



Redeemed Lives International

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Dear Friends of *Redeemed Lives International*,

Grace and peace you, in Jesus Christ our Lord. This letter is a promised continued communiqué regarding the previous letter we sent you this past summer regarding Mario's need for a therapeutic sabbatical. After seven months of entering into this care, we, along with Mario, believe now is the time to share with you more detailed information.

Mario's need for a therapeutic sabbatical was precipitated by three years of extreme duress, which elicited from him a re-visitation of *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder* (PTSD) symptoms. Within that context, Mario burned-out, his marriage suffered, and he gave into compulsive use of internet porn. Eventually, he succumbed to temptation leading to a singular anonymous and consensual act of interpersonal sexual sin. We believe it is important to state that his sexual fall occurred during a hiatus from exercising ministry as a Christian Priest and pastoral care giver. In other words, Mario's immoral activity was not with another Christian under his care.

We want to assure you Mario has not engaged in chronic duplicity while in ministry. His moral failures were episodic (occurring during a period of time). Mario continues to hold the biblical conviction that homosexual practice is sinful. He is not advocating for a gay Christian identity. In understanding his behaviors were sinful, Mario expressed remorse, grief, and repentance. Since May, he has worked diligently to repair the damage his actions caused his wife and children. He sought professional treatment for PTSD, which included voluntary participation in a ten-day hospital inpatient treatment program. Still, the damage of this sad reality is profound. His twenty-year marriage shall be dissolved according to a decree of divorce by the State of Massachusetts.

We are prayerfully standing with the Bergners, and invite you to join us. Last spring, Mario volunteered to step back from all face-to-face ministry until 2018. Until then, *Redeemed Lives International* (RLI) will continue offering online ministry; streaming of our five pastoral courses, providing human rights documentation to defend the freedoms of Christians world wide, free foreign language editions of Mario's book, and the RLI global ministry database. In 2018, the year he turns age 60, we, the Trustees of RLI, will discern with Mario if and when he should return to public ministry. Then, we shall await the Lord Jesus' desire about the future ministry of RLI.

Meanwhile, the RLI office has moved to a more cost effective location (yearly rent is \$3840). Mario will continue to administrate the work generated by online demands, donations, filing government forms as a 501c3 organization, and consult with global leaders of diplomatic

strategies for defending the cause of freedom of choice to all people seeking self-emancipation according to their faith-based conscience.

If the Lord should lead you, a financial gift at this time would go toward modest overhead cost for our new office location, website expenses and paying down \$5,000 worth of credit card debt incurred before May 2016. During this time, we are hoping to pay Mario an administrator's salary of \$12,000 per year. Your gifts to *Redeemed Lives International* are a sacred trust we hold dearly before the Lord. The best way to give to RLI is through PayPal via our website, or, for those receiving this letter via US Post Office, by using the enclosed return envelope. A decision to cease supporting RLI with your gifts shall be received as God's wisdom for RLI at this time. Regardless of the choice you make, you have been caring and faithful supporters of RLI. Below is a request from Mario.

Dear Friends,

Please forgive me for the way my sin has impacted you. I am truly sorry for the pain my actions may have caused you. All I ask of you is that in prayer before the Lord Jesus, you extend His forgiveness to me. And more importantly, that you seek Him for the healing of my wife and children.

Sincerely,

Mario Bergner

No doubt, you are as grieved by these events as we are, and as the Bergners' are. We invite your prayers for every member of this family – Mario, Nancy, Justin, Joy, Christopher, Isaac and Elijah.

Our purpose in writing this letter is to provide proper disclosure and due diligence of moral responsibility for when a Christian leader falls into sin. It is our hope what you have read here has accomplished this goal. After thirty-two years of faithful ministry, Mario did not simply throw-off all caution and revert to the sinful pleasures of his past identification with his false-self. His sin occurred in a context of extreme duress, isolation and personal brokenness. It is our prayer that this letter has communicated understanding, compassion, grace, and the promise of future restoration in Christ Jesus – not a justification for moral failure.

Isaiah 42:3-4 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.

For Christ and His Kingdom,

The Trustees of Redeemed Lives International
The Rev. Dr. Leslie Attema
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