






Context and Background Information for Emails

Email sent 6-28-2013

	 ; stake finance clerk and former bishop of the Rotterdam 2nd Ward.
	Stake president of the Rotterdam stake until the spring stake conference of 2015; he was released 2 years early and served 7 of the 'normal' 9 years.
Gerard Dongen	Former bishop of the Utrecht ward; released in 2015 around the time of the stake reorganization.

Email sent 10-09-2014





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	Stake president of the Rotterdam stake until the spring stake conference of 2015; he was released 2 years early and served 7 of the 'normal' 9 years.
Gerard Dongen	Former bishop of the Utrecht ward; released in 2015 around the time of the stake reorganization.

Note: The counsellors of the stake president never knew about the large amounts of money going to Gerard Dongen. When they eventually did find out after the finance clerk () notified them, the then first counsellor (never mentioned here) actually left the church over this in large part. His replacement () is mentioned in the other emails.






Email sent 10-13-2014 (1/2)

	Stake president of the Rotterdam stake until the spring stake conference of 2015; he was released 2 years early and served 7 of the 'normal' 9 years.
Gerard Dongen	Former bishop of the Utrecht ward; released in 2015 around the time of the stake reorganization.
	Second Counsellor (at the time) in the stake presidency.
	Bishop of the Dordrecht ward (at the time) (discontinued as of May 2017; as well as many other wards/branches in the Netherlands and Belgium)
	Former stake president of the Antwerpen, Belgium stake and current Area Seventy.



Email sent 10-13-2014 (2/2)

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Gerard Dongen	Former bishop of the Utrecht ward; released in 2015 around the time of the stake reorganization.
	Second Counsellor (at the time) in the stake presidency.
	Bishop of the Dordrecht ward (at the time) (discontinued as of May 2017; as well as many other wards/branches in the Netherlands and Belgium)
	Counsellor in the stake presidency (at the time). Former bishop of the Rotterdam 1st ward.

Email sent 10-14-2014

	Stake president of the Rotterdam stake until the spring stake conference of 2015; he was released 2 years early and served 7 of the 'normal' 9 years.
Gerard Dongen	Former bishop of the Utrecht ward; released in 2015 around the time of the stake reorganization.
	Second Counsellor (at the time) in the stake presidency.
	 ; stake finance clerk and former bishop of the Rotterdam 2nd Ward.
	Family from the former Dordrecht ward (since consolidated with the Rotterdam 2nd ward) with financial trouble.

General Remarks

 personally authorized these weekly payments, and left his counsellor out of the loop. The finance clerk always assumed the entire stake presidency knew about this. Multiple independent sources tell MormonLeaks that the theft rose to approximately €330,000 before  (counsellor the stake presidency at the time) contacted Salt Lake about this and it was stopped. This went all the way up to Russell M. Ballard (Quorum of the 12 Apostles), who initiated the reorganization of the stake in the spring of 2015. Elder Jose A Teixeira (Area President at the time) did the reorganization of the stake, after which reassigned as a counselor in the South America South area. Each source MormonLeaks spoke to claimed to have knowledge that this reassignment was some sort of rebuke for having theft go on for so long undetected.

Translation of Emails

Email sent 6-28-2013

[REDACTED],

I have, like we discussed, bought new couches for the Young Single Adult center in Utrecht. These couches were bought in a buyout deal. More couch for our money than we could get in Rotterdam. In Rotterdam these couches would have cost approximately €2700. Now they cost €1940.

Could you transfer this money to Gerard Dongen's (bank)account?

(Bank)Account number:

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Email sent 10-09-2014

Dear pres. [REDACTED] (and stake presidency),

First of all a response to your question regarding the Young Single Adults, there is some money left over, but I would be cautious with that as we have to pay bills before we receive the (YSA) camp money [from Salt Lake I assume]. You can see in the 'Overig (remaining)' column what funds are currently still available for the Young Single Adults.

I would also like to express my concern about the spending of fast offering moneys. In other wards spending is decreasing, only the Utrecht ward is still a trial for me. In March of 2013 we were told to decrease payments of €4400 to €2000 to be paid by the ward until, at the latest, the end of December 2013. That was now almost a year ago and the requests by the higher leaders are still not adhered to and there is still €4000 a month being paid to the bishop without any further consequences.

If we look at what the Church Handbook teaches, it states we are not supposed to maintain a standard of living, but to maintain life. Bishop Dongen is still driving an expensive car, wears expensive clothing and lives his life as if there is nothing wrong with it. He also took some church courses that cost quite a lot as well and he has been dependent on the church for the last 4 years without any sign of a change on his part.

A simple calculation tells us he has received 48x €4,400 euro's, which totals €212,000 euro.

This amount is not acceptable in my view.

