The truth is that Christians are required to submit to **righteous** authority. Otherwise there would never have been any Christian martyrs, the people would have simply submitted to Caesar.

Even a quick reading of the Bible shows that **John the Baptist** stood against the unrighteous religious leaders of his day: *You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?* (Matthew 3:7).

**Paul the apostle** had repeated disputes with unrighteous religious leaders, including the chief priests and the Sanhedrin of his day. *"God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"* (Acts 23:3).

And **Jesus Christ** was in constant conflict with the unrighteous rulers of the Sanhedrin. (Can we forget that they were the ones who ultimately arranged His murder?) *Woe to you, teachers of*

*the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of*  
and (Matthew 23:27-28).

## "Keep a sweet spirit!"

In Luke 10:30-37, Jesus tells the story of a man who was bashed and robbed and left on the side of the road to die. (It is a more dramatic version of what happened to us.) Two people passed the man: significantly they were a **priest** and a **Levite**, not just ordinary people.

These prominent church types did not want to get involved. (How many times have we heard the same thing! *We don't want to know the details. It's not our problem. We don't want to get involved.*)

It was left to an outsider to feel pity and take the necessary practical steps of binding up his wounds and dealing with his other physical and emotional needs.

**It has been our experience to have many "priests" and "Levites" pass by on the other side of the road. They especially distinguish themselves by shouting, "Don't become bitter. Keep a sweet spirit!" as they pass by.**

Apparently this verbal formula justifies their refusal to become involved in the problem; and merely reciting the words automatically reserves all the high moral ground for them.

## Keeping the unity of the Spirit

Some people have expressed the thought that our willingness to tell the truth is bringing division in the Body. Jesus said, *Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword* (Matthew 10:34).

Though He Himself is the Prince of Peace, Christ's message exposes sin in every place, **including the church**. The truth always divides.

## Peace? No superficial healing.

*From the least of them even to the greatest of them, every one is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely. And they have healed the brokenness of my people superficially, saying, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace* (Jeremiah 6:13-14). We seek genuine, Christian reconciliation with the AOG National Executive. We will not accept any cheap substitutes.

**...loose the chains of injustice...**

We are almost half-way through a "Decade of Harvest." What has all the prayer and fasting produced? The Bible speaks about the kind of "fasting" that moves God's hand in Isaiah 58:6, *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*

Those church leaders who oppress innocent people, unjustly attacking and accusing them, are holding back the move of God in this land. We call on the National Executive to humble themselves and repent (2 Chronicles 7:14).

**Do you have a story to tell?**

The nicest phone call I received in response to the February letter came from a person interstate who had just reconciled with an old friend.

That friend had previously been involved in a dispute with the AOG. The person who rang me had been unable to believe the details of how the AOG had handled the dispute and consequently ended the friendship. But in reading our letter, they recognised many of the same ingredients and concluded that the original story just had to be true.

We have received numerous other phone calls and letters from people who have had unfortunate experiences (to say the least) with AOG National or State Executives.

One woman rang up and said that she was calling to encourage us, then promptly burst into tears. She and her husband have a terrible story to tell about their experiences at the hands of a member of the National Executive. That same Executive member was named by several independent individuals as being "ruthless" and being prepared to "crush" anyone who gets in his way.

It was interesting to note that the greatest number of complaints came from the state of Victoria. New South Wales came second, with Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia also being mentioned.

People have asked us to take up their cause, publicising their problems through (what they hope will become) our regular AOG Newsletter. While we believe that we are obeying God in defending our own good name, we are not prepared to accept a role as a defacto AOG Ombudsman.

(Our next letter will include a copy of a two page circular letter by former General Secretary of the AOG, Philip Powell, that has a direct bearing on our situation. Amongst other things, the letter calls for an independent select committee to impartially investigate a number of matters, including the insurance issue.)

**Fuelcard**

Our *Fuelcard* business has declined in both number of users and total volume for each of the last three months. AOG users have fallen below 50% of the total number of users for the first time in the history of the business.

Since being sacked from the AOG Insurance Agency in November 1993, we have had to sell a block of land we owned and have placed our home on the market. Once this is sold, we will be moving to rented accommodation, as we can not afford to buy a home of our own at the moment. (The new address and phone/fax numbers will be published ASAP.)

As a direct consequence of the actions of the AOG National Executive our reputation has been destroyed and our financial position devastated.

**What next?**

We have been actively seeking a public reconciliation with the AOG National Executive since 5 November 1993. Despite John Lewis' view that this is "unfortunate", it continues to be our first priority.

Unfortunately, we fear it may not be possible to keep the AOG's allegations against us away from the attention of the media indefinitely. Their present course of action make it possible that many of the Executive members will end up facing both a judge and an inquisitive media. Already copies of the last letter are circulating among members of the general insurance, life insurance and superannuation industries. (The usual question from those people is: "How's your faith?")

**Personal note**

Our children have been hurt by the Police raid. Everyone in our street knows about it and the neighbourhood children have taken to taunting our girls about their "criminal" family associations. (Please pray for their protection.)

My daughter Chloe wrote to Andrew Evans to thank him for his promise not to destroy our *Fuelcard* business among AOG churches.

Sadly, Andrew has not written a reply to her; but sent the Police to visit her parents instead. Previously he hid behind a "My-Hands-Are-Tied" formula. Now Andrew appears to be hoping that all the problems will disappear in another three months, and he is hiding behind a "three month break" from being National Superintendant (or is it a six month break?).

[He has already had six months to convene a meeting between myself and the Executive in order to hear my side of the story (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18).]

The good news about our girls is that they both decided they wanted to be baptised. Until the AOG sent the Police to our house, the girls had attended Paradise AOG all their lives (literally). We have been forced to find another spiritual home with an independent Pentecostal church and were recently delighted, as every Christian parent can appreciate, to see our girls follow Jesus through the waters of baptism.

Unfortunately, Paradise AOG, the church we attended for fifteen years and where I once worked, has consistently failed to extend pastoral support to us. The few visits we received early on were intended to pressure us into toeing the party line. The people employed at Paradise are now terrified of being seen with us in case they attract the same kind of attention we have received from those in control.

## Conclusion

The odds are heavily stacked against us. The Executive have engaged an army of resources in their attempt to crush us—the Executive Insurance sub-committee, business consultant **Robert Palma**, Insurance company **ANSVAR**, Insurance brokers **Minet Australia Ltd** and **Minet Professional Services**, solicitor **Jame Lewis**, auditor **David Arundell**, and the **S.A. Police Department**.

They have unlimited funds (the Fellowship's money) at their disposal. They have control of all the legal documents involved, from which they make selective use. We have to beg for copies of documents and only receive the ones they think won't help us. (I have been requesting copies of all my management reports for the last six months, without result.)

They keep their allegations secret from us to make it impossible to provide a researched defence.

We have limited finances available. (This is the biggest single threat used against us.) We cannot afford to retain a solicitor, though God has graciously provided free legal assistance through a solicitor and a Police Prosecutor.

Whilst we have only limited resources, we have the truth on our side and believe that God will bring about justice.

I would like to thank all of you who have prayed for us. Please continue, as the situation is still a long way from resolution.

