

# An Ecclesiastical Pearl Harbor

**It was unexpected and without warning.** Like Pearl Harbor, it was a sneak attack designed to inflict maximum damage. The Founder and Director of our sister-Mission in South Africa, Dr. Peter Hammond, was the subject of slander by the Pastor and Elders of a small suburban church in the mid-west. Several charges against him were cybercast across the world. ITMI immediately convened a Board of Inquiry (BOI) to examine the charges. ITMI Director Steve Evers went to Africa on a 5-week fact finding mission. For obvious *conflict-of-interests* reasons I was not a member of the BOI, but along with others conducted an independent investigation.

ITMI has finished a five-month in depth examination of all the charges against Peter and “concluded that the charges against Dr. Hammond are not substantiated and are contradicted by a credible body of evidence.” The BOI Final Report is available from our office or website on a need-to-know basis. This category includes any person who has received the accusations against Peter Hammond and is interested in our response.

Our investigation revealed that this tactic is a rapidly growing phenomenon. The list of high-profile targets is very impressive. Christian leaders experiencing ferocious attack include Franklin Graham, Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Jerry Falwell, Dr. D. James Kennedy, David Wilkerson and many others, but these satanic attacks are not confined to celebrity clerics. They are designed to destroy any valid and dynamic ministry.

Dr. Guy Greenfield’s book ***The Wounded***

**“...a growing phenomenon, a threat to ministry.”**

***Minister*** exposes the pathological antagonist – a rapidly growing threat to the ministry. Who are these people? How can we recognize them? How can we help them overcome this sickness? ITMI has a review of this excellent eye-opening book on our website, entitled “Dealing With Pathological Antagonists.” Please read it.

The trend is alarming. Pastors, missionaries and other dedicated servants of Christ are under satanic attack. Some feel isolated, cut off from true friends who understand. Satan tells them they are all alone, their problem is unique – “Just quit, give up, you don’t need this kind of hassle.”

Research shows the problem to be increasing in epidemic proportions. Consider this: if Satan cannot stop a man from trusting Christ as his Savior, he has lost that man as a candidate for hell. If that man hears God’s call to the ministry, then he becomes a liability to Satan. However if the devil can attack that man and discourage him to

the point that he leaves the ministry then he has won a great victory. ITMI wants to conserve the dedication.

Satan is the accuser of the Brethren. His agents are frequently recruited from within the Christian church. If he chose his cadres from without – from among the godless, perverted, hedonistic crowd – they would be easily recognized and more fervently opposed. Christians would circle the wagons and prepare for battle. Resistance to external assault is unified. But when attacked from within there is a natural reluctance to resist (even with facts to refute falsehood) lest it be considered unchristian or to aggressively fight back lest it look like self-justification.

So instead of defending a brother unjustly attacked we abandon him to the antagonist vulture and turn our backs while he is torn to pieces. Such vile sights are not pleasant. It upsets the comfortable cocoon in which we have ensconced ourselves. How tragic that the Devil has convinced many brethren that this is the truly “spiritual” way. No, it is not! Satan is *a liar from the beginning*.

“*We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but...*” that is not to say real flesh and blood people are not involved. Some make themselves available to Satan by giving way to inward sin; jealousy, anger or covetousness. God alone is the final judge. We can examine their fruit: *a man’s foes are those of his own household*. They are Christian double agents, purporting to serve God they are in fact promoting Satan’s agenda to destroy a ministry. There is no other conclusion. Check the fruit.

Unreasonable objection to rebuttal hinders resolution to this kind of internecine conflict. It freezes the victim into inactivity and drives them to despair. Some are convinced, “No one will believe me.” There is a school of thought that teaches, falsely, “You may defend yourself as long as you don’t attack your attacker.” If we’d used that strategy after Pearl Harbor we’d all be speaking Japanese today.

Why should we be surprised when Christians betray one another? Judas did it for 30 pieces of silver. Sadly, there are *friends* who will turn on you for even less today. There will always be a Sanballat and Tobiah present to dishearten and despair. These types are “used” by if not “sent” by Satan.

Jesus Christ said, “*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.*” The Prophet Joel said, “*Put in the sickle; for the harvest is ripe.*” How tragic when some of the workers put the sickle into other workers, instead of the harvest. God, help us!

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