

Alexander L. Roots  
PLANALP & ROOTS, PC  
P.O. Box 1  
Bozeman, MT 59771-0001  
(406)-586-4351  
[alex@planalplaw.com](mailto:alex@planalplaw.com)

John Pierce (*Pro hac vice admission pending*)  
John Pierce Law  
21550 Oxnard Street  
3rd Floor PMB #172  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
[jpierce@johnpiercelaw.com](mailto:jpierce@johnpiercelaw.com)

*Attorneys for Defendants.*

**MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,  
MADISON COUNTY**

STATE OF MONTANA,	)	Cause Nos. DC-29-2022-022
	)	DC-29-2022-023
	)	DC-29-2022-024
Plaintiff,	)	DC-29-2022-026
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	<b>REPLY BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF</b>
JESSE MICHAEL BOYD, BETHANY	)	<b>MOTION TO MODIFY</b>
GRACE BOYD, CARTER NORMAN	)	<b>CONDITIONS OF RELEASE AS</b>
PHILLIPS, and ERIC ANTOHONY TRENT,	)	<b>UNCONSTITUTIONALLY IMPOSED</b>
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

COME NOW Defendants Jesse M. Boyd (“Boyd”), Carter N. Phillips (“Phillips”), Bethany Boyd (“Bethany”), and Eric Trent (“Trent”), by and through their counsel of record, and submit the following Reply Brief in Support of their motion to amend the conditions of their release.

These Defendants have moved to modify their conditions of release so that:

1. Defendants’ ankle monitors be removed;
2. Defendants’ \$50,000 bonds be reduced to \$5,000 bonds or to release on recognizance.

3. Defendants have their property returned unless such property is deemed to have evidentiary value in this matter.

### **ARGUMENT**

#### **A. The State does not oppose the removal of the condition requiring the Defendants to wear ankle monitors.**

In its response brief, the State has explicitly consented to the removal of the condition requiring the Defendants to wear ankle monitors. *See State's Response Brief*, p.7. Since there is no opposition to this modification, the relief requested should be granted.

In consenting to this modification, the State nevertheless makes a half-hearted attempt to defend the additional jailtime served by three of the Defendants while the county government procured sufficient ankle monitors to enforce this condition. The State asserts, “[I]t is not the State’s responsibility to assist the Defendants in complying with bail conditions, and the Defendants have cited no authority to the contrary.” *Id.*, p. 7. A condition of release that requires a defendant to remain in jail, unreleased, is no condition of release at all. The Defendants did not ask for the State’s assistance in complying with bail conditions; the Defendants were *entitled* to lawful bail conditions that could actually be met without the arbitrary imposition of additional jailtime.

The State also gripes that the Defendants did not seek the State’s position on the motion to modify the conditions of release before the motion was filed. The Defendants are grateful, of course, that the State has been able to belatedly recognize the absence of any sound reason for requiring the Defendants to wear GPS monitors. But given that it was the State of Montana that demanded the imposition of the condition requiring these monitors in the first place, the Defendants can be forgiven for believing the State would continue its insistence on this requirement.

**B. The fact that the Defendants have posted bail does not moot the Defendants' argument for a reduction in the amount of their bail.**

§ 46-9-311(1), MCA, provides,

Upon application by the state or the defendant, the court before which the proceeding is pending may increase or reduce the amount of bail, substitute one bail for another, alter the conditions of the bail, or revoke bail.

The Defendants have made application to the Court for the reduction of the amount of their bail, citing § 46-9-311(1), MCA. In its response, the State cites to caselaw indicating that a criminal defendant may pursue a writ of habeas corpus to seek relief for excessive bail, but that a petition for a writ of habeas corpus is moot once a defendant is no longer in custody. *State's Response Brief*, p. 6 (citations omitted). The State posits that since these Defendants are no longer in custody, they no longer have any right to challenge their bail as excessive.

The State ignores the plain language of § 46-9-311(1), MCA. By statute, the Defendants can seek to have their bail reduced. The amount of bail imposed here is punitively excessive, and the State's objection to a reduction in bail is presumably directed toward depriving the Defendants of resources that could otherwise be used to defend against the charges pending against them.