Greg Sowerby

---

## STOP PRESS

---

- The Police have now informed us that the AOG have no evidence of our misappropriating \$83,000 - despite their initial allegations.
  - The latest allegation is that we have now committed "fraudulent conversion" of \$7,000 worth of cheques. Just yesterday we provided evidence to the Police at Adelaide C.I.B. which totally refutes those charges.
  - The jubilant rumours being circulated about my "imminent arrest" and charges laid against us for "fraudulent conversion" are totally fictitious, like most of the other rumours about us.
  - I complained to Andrew Evans two weeks ago that he still had not provided details of any of the allegations against us. He promised to instruct Norm Greaves to send me a copy. We have received nothing and have to apply for a copy from the SA Police under F.O.I.
  - Yesterday the Adelaide C.I.B. conveyed an offer of a "deal" from the Executive to us whereby they would "stop pursuing their allegations" in return for us capitulating to certain demands, including a written apology from us! We hope to be able publish these demands in full in the next letter when our F.O.I. application is processed.
  - We made it clear to the C.I.B. that we will not "do a deal", despite the Executive's threats.
  - So, what form will their next attack take?
-

## Betty Ethel Greaves, J.P.

When I started work at the AOG Insurance Agency, Mrs Betty Ethel Greaves, J.P., was the assistant manager. At the end of my second week, Betty took me aside for two hours and gave me a long spiel on the “problems” that existed with the Sowerbys.

I am not usually given to writing personal notes in my diary, but I went home that night and wrote: “Long talk with Betty Greaves. The problems in the office are worse than I realised. The financial and ethical base of operations is less stable than they appear.”

I had, at that time, recently completed a seventeen year stint with the Department of Social Security, including long periods in investigation areas checking out allegations of fraud, participating in the investigation of everything from minor overpayments up to Taxation Office investigations (one case of which resulted in the bankruptcy of a prominent Adelaide business). I also appeared in court as an expert witness on behalf of the Department.

When I was told by Betty of wrongdoing in the office I instinctively began to observe and assess everything going on around me. I found numerous examples of sloppy clerical and administrative work, but only one involving fraud — and that was by Betty Ethel Greaves!

At that time, ANSVAR domestic insurance policies allowed clients to direct a \$20 or \$40 “bonus” to the church or charity of their choice. Many such forms were lodged via the AOG Insurance Agency.

Some of the forms arrived with the nomination area left blank. It seems that, for some time, Betty Ethel Greaves had been filling these in with the name of one of the two charities on whose Boards she sat — *Teen Challenge* and the *Paradise AOG Missions Committee*, before sending them off to ANSVAR.

Now, given that Betty Ethel Greaves' sister was a missionary in the Solomon Islands and one potential recipient of the Missions money, and that Betty — as a Justice of the Peace — knew or should have known plenty about the legal significance of deliberately altering legal documents in order to gain access to other people's money, the possibilities for damage to the reputation of the AOG Insurance Agency, if the truth became widely known, were enormous.

At that stage Greg Sowerby made a terrible mistake. Instead of acting as Manager and quietly accepting Betty's resignation and fixing things up with ANSVAR, he went to Andrew Evans.

Dr. Evans' instructed Greg to sweep everything under the carpet. The long term result of that has been the creation of an implacable enemy in Betty Ethel Greaves who has shown herself to be prepared to say and do anything to gain revenge.

Remarkably, while in full possession of the facts, and only ten weeks after meeting with him to discuss that problem, Andrew Evans arranged for Greg Sowerby to be sacked and Betty Ethel Greaves to be appointed as Manager in his place.

And then, just a few more weeks further on, Dr. Evans took the additional step of falsely accusing an innocent man to the police, while calling on Betty Ethel Greaves to provide the police with the evidence to convict him of a crime that had never occurred!

The particular document that appears on the next page is one where Betty Ethel Greaves altered the intention of the client, effectively transferring funds from 'Assembly of God Paradise' to 'Assembly of God Paradise *Missions*'.

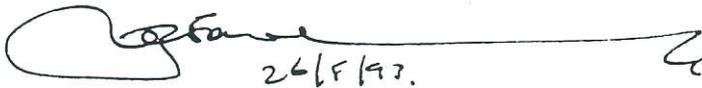
Once it became known that we had copies of this document, Andrew and Betty scrambled to obtain a written, retrospective approval of her actions from the client (who happened to go to Paradise AOG). As if that changed anything...

[Page 67: Betty Ethel Greaves, J.P., transfers a small sum into her control at the Paradise AOG Missions committee. Greg Sowerby's handwritten notes were recorded at the insistence of Malcolm Jowitt, a member of the AOG Insurance Sub-Committee with whom Greg discussed the problem.]

DISCUSSED WITH PE. ANNAW EVANS  
ON 24/8/93 + AGREED ~~TO~~ THAT  
GMS. SPEAK WITH BETTY + ADVISE  
NOMINATION SUPS MUST NOT BE  
ALTERED IN ANY WAY - THE MATTER  
WAS NOT TO BE TAKEN ANY  
FURTHER

 24/8/93.

SPOKE TO BETTY GREGG  
WED 26/8/93 AND ADVISED  
NOMINATION SUPS MUST NOT  
ALTERED IN ANY WAY TO  
RE-DIRECT BONUS PAYMENTS  
MADE BY ANNAW.

 26/8/93.

PLEASE RETURN THIS NOMINATION SLIP WITH YOUR PROPOSAL FORM TO A.O.G. INSURANCE  
P O BOX 420 CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

INSURED: Mr. Mike Griffiths

PREMIUM COSTS - \$100 excess applies

COVER :	Buildings .. \$85,000 .....	Premium .. \$145.60 .....
:	Contents .. \$40,000 .....	Premium .. \$173.60 .....
:	Circle of Safety .....	TOTAL Premium .. \$319.20 .....
:	Jewellery & Valuables .....	Premium .....

Nominate the Following Church or Mission Organisation to Receive \$20 Bonus per Policy Cover:

Name of Church or Mission: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PARADISE - MISSIONS

Their Address: 2 CROWLE RD PARADISE

CHEQUES FOR PREMIUM TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO A.O.G. INSURANCE AGENCY  
PO BOX 420 CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

## Betty Ethel Greaves, Slanderer

From the first day that Betty Ethel Greaves became the Manager of the AOG Insurance Agency we received reports of her openly slandering the Sowerbys.

The following letter comes from Roger Norris-Green of *Christian Care and Share*, Mt. Barker. It expresses clearly the negative impression created by Mrs Greaves, even more than the grievous lies themselves, which have done so much to destroy an innocent man's reputation.

Just pick out a few of the ideas that she communicated to Mr Norris-Green:

“doubt about...your honesty”

“you are in strife legally”

“you've done something against the law”

“placing business with (you) could be risky”

“companies would no longer accept your business”

CENTRE

"The Chalet", 2 Hawthorne Rd,  
Mt. Barker. Ph. 391-0602

OP-SHOPS

Mt. Barker, Hahndorf, Woodside

OUTREACHES

Brukung, Strathalbyn

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Dear Greg,

We are concerned about some allegations which appear to have been made against you, both verbally and by letter.

We have always believed in your integrity but those allegations have certainly raised questions which we hope you can answer.

Both letters from the AOG church and conversations with

Mrs. Betty Greaves have left us with these impressions:

- ① There is doubt about your business integrity and honesty. Although Mrs. Greaves didn't actually say you were going to be arrested, we're certainly left with the impression you are in strife legally and that you've done something against the law.
- ② Mrs. Greaves has said we should be wary of placing business with your agency because it could be risky. She said the AOG letter which questioned your accountability should be seriously considered before any business was placed with you.
- ③ She said that many insurance companies would no longer accept your business, therefore, placing any insurance with you was decidedly risky. She didn't want to see us get "our fingers burned."

Perhaps you could get back to our Carers' Council concerning these rather serious allegations made about you — and which we find hard to believe, and don't want to believe.

Yours sincerely,

## AOG Accuse CIB Detective (1)

The AOG National Executive accused Greg Sowerby of “misappropriation of money” on 13 December 1993.