I believe the stake will grow if we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, become inspired as leaders, and in this way elevate the wards, stakes and the entire church to a higher plain. But, if a member doesn't listen to a bishop, or a bishop doesn't listen to the stake, or the stake doesn't listen to the area authorities, that inspiration will go away and will make a noticeable difference in the wards and stakes.

I find it unfortunate bishop Dongen's company isn't financially viable anymore, but the church isn't supposed to keep a business afloat with over €200,000 euro. They [the church] can donate food and other life supporting means, but what is currently happening is unacceptable.

I hope you and your counsellors will open up your church handbooks to find inspiration to stop this, and to obey the area authorities.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

Email sent 10-13-2014 (1/2)

Dear [REDACTED],

I highly doubt if Gerard knows much about finances. Currently he is still receiving significant assistance (€1,000,-/week) from the fast offering fund. That is a bizarre amount I think. What to buy with that??? A fact that can, and does, cause major problems. Think of the Belastingdienst alone [Dutch IRS/tax agency]. Does he list this assistance as extra income? But also problems with other members of the church.

I am of the opinion we have to immediately call another bishop to replace Gerard. This way he can give his company the full attention it requires. I am also not seeing a change of lifestyle in Gerard. Another company of his, located in Houten, was declared bankrupt. Undoubtedly many of his suppliers/creditors have lost money because of this. Otherwise a bankruptcy would not have been necessary. To simply close the business would have been enough. To own your own company is never easy, and it won't ever be. This has been my own experience. I highly doubt whether it is a sensible move to have Gerard contact [REDACTED]. I don't think it is. There is a clear difference between what he [Gerard Dongen] says and what he does.

If there are large tax debts with that family from Dordrecht, than I wonder where those originated. Supplementary taxes don't just appear without warning. And with what and how is this tax debt constructed? As far as I know from the Church Handbook, fast offering funds are being distributed to support life, but not lifestyle. The talk of Dean M. Davies, Second Counsellor in the Presiding Bishopric, given during the Priesthood meeting of the last General Conference, was very clear about this. Another question to be asked is whether all the governmental ways have been explored. The obvious question to be asked is whether the house of which the mortgage is currently being paid [by the church] can be sold?

I am up to date with my tax payments. If it were so simple as getting fast offering money to cover my tax bills, I would seriously consider building up a tax debt myself. This way it would actually save me money. Sarcastically speaking. Additionally I know plenty of people who could actually use that money, that aren't getting any right now. And those people wouldn't want to accept any money, as they want to take care of themselves. I am one of them. For years I have chapped

would for our stove, just to keep warm during winter. All to save money. And to ride your bicycle is not so bad either. I know church members who have early morning paper routes. Hats off to those church members.

The above mentioned experiences make it so that I don't want to visit the Utrecht ward anymore. Not because I have any problems with the ward member, but I do with Gerard Dongen [bishop]. I want to see and talk to him as little as possible. Slowly I am beginning to see him as a leach, who manipulates the people making the decisions. This leaves a bad taste in my mouth. I don't feel like pretending. I have never done that, and don't want to start right now. That's why I am being clear today. I am forwarding this to elder [REDACTED], as I worry greatly about this and other recent developments.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Email sent 10-13-2014 (2/2)

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

Yesterday I have spoken with bishop [REDACTED] about paying the mortgage of a family in Dordrecht. In our last conversation I indicated [REDACTED] will contact Gerard because knows much about finances.

It appears that help is required because of a large tax debt they owe in backtaxes. As of March this debt will be paid, after which this family will be able to pay their own mortgage again. We agreed that starting in March, the financial support from the church will stop and in the meantime there will be looked for ways to minimize the expenses as much as possible to possibly stop the financial aid before that time.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

Email sent 10-14-2014

Dear [REDACTED],

I am trying to be open about and keeping you informed of the situation.

We are making progress with two families. A plan has been made with the [REDACTED] family to reduce and discontinue the [financial] aid.

Gerard has received an offer on his house and hopes to have a deal for the sale of his house next week. After that he can take care of his family again. Additionally he is working on a project to earn money, aside from his store, with which he can accelerate the payoff of his corporate debt. In short, we are at the end of a difficult process.

Gerard has concluded the bankruptcy of his previous store in a very good way. There are still some outstanding issues. For his bankruptcy sale he bought more stock to sell. With the earnings the sale of this extra stock brought in, he was able to meet all his obligations to suppliers. In this time that is not an easy feat. He could have just let everything break down and walk away from it all, without regard for his suppliers.

In short, there is still progress to be made, but things are moving, with clear steps in the right direction. Yes, we could have been more attentive earlier, but that didn't happen. The main concern now is how to get things back on track again. [REDACTED] has let me know that the expenses paid out of the fast offering fund are reducing, so there is still some hope.

Let's move forward now.

[REDACTED]