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December 19, 2013

Mr. Jerry Jenkins
Chairman
Moody Bible Institute
820 North LaSalle Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

I am writing this letter on behalf of our Board of Directors with the specific request that Moody Ministries rescind its recent decision to allow staff members to drink, use tobacco or gamble after work hours.

We became aware of this shift in Moody's staff policy from a recent article in *World Magazine*.

To say that we were disappointed and even dumbfounded by Moody's policy would understate our reaction.

Our radio station began broadcasting nearly 30 years ago in a trailer here in Montgomery. At the time, we took the Moody feed and broadcast it 24 hours a day. Because our Montgomery station is a 100,000 watt station, Moody became a household name throughout this part of the South.

Even though we eventually grew into several stations and our programming diversified outside of the straight Moody feed, we continued to have a key partnership with Moody. This has been an excellent partnership and many of the Moody programs and broadcasters are household names in Central and South Alabama, West Georgia and North Florida.

However, your recent action with regard to the staff policy threatens to dissolve the relationship between Moody and Faith Radio.

We understand that Christians may differ as to whether Christians should use tobacco, have an occasional drink or even play cards. What we do not understand is the Moody Board's failure to discern the difference between this and a public shift in Moody's policy for its staff.

Because the *World Magazine* article focused on gambling and is the sole source of our information, I will also focus on the gambling issue.

For over two decades, our network has played a bold and significant role in fighting the introduction of casino gambling into the non-Indian arena in our broadcasting area. For nearly 20 years, our legislature fought over the casino gambling issue on an annual basis. During those contests, Faith Radio was the leading media opponent to casino gambling and a statewide lottery in Alabama. All told, we spent days of broadcast time over the years in this fight.



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Our reasons for opposition to casino gambling are, for the purposes of this letter, threefold.

First, gambling destroys families. Alcohol, prostitution, drugs and ultimately poverty are always present in the casino gambling world. When spouses go to casinos, they often go alone and they have no accountability while they are there. We have seen this in our area as we have numerous Indian casinos (which were beyond the reach of our legislature) and the stories almost never have happy endings. In fact, they often are very tragic endings with the spouse and the children bearing the brunt of the parent's indiscretions.

Second, the local church is harmed. This is particularly the case when Christians gamble. This one is rather obvious but it bears stating that when Christians are financially harmed by gambling, the church to which they contribute is harmed. In Wetumpka, Alabama (just outside of Montgomery), a 20-story hotel is being built to house those visiting the Indian casino there. The casino itself has been so successful that it is in the process of being replaced by a new casino with over 2,500 gambling machines. The impact this will have on our churches and para-church ministries will be undeniable and permanent. Already, many of these ministries have experienced a downturn in giving. This is in spite of a relatively strong local economy.

Third, casinos entice the younger generation to experiment with gambling. In recent years, casinos have made a very determined effort to lure a younger generation into the casinos. This is often done by a very overt education campaign where young adults are craftily educated on how to play gambling games and how to bet money. The net result is that more and more young adults are entering adulthood and marriage with a gambling addiction that will have profound effects on so many around them.

There are many other reasons for Christians to oppose gambling but assuming that the three listed above are backed by data (and they are), what possible good could come from Moody telling its staff that casino gambling is permissible? Is there enough good that could come from this that outweighs the bad result of giving Christians the thumbs up to gambling in casinos?

The World article pointed out that Moody found it difficult to recruit people to work because of the restrictive policy. If this is the case and Moody feels it needs to change the policy in order to entice people to enter its employ (through allowing access to gambling), it is our suggestion to you that you are looking for the wrong kind of employees. People who come to work for Christian ministries want to be held to a high standard and I would suggest they welcome a high standard.

Perhaps most telling in your policy shift is that it was not applied to the students at Moody Bible College. Wouldn't it follow that those who have reached adulthood at Moody Bible College should be afforded the same privilege to gamble as the staff? While we certainly would oppose such a policy, it is logical to assume that Moody would shift its policy to allow students who have reached adulthood to have the same privileges as the staff at Moody. Of course, to the students, the relaxed standards for the staff give the appearance of "do as we say, not as we do."

You are also saying to your students and the rest of the world that it is permissible to trust in man and his rigged machines to provide the financial way for life. Gambling, by its very nature, is an attempt to bypass God as the source of our finances. It also introduces discontentment into the mind of those who begin to regularly gamble.

One of the raging battles in Christianity is whether we need to look more like the world (in order to appeal to the world) or look different than the world (in order to appeal to the world). It is our contention the latter approach is the preferable and biblical one.

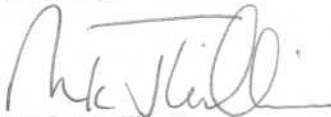
What Moody has done with this policy change is, at its very core, selfish. By making sure that your policy fits the personal whims and desires of a handful of your board members and employees, you have made it difficult for small ministries like ours. We have eight (8) full-time employees and two (2) part-time employees on our staff. While we have determined that we can adjust to life without Moody, it will introduce additional strains on our staff that we prefer not be introduced.

We do not wish to depart from Moody Broadcasting. Our heritage knows no time when Moody was not a part of our ministry. We have examined our heritage in the process of coming to the conclusion that, absent a reversal of your new policy, Faith Broadcasting will proceed without Moody Broadcasting as its partner for the first time in our history.

We now ask that you examine your heritage and the things that made Moody such a leader in the world of American Christianity. If you are true to your heritage, we believe you will reverse this bad policy.

Accordingly, we request that you reverse this policy during the next 60 days. If it is not changed, we will be forced to terminate our relationship with Moody Broadcasting.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Williams
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Faith Broadcasting, Inc.

cc:

Dr. Paul Nyquist, President, Moody Bible Institute
Collin Lambert, Vice-President, Moody Radio
Erwin Lutzer, Senior Pastor, Moody Church
Roy Patterson, Station Manager, WMBI Radio