That complaint went first to the Fraud Task Squad, then, on 15 March 1994, because there was no evidence of any fraud, it was passed to Detective Senior Constable Brenton Rowney of Adelaide C.I.B.. At 6:05 pm **on the same day** he attended the home of Greg and Meredith Sowerby and seized the Independent Churches Insurance program files and began the difficult task of trying to sort the truth from the various allegations.

But this was not good enough for Andrew Evans and the rest of the AOG National Executive, and so they paid Lewis Hutchinson, Commercial Lawyers, to lodge an official “Letter of Complaint...concerning investigation by Det B.J. Rowney No 2781/4...”

We do not know the date on which the complaint was lodged, but the detective’s written defence is dated 18 May 1994. Addressed to the “Officer in Charge, Adelaide C.I.B.”, it occupies thirteen pages. I have reproduced the first page overleaf.

[Page 71: The first of thirteen pages of explanation by Detective Senior Constable Brenton J. Rowney, who had to defend his good name against an unscrupulous attack by the AOG National Executive.]

Adelaide C.I.B.  
NORTHERN COMMAND.

Officer in Charge,  
ADELAIDE C.I.B.

Subject:- Letter of Complaint from Lewis Hutchinson,  
Commercial Lawyers concerning investigation by  
Det Rowney B.J. No 2781/4, involving Assemblies  
of God Church and Previous Manager of their  
Insurance fund Gregory Sowerby.

Reference:- Case Management No 94/0008 of Adelaide C.I.B.

1. On 15/3/94 I was allocated Case Management 94/0008 which relates to allegations of misappropriation of money from the Assemblies of God Financial Service P/Ltd and the previous Manager of the Adelaide office Gregory Mark Sowerby Dob 28/5/56. This matter was referred to the Adelaide C.I.B. from the Fraud Task Force after initial contact by Det S/Sgt Smith.

2. The initial information that brought this enquiry to the attention of Police was a report conducted by Tantau Wallis Chartered Accountants of Victoria, which was inturn passed on to Det S/Sgt Smith of the Fraud Task Force. The synopsis of the allegations of the report are as follows:-

## AOG Accuse CIB Detective (2)

Page 3 of the initial report by Detective Senior Constable Brenton Rowney of Adelaide C.I.B. (point 3.1.) refers to “missing amounts of money”. It appears that the AOG National Executive accused Greg Sowerby of stealing the money he expended in his management of the AOG Superannuation Fund.

In other words, the money that Greg paid me by way of wages (before we were all sacked) was described to the police by the AOG National Executive as *stolen money!*

The police report makes short work of this absurdity. On page 4, Detective Rowney notes that:

“all of these expenditures were within the capacity of Sowerby employing people as he desired...for the efficient operation of the fund. Sowerby was the manager and had total autonomy in the operation”.

Detective Rowney further notes that:

“There is an argument that Sowerby was not required to...expend the amounts of money on...employment of Sheppard... Bearing in mind that he was the manager of the fund and had total control of the decision making process on purchase and expenditure. This is a civil (matter)... Not a criminal offence.”

Anyone can criticise how a manager manages, especially after the event. But, whatever your opinion, there is no room to say that such an argument constitutes grounds for laying criminal charges (as Andrew Evans has claimed all the way through this scandal).

The AOG National Executive have been either (at best), or, as appears more likely, in their administration of this whole dispute.

[Pages 73 & 74: Pages 3 and 4 of the explanation by Detective Senior Constable Brenton J. Rowney. Page 3 refers to “an amount of \$8,492 paid to H. Sheppard to assist in the writing of a management programme for the superannuation fund.” Page 4 makes it clear that Greg Sowerby had “total autonomy in the operation” of the fund, “employing people as he desired”. Yet the AOG National Executive tried to tell the police that Greg had *stolen* the money expended by him on wages and incidentals in the management of the superannuation fund.]

3 The substance of allegation 1. The A.O.G. operates a Superannuation Fund for the members of the Church. The fund is operated from the church members, which collects the moneys due from fund members and then passes this money onto National Mutual. National Mutual then refund the profits to A.O.G. from the collected money from members and sale of new superannuation policies

3.1. The missing amounts of money relate to a balance of property purchased to operate the collection process of the fund. This is consistent with the purchase of computer equipment at present in the possession of Sowerby. The third area is the Secretarial Services to the amount of \$5,368 which was paid to Sowerby's wife. Sowerby's wife did provide secretarial duties in relation to the account. This is substantiated by Greaves a fellow employee. There is an amount of \$8,492 paid to H. Sheppard to assist in the writing of a management programme for the superannuation fund. There are also other sundry amounts of money which can be expected in the operation of a business, ie duty stamps, postage, print stationary etc. (Attached to report as appendix A.)

3.2. All of these expenditures were within the capacity of Sowerby employing people as he desired and the purchase of items for the efficient operation of the fund. Sowerby was the manager and had total autonomy in the operation, other than reporting to the National Executive of the A.O.G.

3.3. Sowerby did not receive any direct profits from the fund and did not receive any direct advantages, other than the updating of a computer system he originally owned and A.O.G upgraded the interior body of the computer.

3.4. There is an argument that Sowerby was not required to purchase this property or expend the amounts of money on computer upgrading, employment of Sheppard and Sowerby's wife. Bearing in mind that he was the manager of the fund and had total control of the decision making process on purchase and expenditure. This is a civil debt and recovery should be made via civil courts. Not a criminal offence.

## AOG Accuse CIB Detective (3)

The report by Detective Senior Constable Brenton J. Rowney is far too long to reproduce in full. But it contains a number of statements that completely demolish the AOG's accusations against Greg Sowerby.

For example:

Contrary to the statement by Jame Lewis on 22/12/93, that "you were not permitted to sell insurance apart from personal contacts of your own" (p.37), the detective states:

"There is no directive to prevent Sowerby from selling his own I.M.S. insurance Non A.O.G. policies as opposed to selling A.O.G. policies. **Sowerby was allowed to run his own business** as a side issue by Nation(al) Executive of A.O.G."

The Executive have made much of some comments by individuals employed at ANSVAR. But the detective made the following comment:

"There is correspondence from Ansvar that stated they believed the profits from the business between Sowerby and Ansvar was to benefit A.O.G. Churches and not Sowerby. **There is no available documentation to support this allegation.**"

And on the subject of who the Independent Churches Insurance program belonged to:

"**The original application that is made to Ansvar to open the agency is made in the name of G.M. & M.A. Sowerby** (Insurance Management Services). There is no other documentation other than the original application."

And again:

"**There is no documentary evidence to support any claims made by Ansvar**, in fact the only documentary evidence supports an agreement between Ansvar and G.M. and M.A. Sowerby (Insurance Management Services)."

[Pages 76: Page 13 of the explanation by Detective Senior Constable Brenton J. Rowney. It states that "At present it appears unlikely that a prosecution would produce a conviction."]

9. The stop ~~the~~ press section is incorrect and is only done in the manner in which he perceives his treatment of by the A.O.G.

10. I am still conducting enquiries concerning this matter. It does not at this time seem that a prosecution of this matter would not be without substantial difficulties. At present it appears unlikely that a prosecution would produce a conviction.



B.J. ROWNEY  
DET SCIG no 2781/4  
ADELAIDE C.I.B.  
18/5/94.

## *Official Communiqué!*

On 6 April 1994, Andrew Evans rang Greg Sowerby and advised that he was taking a three month break from the AOG National Executive for “health reasons”. Then, on the 27 May 1994—half-way through the three-month “break”—a five page *Official Communiqué* was released on AOG National Conference letterhead to 1,000 Pentecostal churches across Australia.

The most significant fact about the *Official Communiqué* is not that it slandered both the Sowerbys and the SA Police, but that it bore **no signature!** It refers to “us”, “we” and “the Executive,” but nowhere does it have a name, a signature, a position, or even a title.