No legitimate purpose is served by the imposition of a \$50,000 bail requirement for these Defendants. While they are not residents of Montana, they have deep ties to their own community in North Carolina, and they have every incentive to return to this Court in order to clear their name of the felony charges the State has filed.

In support of their request for the reduction of their bail, attached to this brief at **Exhibit A** are 132 letters of reference the Defendants have obtained from persons in 32 states and 7 foreign countries, all attesting to the quality of the Defendants' character. These letters are from friends, from school mates, from fellow parishioners, from people the Defendants have met been in their travels as missionaries. The Defendants are not dangerous, or violent,

or untrustworthy people. The arguments the State has made to the contrary arise from a one-sided narrative that ignores or distorts the facts presented by the Defendants.

The only argument the State has made in response to the Defendants' request for a reduction in the amount of bail is that the issue is moot. The issue is not moot, and the amount of bail should be reduced as requested.

**C. The State has not responded to the Defendants' request for the return of their property, and the motion should be deemed well-taken in this regard.**

In their motion to modify their conditions of release, the Defendants asked for the removal of the GPS monitors; the reduction of their bail; and the return of their property. The State of Montana responds that the motion should "be denied as to the request to reduce bail and granted as to the request to remove the GPS monitoring requirements." *State Response Brief*, p. 7. The State does not mention the request that the Defendants' property be returned. The request for this relief should be deemed well-taken, and the Defendants' property in the custody of the State should be returned immediately.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2023.

PLANALP & ROOTS, P.C.

/s/ Alexander L. Roots  
PLANALP & ROOTS, P.C.  
P.O. Box 1  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
Tel: (406) 586-4351  
[alex@planalplaw.com](mailto:alex@planalplaw.com)



## **Index of Letters of Support**

The various files compiled in Exhibit A are listed below. The filenames include the state (or country) where each letter originated, and the first name and last initial of each author.

- 1\_PERU\_OscarH.pdf
- 2\_NEPAL\_BishnuS.pdf
- 3\_INDIA\_GulzarH.pdf
- 4\_PERU\_TJLindsey.pdf
- 5\_SD\_Kalacinski.pdf
- 6\_NV\_JonC.pdf
- 7\_OR\_CasieJ.pdf
- 8\_NC\_RonnieG.pdf
- 9\_NC\_JasonW.pdf
- 10\_NC\_MatthewB.pdf
- 11\_NC\_RobertH.pdf
- 12\_NC\_MarjorieG.pdf
- 13\_NC\_ElijahN.pdf
- 14\_KS\_VinceL.pdf
- 15\_NC\_ScarletG.pdf
- 16\_TN\_RonC.pdf
- 17\_SD\_VBallard.pdf
- 18\_VA\_LarryT.pdf
- 19\_SD\_MikeS.pdf
- 20\_NC\_JimC.pdf
- 21\_VA\_TonyF.pdf
- 22\_IN\_EmileP.pdf
- 23\_NC\_SandyL.pdf
- 24\_NC\_KatieK.pdf
- 25\_NC\_TheresaG.pdf
- 26\_MO\_DonC.pdf
- 27\_VA\_EliJ.pdf
- 28\_MN\_LubaP.pdf
- 29\_VA\_MichaelT.pdf
- 30\_NC\_JenniferM.pdf
- 31\_NC\_MikeV.pdf
- 32\_NC\_JacquelineS.pdf
- 33\_PA\_AnnC.pdf
- 34\_NC\_AngieP.pdf
- 35\_SC\_EddieS.pdf
- 36\_NC\_Daniel.pdf
- 37\_AK\_SueR.pdf
- 38\_PAKISTAN\_EricY.pdf
- 39\_TX\_LisaL.pdf
- 40\_ISRAEL\_JoelS.pdf

