

Central Jersey

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Response to the Plan for United Cooperation

In recent weeks, churches in our fellowship have wrestled with ratification of the **Plan for United Cooperation**, otherwise known as the Unity Proposal. Our leadership team here in Central Jersey has decided against ratifying the proposal, and wants to communicate clearly our reasons for this decision. This decision has come after much prayer, fasting, searching the Scriptures, reviewing church history as well as seeking input from the members of Central, and the leaderships of other churches. After careful consideration and lengthy discussion amongst our own leadership team we came to this decision.

We want first of all to reassure everyone that Central desires stronger cooperation with our sister churches and unity on the broadest level. Because of this desire, we have decided against ratification because we want to avoid any cause for division. We have concluded that the **Plan** could lead to separations between churches in a manner that we do not feel we can support.

Although we are currently supporting foreign mission work (Jerusalem and Tel Aviv), having joint services and seminars with sister churches in our regional area, and although we believe in the biblical principles enumerated in the "statement of beliefs", we believe it wrong to make distinctions between churches, especially distinctions that are not based on matters of salvation. The inherent separation between churches that ratify the **Plan** and those that don't will be a condition of disunity we do not feel comfortable taking part in. Although we believe the result may be separation, we do recognize that this was **not** the intent of the proposal.

While we decline to ratify the **Plan**, we want to thank the writers for the dialogue that the **Plan** has created and for inspiring many churches to focus on cooperation and what it means to be unified. Already we have heard of regional groups that have met, regardless of where the individual churches stand on the **Plan**, to discuss their future cooperation. Here in the mid-Atlantic region we have approached several sister congregations to meet in May to strengthen our ties and to discuss new ways we can work together.

We ask that the disciples in the Central congregation continue to pray for unity amongst all of our brothers and sisters not only locally but throughout the world.

Your brothers,

Evangelists- *Jim Rempel & Johnny Rivera*

Servants Group- *Ala Shirley, Bob Liffenewell, Horacio Picotinho, Ismael Cartagena, Keith Baldwin, Mario Depaine, Pete Sutton, Tom Boone & Tom Messina*



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God's Relentless Pursuit...

February 11th, 2006 -Johnny Rivera

We have all seen action scenes in movies where there is a car chase. We are all drawn to the screen as we feel the excitement of the pursuit. Or how about the love story that depicts a man or women pursuing the love of his or her life? We look on with admiration and joy as we see how beautiful

a pursuit can be when it is fueled by love. As great as these pursuits may be, they don't compare to God's relentless pursuit.

God's relentless pursuit is a pursuit like no other. It is a relentless pursuit of each one of us. It is a relentless pursuit that is not restricted by our lack of knowledge, faith or righteousness. In fact when we lack in those areas, it is then that God increases the speed of the pursuit. That pursuit is fueled by one thing that we cannot choose to alter, deny, or even destroy. That pursuit is fueled by God's love for each one of us. You see, God is relentless because his love for us is limitless, unconditional and undying. He will pursue us with all that he's got. And being that God *is* love; his tank will never go empty. The only question is whether we will stop running and turn back to Him.

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