We can only assume that the *Official Communiqué* was Andrew Evans’ work, and that he failed to sign it because he was having a break for “health reasons” and, meanwhile, no one else on the Executive dared to put their name on Andrew’s work.

So it went out **anonymously!**

Almost every sentence in the *Official Communiqué* tells a lie. I have only reproduced page four (overleaf) as a representative sample, but one which includes Andrew Evans’ slander against the SA Police.

**“At no time has the Executive instituted legal proceedings against Mr Sowerby...”** Really? Then, how *did* the police become involved? And why did the AOG National Executive lodge an official complaint against Detective Rowney to hurry things up?

**“The Executive to date has not attempted to recover monies that are missing...”** That was because there were no monies missing. On the other hand, Greg and Meredith Sowerby and myself have taken legal action against Betty Ethel Greaves, Norm Greaves, *Minet Australia Ltd*, ANSVAR and Andrew Evans to recover monies owed to us. We have won every case or had it settled out of court in our favour. (I was denied a court hearing by an “ex gratia” payment, but I am still owed wages.)

**“Pastor Andrew Evans verbally asked Mr. Sowerby why there were cheques made payable to the Assemblies of God which were banked in an account of G. & M. Sowerby, but after six months there has still been no explanation provided.”** Another lie! Greg gave a full explanation to Andrew Evans on 4 November 1993 in Evans’ office.

He followed that up on 11 February 1994 with a public explanation in the first Circular Letter that went to 1,000 churches (see p.51). Three months later (27 May 1994), Andrew Evans was dishonestly claiming “there has still been no explanation provided.”

(It seems that no lie was so obvious, or so outrageous, that Andrew Evans would hesitate to publish it.)

**“As a result of legal advice the National Executive Presbytery fulfilled an obligation they had...”** Lies! There has never been any evidence of any wrongdoing by Greg Sowerby. Therefore, they never had any “obligation”.

**“The Police requested additional information...”** That’s right. The police were crass enough to ask the AOG National Executive for some evidence to support their accusations. No such evidence has ever been provided to the police, because it does not exist.

The *Investigation Diary* of Detective Rowney shows that on 6 September 1994 he rang Andrew Evans and asked him directly to “supply details as to \$83,500± worth of cheques” that he accused Greg Sowerby of stealing. Andrew Evans has never provided that evidence, because it does not exist.

**“Failure to have taken this action could render the National Executive Presbytery culpable in the future as accessories after the fact.”** After *what* fact? No evidence exists of any wrongdoing on the part of Greg Sowerby.

**“...the police seized the files...”** Yes, so they did, on 15 March 1994, and then they returned them to Greg Sowerby, as the rightful owner, on 20 June 1994.

**“Failure to prosecute by the police does not necessarily mean innocence.”** Here we have the most evil sentence published by Andrew Evans and his friends at the AOG National Executive.

On the one hand, it infers that the SA Police are corrupt. On the other hand, it leaves Greg Sowerby forever “guilty” in the eyes of the Pentecostal churches of Australia, regardless of the outcome of the police investigation.

This one sentence alone justifies our unending battle to expose Andrew Evans, and his mates.

**“National Executive members are reluctant to reply because Mr. Sowerby has taken matters out of context.”** How much more “out of context” can things be taken than when an innocent man is accused to the police by a group of church leaders, who subsequently pay for a solicitor to bring additional accusations against the officer in charge of the investigation so as to hurry things along?

**“...all salaries are paid in accordance with specific awards...”** Maybe they were. But the individual in question, Norm Greaves, had come into the Treasurer’s job on the basis that he would do it “for nothing.”

In the same way, Robert Palma was going to run the Insurance Agency for twelve months “for nothing.” Yet, within weeks, he was being paid out of church funds as a ‘consultant.’ And how is he being supported today? (It is way past time that the members of the AOG Superannuation Fund asked the right questions about what is happening to their money.)

**“Mr. Sowerby has been unwilling to disclose the amounts he was receiving...”** Why should he? The AOG National Executive *forced* Greg to become self-supporting as an insurance agent. He drew no salary from the AOG. It was none of their business. But they suspected that he now earned more than them, so they punished him for his success!

[Page 80: Page 4 of Andrew Evans' unsigned "Official Communique." It is a comprehensively dishonest document which clearly reveals the lengths to which Andrew Evans will go to 'fix up' someone who gets in his way.]

**Legal Advice**

The National Executive Presbytery felt it appropriate to obtain legal advice because of the substantial implications relating to the matters reported by the investigating accountant.

At no time has the Executive instituted legal proceedings against Mr Sowerby nor have they laid any charges against him.

The Executive has not requested that any charges be made or any action be sought by the South Australian Police.

The Executive to date has not attempted to recover monies that are missing, however, Mr Sowerby has been advised of their concerns.

Pastor Andrew Evans verbally asked Mr Sowerby why there were cheques made payable to the Assemblies of God which were banked in an account of G.&M. Sowerby, but after six months there has still been no explanation provided. These cheques were payable from the insurance companies and brokers and we have received confirmation from them that they were for administration fees and commissions that were owing to the Assemblies of God and not to Greg Sowerby or his personal company.

As a result of legal advice the National Executive Presbytery fulfilled an obligation they had and provided information to the police in South Australia. The police requested additional information, and (as is the case with any police force in Australia) they determine whether they will take further action. Failure to have taken this action could render the National Executive Presbytery culpable in the future as accessories after the fact. We may then have been deemed to have covered up fraudulent or criminal activities if the concerns of the investigating accountant were ever followed up by a future Executive or the National Conference.

It has now become apparent that the police seized the files taken from the AOG Adelaide office which included the information on insurance matters for the non-AOG churches.

The police will investigate and make their own decision as to whether to prosecute Mr Sowerby on a criminal basis. Failure to prosecute by the police does not necessarily mean innocence. Failure to proceed may simply be because the police consider it to be inappropriate to do so. This is totally different to any civil action that would be available to the AOG.

**Staff Salaries**

Mr Sowerby has put to question salaries paid to National Office staff. The National Executive Presbytery wishes to confirm that all salaries are paid in accordance with specific awards which are recommended to churches. We need to point out that the salary package of the present General Secretary/Treasurer does not include a number of substantial benefits which the previous Secretary demanded.

Over a period of years, Mr Sowerby has been unwilling to disclose the amounts of money he was receiving, but to the best knowledge of the National Executive Presbytery and the state of the current investigation it appears that the amounts taken by him by way of salary and commission are vastly more than the amounts paid in salary to the staff as set out in his letter. On one occasion Mr Sowerby had indicated that he would resign rather than disclose his financial arrangements with the broker. Despite repeated requests by the entire National Executive Presbytery in interviews with Mr Sowerby over the past three years or so, he has resolutely refused to provide the information.

**Reply by Executive Members**

Mr Sowerby has stated that Executive members have not replied to letters from him. However, National Executive Presbytery members are reluctant to reply because Mr Sowerby has taken matters out of context.

## “A time limit on the AOG...”

On the morning of 13 December 1994, the same day that Greg and Meredith Sowerby and myself met with Brian Houston and Steve Penny at Adelaide Airport, Greg sent a desperate fax to Detective Chief Inspector Peter Graham of the Adelaide C.I.B..

Andrew Evans’ on Greg and his family, via accusations to the SA Police, was now into its second year.

It seemed obvious to me at the Airport that the AOG National Executive’s tactic was to simply waste time, never totally agreeing to anything and never totally rejecting anything, constantly delaying any resolution in the hope that we would just grow weary and give up. A further year after that meeting, I feel entitled to say that I was right.

