
Dear board members and leaders

5 messages

Nick Gellis [REDACTED]

Sun, Dec 18, 2022 at 6:31 PM

To the Cities for Christ board of directors and leaders involved:

My name is Nick Gellis and I have been a part of Cities for Christ since 2015. I have participated in missions and Para Cristo movements in Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica.

I ask you as a Christian organization, have you personally prayed and asked God what the correct steps are? Have you prayed together as a board and heard from God? Have you taken a day to fast and ask God for His direction?

I believe you have a responsibility not solely to Steven Koko, but to the entire Cities for Christ team, to the partners, and to the victims. I'm shocked that an investigation hasn't been undertaken, not a single team member that I know of has been contacted by the board to ask questions about the workplace environment or to investigate if there were any additional known abuses.

For 5 years Steven Koko has committed sexual sin with multiple women on many occasions, some of them as ongoing relationships that lasted years throughout multiple countries. On one of the occasions a young woman was convinced to cross the border illegally of a closed country with a promise to marry Steven Koko that day. She was met at the border by Steven Koko and Solomon Kepkey who were over 20 years her senior and very much spiritual leaders in her life. This woman was then told by Steven Koko she wasn't good enough for marriage yet and that she needed more training. During her training she was punished for "mistakes" with methods including being hit with Steven Koko's belt very hard on 3 separate occasions. Steven Koko recently confessed to me that in one of those instances he hit her with a belt while she was not wearing pants. Also she was forced to stand naked for hours under an air conditioner multiple times. One of the times was for over three hours and she almost fainted. All because she made "mistakes." I am shocked that someone in a leadership position would treat a human being this way, especially one that Steven Koko confessed to many people that he was considering for marriage. I found out this information after an investigation I conducted and he confirmed that the information was correct when I called him on Friday. It does make me wonder what else could this man be hiding, especially in light of his recent actions. I think it is your responsibility before Heaven and before man to remove him and conduct a proper investigation.

Since most of the sexual encounters happend with women flying into countries within Latin America, I believe it is imperative that an investigation into ministry finances is conducted.

We need to investigate if any funds were misused for the pleasures of this man instead of for the Kingdom of God. I believe it is your duty to find out the truth of what has happened. We owe it to our

partners to find out what was done with their money. I believe they should also be notified very soon so they do not continue to donate money. Additionally I have partners that donate through this ministry and I need to notify them in the near future. I have been waiting patiently for close to a month and I don't believe anything has taken place except for Steven Koko taking most of the money from the ministry bank account.

In a conversation with me on Friday, Steven Koko in his own words said he is having panic attacks, he is mentally losing it, and afraid he might end up in a hospital. It saddens me to hear these words of my friend and at one time mentor. I believe what he is experiencing is in the book of James,

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

James 1:13-15 NKJV

Unfortunately I believe what he is currently experiencing is the result of sowing seeds of iniquity into the human soul. He would often preach when talking about the battle between the spirit and the flesh that whatever you feed grows. He has been feeding his flesh for some time and to me it brought clarity because I have not seen the fruit of the spirit in his life for a long time. I still love him but there are consequences for personal decisions.

Someone dealing with these issues of mental instability, sexual sin, and physical abuse of women is in no position to be making ministry decisions. I believe you are not only doing a disservice to this ministry, the team, the partners, and the victims, but also to Steven Koko himself. If you don't step in soon, I fear you will be allowing an unstable man to continue to make irrational decisions. I still love Steven Koko and hope one day he receives the help he needs which I believe is so much deeper than ministry. I'm asking you to do the right thing for this ministry, the partners, the team members, and the victims and remove Him immediately from all decision making positions.

This ministry has already been tarnished with sin, secrecy, and lies for years now. I remember Solomon Kepkey preaching about Steven Koko saying, “this man has given his whole life for the gospel, he has even passed up Ms. Puerto Rico and has been a virgin all these years.” I now know that wasn't true and that Steven Koko even allowed these lies straight from the pulpit. I'm shocked that after all these years of lies, half truths, and living a double life that people would be willing to believe him without further investigation. Steven Koko has meant a lot to me these years, but first and foremost my loyalty is to God and the truth.

Now I'm asking you to make a decision with integrity, a decision above reproach, the ethical and moral decision, and remove him from the board and to notify the partners with an agreed upon message at this time. I believe we also need to investigate and offer the proper help and counseling to all those that have been victimized and affected.

I think restoration, integrity, and transparency should be of the utmost importance at this time and always. More important than any money or any one's reputation is people. God cares about people more than money or reputation.

I wish with all my heart this was just a man who fell and had sexual relations with a woman, but I believe unfortunately it is much deeper than that in light of these revelations that I have heard with first hand testimonies and Steven Koko has admitted to me personally.

Furthermore, I would like it to be known that no one has asked me to write this letter or its contents. After a day of prayer and fasting and a personal conversation with Steven Koko, I have decided to send this letter. I believe in restoration, but also in righteousness. I'm believing you to do what's right before God.

Sincerely,
Nick Gellis

Sent from my iPad

Gary York <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Dec 18, 2022 at 11:02 PM

To: Nick Gellis <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Nick - Quick question how did you know to send a copy to me and Dan?

Blessings,

Gary York
G G G Ministry
P [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Dec 18, 2022, at 5:31 PM, Nick Gellis <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Nick Gellis <n[REDACTED]>

Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 9:57 AM

To: Gary York <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Blessings Gary,

I was notified weeks ago that you were aiding in this process. Also, I had a dream with you 3 days ago where I walked into a Christian conference a few

minutes early. In the dream I was surprised that there was still hardly anyone there. But I look towards the center front rows and you and Gail were there. In the dream I was so happy to see you guys. I got to talk to you about some of the situation including the abuse. So I thought it was important to include you in my letter. I have stayed quiet but felt truly to send this letter, especially after talking with Koko on Friday and had very deep concerns. I also included Koko's pastor who is Pastor Dan. I haven't spoken with him and I'm not sure if he is in contact with Koko or not but I thought it was important he knows this information and the unstable state that Koko is currently in mentally.

God bless you.
Nick Gellis

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 18, 2022, at 11:02 PM, Gary York <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Nick - Quick question how did you know to send a copy to me and Dan?

[Quoted text hidden]

Gary York <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 11:56 AM

To: Nick Gellis <[REDACTED]>

Nick,

Thank you for that. Know that I am 100% committed to this process. I have just embarked on this process of restoration. I plan on contacting each team member and asking for them to explain to me the work conditions they experienced under Steve's leadership and only those things that they have first hand experience with. I also plan on discussing the situation with each individual woman who had a relationship with Steve to get their input from their perspective - once I get all this the team (I am assembling) and I will put together a plan for restoration and corrective action which may or may not include some of the suggestions you made but it is to early for me to make those decisions. I will be giving updated information to the Board of Directors as I go along.

Know this that I am shocked at this situation that CFC and Steve find themselves in and will do everything I can to bring restoration, rehabilitation and forgiveness into this situation. Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime - I value and Love you Nick and all that you do for the Kingdom - Miss you

It's All About Him!!!



Gary York
GGG Ministry

P [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[Quoted text hidden]

Nick Gellis [REDACTED]

Gary,

I truly appreciate that email. Thank you so much for sharing that. It brings me a sense of peace knowing there will be something conducted to see what and how things have been operating. Especially for the women. I look forward to talking with you! Thank you for your commitment.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 19, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Gary York [REDACTED] wrote:

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