41\_KY\_ChadJ.pdf  
42\_CANADA\_BrunoB.pdf  
43\_NC\_KathyL.pdf  
44\_NC\_DavidL.pdf  
45\_FL\_AdamC.pdf  
46\_NC\_DawnB.pdf  
47\_MO\_CharlieI.pdf  
48\_FL\_ScottS.pdf  
49\_MI\_AmyD.pdf  
50\_TX\_JohnH.pdf  
51\_MS\_JamesH.pdf  
52\_MS\_JulieH.pdf  
53\_CA\_JimR.pdf  
54\_ID\_MichaelP.pdf  
55\_KY\_JohnM.pdf  
56\_MO\_TerryP.pdf  
57\_MO\_SamU.pdf  
58\_NE\_ShirleyS.pdf  
59\_NE\_GeraldI.pdf  
60\_SD\_JonL.pdf  
61\_WY\_SteveS.pdf  
62\_FL\_MariaB.pdf  
63\_WA\_MarkS.pdf  
64\_SC\_MacullenD.pdf  
65\_ID\_ShawnH.pdf  
66\_NC\_CaseyW.pdf  
67\_PA\_ScottM.pdf  
68\_MT\_BarbaraL.pdf  
69\_NC\_MissyB.pdf  
70\_NC\_LindaW.pdf  
71\_GA\_BobbyM.jpg  
72\_NC\_AnthonyP.pdf  
73\_CA\_TommyM.pdf  
74\_LA\_JacksonM.pdf  
75\_NC\_NelsonK.pdf  
76\_NC\_ElaineK.pdf  
77\_NC\_ZelinaK.pdf  
78\_CA\_DianeR.pdf  
79\_INDIA\_MarkS.pdf  
80\_MO\_DennisV.pdf  
81\_KS\_KimberlyR.pdf  
82\_NC\_BradD.pdf  
83\_NC\_KrisE.pdf  
84\_SD\_KyleS.pdf  
85\_LA\_TaylorP.pdf

86\_UT\_LouisG.pdf  
87\_CA\_KathleenL.pdf  
88\_NC\_KevinK.pdf  
89\_NC\_JoshW.pdf  
90\_CA\_JonW.pdf  
91\_CA\_TimothyM.pdf  
92\_MO\_NathanU.pdf  
93\_NC\_BruceW.pdf  
94\_OH\_ChristianP.pdf  
95\_NC\_CliffG.pdf  
96\_NC\_BrandonG.pdf  
97\_GERMANY\_CraigT.pdf  
98\_MO\_JonathanD.pdf  
99\_NC\_RitaR.pdf  
100\_NC\_TommyS.pdf  
101\_MO\_PattiH.pdf  
102\_MO\_GregU.pdf  
103\_WY\_KristyD.pdf  
104\_NC\_MakynaB.pdf  
105\_NC\_GrahamB.pdf  
106\_CA\_GeorgeF.pdf  
107\_NC\_AutumnM.pdf  
108\_NC\_CherylB.pdf  
109\_NC\_ReaganL.pdf  
110\_NC\_BaileyL.pdf  
111\_CANADA\_DanP.pdf  
112\_NC\_EricG.pdf  
113\_CO\_DaunteM.pdf  
114\_NC\_PhilipD.pdf  
115\_VT\_KaitlinR.pdf  
116\_NC\_GrantT.pdf  
117\_AR\_DonS.pdf  
118\_CA\_BettyC.pdf  
119\_NC\_MichaelA.pdf  
120\_NC\_DavidG.pdf  
121\_NC\_MarybethR.pdf  
122\_ND\_JeffM.pdf  
123\_MO\_DennisM.pdf  
124\_CA\_DaleP.pdf  
125\_NC\_KentB.pdf  
126\_AL\_BenC.pdf  
127\_NC\_MarkM.pdf  
128\_NC\_LisaM.pdf  
129\_PA\_ALP.pdf  
130\_CA\_ChristaM.pdf

131\_ID\_DanP.pdf

132\_NC\_MHall.pdf

All AirBnb Reviews.pdf

October 30, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

Through this letter I wish to express myself in favor of the missionaries Jesse and Jaime Boyd and their family, whom I know quite well as people and also in their ministerial work as missionaries in various countries of the world. Before the pandemic, they made several trips to Peru, which is my country of birth, to preach the Word of God not only to Peruvians, but also to the tourists who come from all over the world to enjoy the beauty of the Andes Mountains.