Although Greg wanted to believe in the stated good intentions of Houston and Penny — after all, Greg was a former AOG pastor — his anxiety about the steadily increasing damage to his reputation and his business shows through in the fax he sent to the Detective Chief Inspector (shown overleaf).

[Pages 82: A fax from Greg Sowerby to Chief Inspector Peter Graham of the Adelaide C.I.B., begging for some kind of assistance to force the AOG National Executive to either put up or shut up, rather than leave him and his family dangling, with the threat of unspecified accusations outstanding against him.]

## Facsimile Cover Sheet

<b>To:</b>	Chief Inspector Peter Graham	<b>From:</b>	Greg Sowerby
<b>Business:</b>	Adelaide C.I.B.	<b>Business:</b>	IMS
<b>Fax:</b>	(08) 207 5471	<b>Fax:</b>	(08) 331 0921

13 December, 1994

Dear Chief Inspector,

**Re allegations of misappropriation and fraudulent conversion made against GM Sowerby by Assemblies of God in Australia – December 1993.**

Brenton rang me yesterday and it seems he had received a fax from Philips Fox last week saying that they would respond to the police request in their good time. The AOG seem to have dumped their old solicitor (Jamie Lewis) for probably two reasons:

- 1) Appointing a new solicitor is a good delay tactic.
- 2) They hope to resurrect their case against me with upmarket legal brains.

Brenton has said he will get on to the Philips Fox solicitor and your adjudication department and then contact me later this week.

Can you tell me if there is a mechanism in your adjudication department that can impose a requirement on the AOG to prevent further delay regardless of how many new legal firms they want to appoint. The chronology of this case since my interview is as follows:

- I was interviewed on 18/8/94.
- The AOG was requested to provide further information to the police on or about 2/9/94.
- I spoke to Brenton on 22/11/94 when I collected copies our financial information to complete our tax returns. At that point adjudication had had our file for about 4 weeks.
- It is now 3 months after the AOG has been asked to provide further details and they are still fobbing off the police.

We are now in our second year since the AOG launched its allegations against us. It must be in the power of the police to put a time limit on the AOG otherwise this could drag on for another year.

Is there someone I can approach in the Police Department that can say to the AOG three months is more than enough time to provide this additional information to the police.

I really need something concrete so that I can follow up if nothing happens within the time frame, in the light of the significant effect on our livelihood caused by this delay.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Sowerby.

**C.C. Det Brenton Rowney.**

## Andrew Evans refuses to speak to Detective Chief Inspector

On 13 December 1994, Greg and Meredith Sowerby and myself met with Brian Houston and Steve Penny at the Adelaide Airport.

The meeting was marred by several attempts at verbal intimidation by the two National Executive members. But the worst aspect of the meeting was their total denial of the AOG National Executive's actions in paying yet another solicitor to lodge an official complaint against Detective Brenton Rowney, alleging that he was procrastinating in his investigation of Greg Sowerby and had adopted a conciliatory rather than an investigative role in handling the case.

(The Executive resented the fact that the police had spent some of their time clearing up cases involving rape, murder and robbery, rather than focusing exclusively on a trumped-up charge of fraudulent conversion, for which there was no evidence.)

On the next day, Greg spoke by phone to Detective Chief Inspector Peter Graham and repeated the denials of the Executive members. The Inspector offered to speak to any National Executive member who would ring him. He would read out the exact details of the charges and who laid them.

Greg informed the Executive of this opportunity for them all to obtain the facts, only to be greeted by a deafening silence. The National Executive members—Andrew Evans most noticeably—already knew all they wanted to about their formal complaint against an innocent policeman.

[Page 84: An invitation in December 1994 for the AOG National Executive to talk to a senior policeman and obtain the facts. They refused the opportunity.]

# Facsimile Cover Sheet

<b>To:</b> <b>Business:</b> <b>Fax:</b>	<b>Steve Penny.</b> <b>Christian Growth</b> <b>Centre</b> <b>(02) 521 2933</b>	<b>From:</b> <b>Business:</b> <b>Fax:</b>	<b>Greg Sowerby</b> <b>IMS</b> <b>(08) 331 0921</b>
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14 December, 1994

Pages = 1

Dear Steve,

Thank you for our time together yesterday, we believe there are grounds for genuine resolution if the attitude displayed by yourself and Brian is representative of the Executive as a whole. I will prepare the submission we talked about shortly and forward a copy to you and Brian.

Yesterday we were quite stunned by the fact that you and Brian were utterly convinced that there had been no action taken by the AOG in persuing the allegations made against us, given our numerous conversations and contact with the police over this matter. We are utterly astonished by the suggestion that we are being lied to by police, as indeed are the police themselves.

This morning I spoke with the officer in charge of Adelaide CIB, Detective Chief Inspector Peter Graham and related this issue to him, confirming that the Executive members we had spoken with yesterday (i.e. Brian and yourself) were genuine in their belief that the AOG had not engaged in any such action. Chief Inspector Graham was very helpful and co-operative in quoting from various correspondence the police had received from Lewis Hutchinson commercial lawyers, who claimed they were acting on behalf of "The Executive of AOG in Australia". Chief Inspector Graham confirmed that the AOG (via Lewis Hutchinson), had lodged an official complaint against Det Brenton Rowney alleging he was procrastinating in his investigation of the allegations against me, and that Det Rowney was adopting a conciliatory role rather than an investigative role in his handling of the case. The matter was taken up by the Police Complaints Authority but no grounds for the complaint have yet been submitted by the AOG and so this complaint against police continues to remain unfounded. Det Graham has correspondence from Lewis Hutchinson (purporting to act for the AOG) which deals with "the subject of a complaint made by the AOG against the police" and Betty Greaves name is also mentioned.

Det Chief Inspector Graham, who I have found to be very helpful, has told me this morning that he is most willing to speak with any member of the AOG National Executive and discuss this matter on the telephone so that it can be put straight. He can be contacted on (08) 207 5000. He has also been most willing to discuss this case in general.

Steve, this is an opportunity for the Executive to get some of the facts relating to this police matter and I believe that if the Executive is genuine in finding the truth, either Brian or yourself should ring this Inspector. So much has been said by us over the last 12 months on this issue that has been disbelieved and here is an opportunity to get to the truth for yourself.

Regards,

  
Greg.

C.C. Brian Houston Hills CLC, Andrew Evans Paradise AOG.

Page 84



THE  
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018 371 795

## SA Police - F.O.I. Documents

On 21 April 1995, the SA Police Freedom of Information Unit finally released some seventy-seven pages of documents relating to their investigation of the accusations against Greg Sowerby. Most of the papers add nothing to our knowledge of the major questions, but those reproduced on the following pages tell us all we need to know.

The first two pages show the start of the covering letter accompanying the documents released under F.O.I..

Under **Determination 1**, documents released in full, you will notice references to an "Investigation Diary" and a "Crime Index". We made reference to the Investigation Diary on p.78, and it was also used to help create the detailed Chronology at the end of this book. We will come to the Crime Index a little further on.

The second last document mentioned is the "Report to Officer in Charge, Adelaide CIB" which contained Detective Senior Constable Brenton J. Rowney's defence of the propriety of his investigation against the attack by the AOG National Executive.

**Determination 2**, documents *not* released, contains only one document, the crucial accusation to the SA Police by the AOG National Executive.

No doubt, the SA Police Freedom of Information Unit has acted appropriately, within the restrictions placed upon them by the law, but a grave injustice is continued thereby. **An innocent man has been denied the fundamental right of seeing the accusations made against him.**

Andrew Evans has now held out for over two years, against all reasonable requests (and while claiming that *he* has practised **Matthew 18!**), and withheld the final proof of the origins of this evil charade.

[Pages 86 & 87: The document with which Andrew Evans launched his dishonest attack on Greg Sowerby has been withheld because it is "Private and Confidential".]



# South Australia Police

Your Ref  
 Our Ref FOI 398/95  
 Enquiries  
 Telephone 204 2482  
 Facsimile 204 2304

Freedom of Information Unit  
 G P O Box 1539,  
ADELAIDE S A 5001

21 April, 1995

Mr G M Sowerby  
 P O Box 171  
BURNSIDE SA 5066

Dear Sir

I refer to your application dated 9 February 1995 for access to records and apologise that the 45 day time limit in processing your request has been exceeded in this instance.

### Determination 1

I have determined to release in full the following documents:

<i>RF1390 Advice of Decision not to Prosecute</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>
<i>Investigation Diary of PIR 95/Z50596</i>	<i>(2 pages)</i>
<i>Statement by Minet Professional Services Limited dated 14/4/94</i>	<i>(2 pages)</i>
<i>AOG Insurance Sub-Committee Report April 1990</i>	<i>(5 pages)</i>
<i>PD289 Crime Index Adelaide CIB</i>	<i>(2 pages)</i>
<i>PD286 Adelaide CIB Crime Progress Report dated 30/09/94</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>
<i>Letter to Mr N Greaves by Det B J Rowney dated 20/10/94</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>
<i>Facsimile from N Greaves, AOG National Conference dated 17/10/94</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>
<i>Facsimile from Det Rowney to Pastor R Palmer dated 29/9/94</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>
<i>Affidavit of Detective B J Rowney dated 8/8/94 (unsigned)</i>	<i>(6 pages)</i>
<i>History of Mr Sowerby with AOG</i>	<i>(3 pages)</i>
<i>Facsimile from Ansva Aust Insurance Ltd dated 13/4/94</i>	<i>(4 pages)</i>
<i>Police Incident Report No 95/Z50596</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>
<i>Apprehension Report No 95/A65026</i>	<i>(3 pages)</i>
<i>Statement of H Freimayer dated 5/8/94</i>	<i>(15 pages)</i>
<i>Statement of D R Berry (undated)</i>	<i>(5 pages)</i>
<i>Statement of T Marfea dated 8/8/94</i>	<i>(1 page)</i>

12..

"Creating a safer community"

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
 Box 1539 GPO, Adelaide SA 5001  
 Telephone: 207 5000

Page 8c

- 2 -

PD286 Adelaide CIB Crime Progress Report dated 6/5/94  
 including Report to Officer in Charge, Adelaide CIB dated 18/5/94 (14 pages)  
 Letter to Adelaide CIB from Phillips Fox Barristers & Solicitors  
 dated 16/12/94 (9 pages)

## Determination 2

I have determined **not to release** the AOG Insurance Agency & AOG Superannuation Fund Investigating Accountant's Report dated 20/12/93 consisting of 19 pages in accordance with Clause 13 (b) of Schedule 1 which states:

*"A document is an exempt document if it contains matter obtained in confidence the disclosure of which might be reasonably be expected to prejudice the future supply of such information to the Government or to an agency and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest."*

and

Clause 7 1 (c) of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

*"A document is an exempt document if it contains matter consisting of information (other than trade secrets or information referred to in paragraph (b) concerning the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of any agency or any other person and the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on those affairs or to prejudice the future supply of such information to the Government or to an agency."*

The facts upon which this decision is based include:-

1. The document is an investigating accountant's report into the AOG Insurance Agency and AOG Superannuation Fund prepared by Chartered Accountants, Tantau Wallis.
2. The document is the property of the Assemblies of God National Executive Presbytery and is clearly marked "private and confidential".
3. The report contains advice and recommendations to assist in the decision-making process of the AOG National Executive Presbytery in relation to its financial affairs and disclosure would not be in the public interest.
4. The report was supplied to the Police Department in confidence to provide background information.

These facts have been considered in conjunction with the Clause referred to and I am of the opinion that the report comes within the exempt category. The report is marked "private and confidential" and was prepared for the administration of the Assemblies of God organisation.

/3..

## Police Apprehension Report

The next two pages contain the official police report and the all-important conclusions of the investigating police officer.

While the document will never be considered a classic piece of literature, it does contain some classic observations:

*"I have doubts as to the quality of any witness within the AOG Insurance Fund."*

*"Sowerby does not have any intention to defraud..."*

*"There is ample evidence to support allegations by Sowerby and little evidence to support the allegations made by AOG."*

*The AOG National Executive "has negotiated with the accused without notifying the police of their activity and thus puts the credibility of the (AOG) in doubt."*

*"There have been civil actions during the time of the investigation of this matter, each of those civil actions have fallen in favour of the accused..."*

*"I do not believe that a criminal prosecution will be successful."*

The great irony of this document is that the AOG National Executive is described in it as "the victim" when, clearly, the real victim was Greg Sowerby, an innocent man, accused by a group of religious leaders

[Pages 89 & 90: Documents released by the SA Police Freedom of Information Unit reveal that no evidence exists against Greg Sowerby, in direct contradiction of Andrew Evans' repeated statements that Greg was sacked because of his criminal actions.]

REPORT : PRIN119B SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Run Date : 09/03/95  
 AP No : 95/A65026 POLICE APPREHENSION REPORT Run Time : 08:29  
 Page : 1

Apprehension Type : REPORT AP No : 95/A65026  
 Submitted at 2000 hrs on 13/12/94  
 Submitted by : ROWNEY, Brenton John of ADELAIDE CIB 2781/4  
 Entered by : PRATT, Andrea Leslie 5323/7

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 OFFENDER DETAILS

Offender : SOWERBY, Gregory DOB :  
 Sex : M Age : 36.0 Phone (h) : 396 0178 Phone (w) :  
 Address (h) : 16 Claridge Crt Saint Agnes SA 5097  
 Occupation : OTHER  
 DIRECTOR

-----  
 OFFENCES

Law-Code : CLC 00176(1)(B)  
 Descript : ~~EMBEZZLEMENT~~  
 Counts : 1 Outstanding Offenders : Janco : 3222  
 Occurred At/Between 0000 hrs on 31/07/90 and 0000 hrs on 00/00/00  
 Clearing PIR Num : 95/Z50596  
 Victim Name : ASSEMBLY OF GOD INSURANCE FUND  
 Victim Address : 1 King William St  
 Adelaide SA 5000

LOCATION : OFFICE

Law-Code : CLC 00178(A)  
 Descript : FALSIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS  
 Counts : 1 Outstanding Offenders : Janco : 3222  
 Occurred At/Between 0000 hrs on 07/07/92 and 0000 hrs on 00/00/00  
 Clearing PIR Num : 95/Z50596  
 Victim Name : ASSEMBLY OF GOD INSURANCE FUND  
 Victim Address : 1 King William St  
 Adelaide SA 5000

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 OFFENCE DETAILS

COMPT VERSION:- Is the Assembly of God Insurance Fund and Church, 1 King William St, Adelaide, who makes the allegation that the manager Gregory Sowerby was involved in illegal criminal mismanagement of Assembly of God Church Money. This activity was in three main areas. The first being the employment of family members and the use of funds in the purchase of equipment to service the insurance funds needs. This allegation has been totally refuted as a civil debt between Sowerby and the AOG Insurance Fund. The second area of concern by the victim is that Sowerby had used his position within the AOG Insurance Fund to sell insurance to customers which was his own personal insurance whilst these person believed that the insurance they had purchased was that of AOG Insurance Fund Insurance. This has been refuted and enquiries reveal that the persons purchased the insurance due to the competitive price. The third and final area

REPORT : PRIN119B

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Run Date : 09/03/95

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POLICE APPREHENSION REPORT

Run Time : 08:29

Page : 2

of concern is that of two cheques, one issued on 18/2/92 for the amount of \$2521.70 in the name of the Assemblies of God Insurance Fund and the second issued on 7/7/92 for the amount of \$5672.97. Both of these cheques Sowerby freely admits signing the rear of the same and the conversion of these monies into his business account in the name of GM Sowerby. The victim concerned in this matter admits that part of the money was lawfully entitled to the offender Sowerby. With both cheques the victim disputes the lawful claim to approx 3/4 of the value of the cheques. The victim has not nominated any person who is able to go before the court and answer the questions concerning the cheques.