I can attest to the great love they have for God and the preaching of the Word of God. They have not only evangelized and helped many people in my country, but we have also seen their great qualities as human beings. They have always been very participative, communicative, responsible, friendly and committed to witnessing the Gospel of Christ with all the people they come in contact with.

Likewise, at all times they have always been punctual, honest, hospitable, and very creative in sharing the Gospel of Salvation with those who would hear. And, on a personal level, they have also proven to be excellent friends in whom my family and I can trust with all our hearts.

This is what I can wholeheartedly testify concerning the Boyd family for those who believe my testimony is pertinent.

Sincerely,

---

**Oscar Huarac Sánchez**

Peruvian National Identity Document (DNI) # 31655643

**EXHIBIT A**

Date: December 29, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Mr. Bishnu Kumar Shrestha, would like to testify about our beloved missionary family, Mr. Jesse M. Boyd, Jamie Boyd and their three beautiful children, Bethany, Charlotte and Josiah, that they are a God-fearing and sober family. My family has a very good relationship with the Boyd family since 2007. We have been working continuously since then in different parts of the world, that includes laboring for the Lord in Nepal, India, Peru, USA and Canada. We have translated the Word of God as well as other literature in our language and printed hundred of thousands of copies and distributed for free to the village churches in Nepal. This work is still going on. We really appreciate their faithfulness for His Kingdom.

I have travelled with Mr. Jesse M. Boyd and his family numerous times and lived with them in their house as well as they have lived in our house for many times. I can in good conscience testify that the Boyd family is of fine character and honest in every aspect of life, that includes the family relationship and friendship. On top of that, after traveling together for many months and in many places in the world, I can attest that Mr. Jesse M. Boyd is very respectful to the persons he comes into contact with for the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Eternal Word.

So I and my family would like to request you to consider Mr. Jesse M. Boyd as a fine, law-abiding citizen, caring to his own family as well as the families of his friends, loving and helpful man of God. Hence, I would like to request with humble heart to give Mr. Jesse M. Boyd and his family the freedom they deserve as an honest, helpful and loving family. Thank you very much.

Also, our local church Berea Bible Church would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the sound Biblical help over many years of partnership in ministry with the FPGM and the Boyd Family. May God bless them continuously with the even greater opportunities to proclaim our Lord's glorious Gospel.

My Citizenship Number of Nepal is 3372/2048-11-11.

Bishnu Kumar Shrestha

Date of Birth: February 12, 1976.

EXHIBIT A

Dear Jesse and Jamie Boyd,

Greetings to your family from all of us here in Ladakh, India. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you all are doing well. We are all doing fine by God's grace. Every time we remember you all in our prayers, we continue to thank the Lord for you all and your hard work and faithfulness. It has been a blessing knowing you for so many years now, and thank you for making Christ known to us. We are truly blessed. We hope and continue to pray that the Lord will open a way soon for all of you to come visit us here in India so we can again walk the high Himalayan mountains together sharing the good news of our Lord and the blessed hope we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have heard about your struggle for the Lord and how you all have been through a rough time in not only believing in the Word but putting it into practice. Our prayers are with you brother and we continue to intercede for you all. Keep the faith strong and don't lose heart now, for we know that He who is in us is greater than the the who is in the world.

Dear brother, we have known you and your family for so many years now and you have always been a source of encouragement for my family and you have touched the life of so many people. When I was new in faith, you have been more than a brother to me. Life was tough for me coming from a Muslim faith, where there was so much hate and violence, when my close ones like my family and friends etc rejected me. You all accepted me as a brother and I can never thank enough to you and your family. I have personally seen the JESUS in you, I have never seen Jesus my Lord with my naked eyes, but I have seen the JESUS in you and your family. We envy your faith in Christ and thank you for being encouraging to me and being a friend. We the church in Ladakh remember you all and continue to lift you all up in our prayers. All the church members send their greetings. Please keep on praying for our brothers. They have been through a lot of suffering emotionally and physically from the Islamic fundamentalists who are so close to Jesus, yet so far.