POLICE VERSION:-This matter is an extremely involved Company Fraud and involves members of the Assembly of God Insurance Fund and another person Gregory Mark Sowerby who was the manager of the fund. It is clear from the investigation of this matter that Sowerby had been terminated in his employment for unknown reason, there appears to be a personality clash as much as non performance. There is a great deal of distrust between all groups and there is now negotiations taking place between the AOG and the suspect Sowerby (without the police being informed) I have doubts as to the quality of any witness within the AOG Insurance Fund. At no time has the offender Sowerby attempted to hide any of the money paid to him in the cheques from the AOG Insurance Fund. They are fully accounted for in his own personal accounting system. Sowerby makes a plausible claim to the money. There is little chance in any prosecution being successful in this matter and I base this on the following grounds. 1. Sowerby does not have any intention to defraud and makes a claim of right in good faith. 2. There is ample evidence to support allegations made by Sowerby and little evidence to support the allegations made by AOG. 3. The victim has negotiated with the accused without notifying the police of their activity and thus puts the credibility of the victim in doubt. 4. There have been civil actions during the time of the investigation of this matter, each of those civil actions have fallen in favour of the accused in this matter Sowerby.

5. I believe that this matter is more appropriately dealt with in the civil courts and then a decision can be made on the balance of probability as opposed to beyond reasonable doubt concerning criminal behaviour.

6. I do not believe that a criminal prosecution will be successful.

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ARREST/REPORT DETAILS

Arrest/Report Time : 1700                      Arrest/Report Date : 01/12/94  
Brief Officer                      : ROWNEY, Brenton John

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OTHER DETAILS

Clearing Unit                      : ADELAIDE CIB

## Crime Index

The first page of the Adelaide C.I.B. 'Crime Index' is shown overleaf.

This document is notable for its repeated statements (five of them) that the documents in question "support Sowerby" in his defence against the accusations by the AOG National Executive.

No such comment appears anywhere in support of the accusations brought by the AOG.

In other words, even something as simple as a Crime Index reveals the total lack of evidence against Greg Sowerby.

[Page 92: Even the summary notes of the Crime Index reveal plenty of evidence in support of Greg Sowerby, but no support for the false accusations brought by Andrew Evans and his mates on the AOG National Executive.]

## S.A. POLICE

## CRIME INDEX

Adelaide ..... C.I.B.

CASE TITLE	REFERENCE NO.
INVESTIGATIVE Accountants Statement	Document 1.
Faxed Letter From Royal Power Previous Director re Supporting Sowersby	" 2.
Statement of mind as to Status of Sowersby & Sunday Documentation	" 3.
ANSVAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MONEY PAID TO SOWERSBY	" 4.
ANSVAR Statement of Agreement re Agency (stated in letter supported by Sowersby's allegations)	" 5.
LETTERS BETWEEN SOWERSBY & ANSVAR RE FINANCIAL PAYMENT TO SOWERSBY	" 6.
ANSVAR Agency Application BY SOWERSBY NOT AOB (Supports Sowersby)	" 7.
CHEQUE Allegation of miss. appropriation of Cheque \$5932.90 Gross	" 8.
CHEQUE Allegation of miss. appropriation of Cheque \$2521.70	" 9.
HISTORY OF SOWERSBY WITH AOB.	" 10.
CHEQUE Receipt Produced By Sowersby Jan 4 1982 Prior to \$5672.97 Allegation (Not shown cheq # 5672.97)	" 11.
PHOTO COPIES OF SOWERSBY Account Books. Showing Cheque For \$2521.70.	12.
REPORTS FROM A.S. COMMISSION SHOWING MINET Prof & MINET Prof Separate Company	13.
LETTERS FROM SOWERSBY TO FINALIZE CASE BY 11/7/94	14.
Copy of Cheque For \$2521.70 Showing endorsement } By Sowersby	15.
Copy of Cheque For \$5932.90 Showing endorsement } (Supports Sowersby)	16.
Copy of Cheques Marked to PAY SOWERSBY & I.M.S. & endorsed by Minet	16.
Statement of Herman FREIMAYER re SOWERSBY & Agency	17.

## “...we are prepared to consider making some payment to you...”

After a period of eighteen months, during which the AOG National Executive repeatedly stated or implied that Greg Sowerby was a crook, that he had ripped the AOG off, and that he was about to be arrested at any moment, they started the delicate process of trying to back down without publicly losing face.

On 26 July 1995, Norm Greaves' replacement at the AOG National Office in Melbourne, Colin Lowder, sent Greg Sowerby a letter which effectively admits that the AOG owe Greg money for their theft of his Independent Churches Insurance program.

The letter approaches the question of compensation with a mixture of dishonest threat:

*“the AOG has a significant claim which it is entitled to pursue against you...”*

bluff:

*“If, however, you choose to commence legal proceedings, we ... will also pursue our claim against you.”*

and a ‘sophisticated’ negotiation gambit:

*“...you will have to be prepared to accept an amount that is much less than your existing offer.”*

Greg could sue for punitive damages — asking the court to make an example of this ruthless religious organisation by awarding a \$1,000,000 settlement against them — with . The \$150,000 he has decided he will settle for is the minimum, realistic, asset value of his business, without any damages, ‘pain and suffering,’ etc., added on.

The letter is significant for its reference to the third firm of solicitors retained by the AOG National Executive in just eighteen months — *J. Lewis & Associates, Lewis Hutchinson*, and now *Phillips, Fox*.

[Page 94: Colin Lowder of the AOG National Office concedes that the AOG owes Greg Sowerby money, while attempting to frighten him. The letter invokes the name of the third firm of solicitors retained by the AOG in just eighteen months.]

26th July, 1995.

Mr Greg Sowerby  
C/- Insurance Management Services  
PO Box 171  
BURNSIDE SA 5066

Dear Greg

*Without Prejudice*

**AOG INSURANCE AGENCY BUSINESS**

As you are aware, we referred your letter of 11 May 1995 to our solicitors.

The legal advice we have received is that you are unlikely to succeed in your claim against the AOG Insurance Agency. We have also been advised that the AOG has a significant claim which it is entitled to pursue against you, should it choose to do so.

On the basis of that advice, we simply cannot negotiate with you on any basis that approaches your suggested settlement, namely a payment to you of \$150,000.00. If, however, you choose to commence legal proceedings, we will certainly defend any claim that you make and will also pursue our claim against you.

Having said that, it is obviously in the interests of everyone concerned to attempt to resolve this matter without the need for legal proceedings. A legal battle can only involve a great deal more time and expense to all parties, not to mention the additional ill-feeling that will be created.

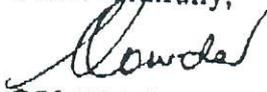
In an endeavour to avoid this, we are prepared to consider making some payment to you in an effort to settle all of the issues between us as soon as possible. Nevertheless, this will mean that you will have to be prepared to accept an amount that is much less than your existing offer.