With Regards.  
Gulzar Husen.  
Director/Founder




Snowbird Himalaya Adventures  
Old Rd, ShopNo:1 Khalingpa Complex.  
Leh -Ladakh 194101  
[www.snowbirdhimalayaadventures.com](http://www.snowbirdhimalayaadventures.com)  
mail: info@snowbirdhimalayaadventures.com

staff@snowbirdhimalayaadventurescom  
cell: +91-9622030208 office: 01982-252121

EXHIBIT A



To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to attest to the upstanding character of Jesse Boyd. I met Jesse in Peru as he was on a missionary journey through South America and I was living and serving as a missionary there. Though he was a complete stranger to me at the time I welcomed him into my home with my wife, new born baby and my widowed mother in law. Jesse showed himself to be kind, respectful, helpful, honorable and a man of upstanding character.

Since that first meeting in 2010 I have had the privilege of hosting Jesse, his family, and his ministry partners (Eric Trent, Bethany Boyd and Carter Phillips) many times. I have had the privilege of being hosted by him and his wife Jamie as well. I have served the Lord Jesus Christ on two continents with Jesse and his ministry partners. Including on the Long walk across America.

Jesse is a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has always shown himself to be loving, kind, generous, respectful and faithful. He is a great friend and brother in Christ.

This is who Jesse Boyd is, this is my declaration.

Sincerely,

Troy Jared Lindsey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Jared Lindsey".

EXHIBIT A



January 14, 2023

Dear Judge,

Our family has known the Boyd family and this ministry for at least 10 years. We are a regular, hard-working Christian family living in South Dakota. My husband is a delivery driver, and I work at the school as we raise our children. We are also very involved with local and international children's ministry. We, along with many of our closest South Dakota friends, hold Full Proof Gospel Ministries in high esteem. We would trust our children or any other child in our care to go on missions trips with this dear family. They are well-rounded and demand a high level of character and conduct in all that they do. We love them and the missionary work that they do. They have personally helped us in many ways. We thank God that we know the Boyds. At the end of the day, we would not be who we are, and we would not be able to do what we do in ministry to orphaned children in Africa if they had not come into our lives.

Sincerely ,  
The Kalacinski Family  
1211 Tom Sawyer Trail, Apartment 106  
Harrisburg, SD 57032

January 12, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

We have been well acquainted with Jesse Boyd and his ministry teams for over 18 years. He has stopped many times at our home in Las Vegas, Nevada on his way across the United States on one of his many ministry journeys.

He conducts himself, and manages his teams, with honesty and integrity. They do not go beyond their constitutional rights; nor do they seek to antagonize or disrupt. He is respectful of people's property and personal space. He is well-acquainted with the laws of the land, and he is careful not to break them.

Jesse has also taken his teams on many international missionary journeys in countries greatly opposed to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but has never had a problem with the law in these foreign lands. These journeys are well documented and can be traced on his website along with detailed descriptions of daily encounters with people who have expressed gratitude for their presence and their message.

Jesse and his teams simply want to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying people. It's a labor of love and obedience to God, and a concern for the souls of men and women throughout this world.

Respectfully Yours,

Jonathan & Linda Craft  
Las Vegas, Nevada

1/12/23

To whom it may concern,

It has been over 10 years that I have been aware of Jesse Boyd and his evangelistic endeavors around the world. I have followed him on Facebook for that length of time and have admired his courage to go because God tells Christians to go. Some of the places he has gone have on the surface looked really hostile but he seemed to manage to share the Good News with few altercations....until Madison County, Montana.

Jesse and a few other street preachers were doing campus ministry in parts of the Midwest and beyond, and I had the privilege to house, feed and co-minister with the men. Jesse is a stand-up fellow, devoted to God and his family.

The situation in Montana has been particularly discouraging because I used to see Montana as a "free state" in a country that is surely losing its way.

I urge you to right the wrong happening in Madison County.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Justus  
200 Summit Loop  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

January 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

We have known Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips for many years. We have known Jesse and his family, in particular, for over 20 years.

We know them as people with impeccable character. They are at the very least honest individuals and reliable in all their activities. But, they are more than that. They care for all people and want everyone they come into contact with to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. They have traveled extensively in this country and around the world without any incidents like this present one!