Therefore, we invite you to meet with us and our solicitor on 2nd August, 1995 at 11.30 am in the Chambers of Phillips, Fox, 19-29 Young Street Adelaide, to let us know the genuine, minimum amount that you are prepared to accept in order to resolve all of the issues.

Our desire will be to finalise all matters at this meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



COLIN LOWDER  
SECRETARY TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## “...a YES or a NO answer...”

Having finally begun to inch towards admitting that they might have to compensate Greg for the loss of his Independent Churches Insurance program, the AOG National Office wanted an instant resolution.

Without any consultation with Greg, they organised a meeting with their solicitors and informed Greg of his need to be there. The history of the failed Kangaroo Court began to repeat itself!

The following page contains a fax from Colin Lowder in which he demands to know instantly — not having to wait even a few hours — whether Greg will be at their meeting.

*“We do not want to be advised at 5pm, or the meeting will be called off.”*

Given that Greg had not been a party to calling this meeting “on,” it was rather silly to threaten him with calling it “off.” The AOG National Executive had taken seventy-six days since their last contact from Greg to work themselves up to agreeing to the idea of a meeting, but demanded his response in less than 48 hours.

Colin Lowder might be a new face at the AOG National Office, but he has the same old spirit. He has unilaterally decided that this was, for Greg, “your opportunity to resolve all issues.”

Apparently he believes that the omnipotence of the AOG National Executive will prevent any other occasion from arising, either through common sense, the Australian legal system or the court of heaven.

[Page 96: Colin Lowder demands “a YES or NO answer” as he seeks to maintain the forward momentum of the AOG National Executive steam-roller.]



*Facsimile Message*

To: GREG SOWERBY  
From: COLIN LOWDER  
Date: 28th July, 1995

Dear Greg,

I appreciate that you are busy, however from your past faxed letters to us there was no appreciation that we also have our busy times.

Greg, all we need is a YES or NO answer to the proposed meeting. We do not want to be advised at 5pm, or the meeting will be called off.

This is your opportunity to resolve all issues. Please respond.



## The Charges

I wish to lay the following charges against Andrew Evans, National General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Australia since 1977.

1. He has, since the 5th of November 1993, oversighted the theft of wages due to me.
2. Although a sum of money was paid to me as an 'ex gratia' payment (to avoid an indefensible court appearance), I am still owed both the wages and the dignity of clear title to those wages as a labourer who was "worthy of his hire."
3. The AOG National Executive, under the leadership of Andrew Evans, stole the Independent Churches Insurance program from Greg and Meredith Sowerby.
4. They have repeatedly slandered the Sowerby's good name in order to cover up the theft. Numerous lies have been told to the leaders of Pentecostal churches in Australia and some of those lies have been documented in this book.
5. When their attempt at intimidation and manipulation failed, the AOG National Executive, under the authority of Superintendent Evans, launched an assault on the Sowerbys, via the SA Police. They paid a solicitor to lay false charges against Greg, appealing to their national Pentecostal church audience with lies about having been forced to act on the "evidence." The police conducted a twelve month investigation and failed to locate any such "evidence."
6. During the period of the investigation, the AOG National Executive, under the leadership of National Superintendent Andrew Evans, paid a solicitor to lay false charges against the officiating detective. The matter was taken up by the Police Complaints Authority, but no grounds for the complaint were provided by the AOG.

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Given the serious nature of the charges and the responsible position held by Andrew Evans, I wish to have these six charges heard by a Pentecostal "High Court."

## The Pentecostal “High Court”

In April 1994 a group of men, who styled themselves the “Steering Committee” of the Australian Pentecostal Minister’s Fellowship, issued a summons to prayer for the Pentecostal churches of Australia.

During a sermon at Paradise AOG on 7 May 1995, Andrew Evans named ten of these same men and referred to them as “the apostles and elders of the Pentecostal movement.”

Given their positions of pre-eminence within the Pentecostal churches of Australia, and given Andrew Evans’ unbounded confidence in their spiritual authority, I decided to appeal to this group of men to act as a Pentecostal “High Court,” to take note of the charges against Andrew Evans, to review the evidence contained in this book, and act so as to restore righteousness to the Pentecostal church of Australia.

On the date shown below, I posted a formal request for assistance to each of the following:

John Hewitt  
*Apostolic Church*

Paul O’Sullivan  
*Assoc. Christian Assemblies*

Peter Vacca  
*Bethesda Movement*

Phil Pringle  
*Christian City Church*

Trevor Chandler  
*Christian Life Centre*

Neil Myers  
*Christian Outreach Centre*

Mike Cronin  
*Christian Revival Crusade*

Fred Anderson  
*Forrestfield Bible Fellowship*

Don Baker  
*Four Square Gospel Church*

Phil Baker  
*Rhema Family Church*

Barry Chant  
*Tabor College*

Kevin Conner  
*Waverley Christian Fellowship*

Henry G. Sheppard  
Adelaide  
28 December 1995



5th January, 1996.

Received 8/1/96  
*[Signature]*

Mr H G Sheppard  
5 Wood Road  
PARADISE SA 5075

Dear Henry,

Warm Christian greetings.

I want to acknowledge receipt of 'The Evidence' which arrived on the first business day in January.

I have read and perused this document to the best of my ability. I will endeavour to present this matter as a Agenda Item at the next Australian Pentecostal Ministers Fellowship meeting which will take place in early March.

Please give my regards to Rainée.

Sincerely in Christ,

PETER N VACCA  
*Senior Minister*

# Church split by sacking

By CHLOE FOX

An uproar over the unorthodox dismissal of a senior church consultant has created serious division in the powerful and wealthy Assemblies of God church.

The church, which is the largest member of the Pentecostal movement, has come under attack from both present and former members for the summary dismissal in 1993 of Mr Greg Sowerby, of Teringle, an Assemblies of God insurance agency consultant.

More than 100,000 Australians attend

the popular Assemblies of God churches.

A book released to the religious community last week examines Mr Sowerby's dismissal in November, 1993, and his subsequent replacement by a young businessman who promised to increase the profits of the agency.

*The Evidence*, by former Paradise Assemblies of God church worker Mr Henry Sheppard, also raises issues concerning the church's conduct over the affair.

"On the day I was sacked I was given no reason whatsoever why it hap-

pened," Mr Sowerby said. After Mr Sowerby sent a letter concerning the incident to more than 1000 churches Australia-wide, the church accused him of embezzlement, and in March, 1994, the police raided his home.

"There's a lot of money and power in churches. It's a very attractive way of life for some," said Mr Sowerby yesterday.

"The way they got rid of me was wrong and unrighteous."

The police investigation into the allegations was headed by Detective Senior Constable Brenton Rowney, of

the Adelaide CIB. He found there was no intention by Mr Sowerby to defraud.

"It is clear from investigation of this matter that Sowerby had been terminated in his employment for unknown reasons," Senior Constable Rowney wrote in his final report.

The exposure of the unorthodox sacking has created a furore both here and interstate in the Pentecostal community.

"I am concerned that there should be any problem that goes on and on like this one has," said Pastor John Hewitt, a senior minister of the Apostolic Church in Victoria.

Lawyers for the Assemblies of God National Executive said yesterday the church was prepared to compensate Mr Sowerby for any financial loss, provided Mr Sowerby could satisfy them of his legal rights.

Lawyers have also advised the church they consider numerous allegations in *The Evidence* to be defamatory.

While the church has already released a statement about the issue to parishioners, questions are still being asked.

"I think there are a number of dealings which are not as they should be, and this issue has brought those questions to the fore," said a female member of the Paradise Assemblies of God congregation who asked not to be named.

"I believe that scores of people have left, although the church will say it isn't so.

"It's clear to my mind there has been injustice done and the church has not dealt with it in a Christian way."