I have personally been with them on a section their "walk across America". I have witnessed that when they speak with individuals they are always respectful and courteous. These accusations made against these individuals are totally unbelievable to anyone that has been associated with them.

Ronnie & Debra Graham  
3534 Melinda Ln  
Claremont NC, 28610

January 13, 2023

Good morning,

My name is Jason Webb, and I am Chaplain for the Morganton Department of Public Safety, located in Morganton, NC. I am writing today in defense of the character of Mr. Jesse Boyd, and his family. I know him and his family through ministry opportunities, and can attest them all to be upright, God-fearing, law-abiding citizens. They have a respect for law and order, yet an even greater one for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They have walked thousands of miles across this country, sharing the Good News of eternal life and hope found in Jesus, and those miles have been without incident.

I stand by the character of the man Mr. Boyd is, and the character of his family that is with him, knowing it is of the highest quality.

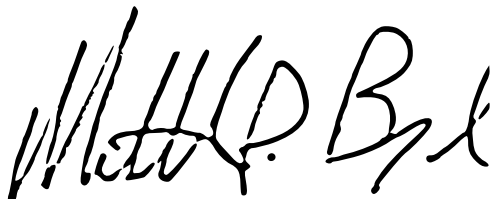
Sincerely,  
Jason Webb  
Chaplain  
MDPS  
Morganton, NC

January 23, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share my support for the character of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Philips. I have known and loved these missionaries for years now and I have had the privilege as a pastor here in North Carolina to serve with them both domestically and internationally on many occasions. I stand by the integrity of these individuals as well as the ministry as a whole. It has always behaved in an above reproach manner. They have always been held accountable, not only to the many churches and individuals that support their work, but also to a Board of Ministry Directors made up from all walks of life. Most importantly they hold themselves under the authority of Holy Scripture and behave according to its dictates. I would gladly lay down my life for any one of these missionaries and also would put my reputation and character on the line in defense of their own. Godspeed in their quick release and the dropping of any and all charges related to their lawful response to a random attacker, who is known, by the way, for being the bully he showed himself to be after he exited his own vehicle that day.

Matthew Boyd  
Pastor, New Testament Christian Fellowship  
3562 Melinda Ln  
Claremont, NC 28610  
Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to heaven. (John 14:6)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Boyd". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping letters and a prominent "M" and "B".

January 23, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I write this letter with very much respect because I know Jesse Boyd, the President of Full Proof Gospel Ministries, Eric Trent, one of the ministry's full-time missionaries, Bethany Boyd, Jesse's 18-year-old daughter, and Carter Phillips, Bethany's fiancé. I know them personally and have for many years.

These Christians' calling, as it is for all Christians, is to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ to the world. I have personally accompanied Jesse Boyd and Full Proof Gospel Ministries to Nepal twice, and I was very honored to travel with Jesse and other dedicated men around this country and be involved in outreaches in which our Saviour Jesus Christ was lifted up and the Word of God was distributed freely. This has been their same testimony walking across the United States, and I saw it with my own eyes when I walked with them one day in Ashe County, North Carolina back in the summer of 2021. In Nepal, we walked through village after village with no hindrance or harassment. Why can it not be the same in Montana? Why can it not be the same as it had been for them across 17 states and more than 200 counties before they walked into Madison County? No such incidents until they were attacked by a stranger on the side of a rural highway as they were minding their own business.

These missionaries sacrifice so much to honor their HEAVENLY FATHER. Eric Trent is a young man who leaves a wife and two small children at home to be obedient to his Lord. Jesse does the same, but his children are a little older. Bethany and Carter's maturity encourages everyone who know them. Full Proof Gospel Ministries has labored in many countries, all over Asia and South America. I was asked several years ago to serve on FPGM's Board of Directors for the purpose of holding Jesse Boyd and the ministry missionaries accountable. I am greatly honored to serve in that capacity and to support this ministry and its walk across America for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.

I write in support of these soldiers of the Cross. They need to be shown the respect that they deserve as VICTIMS in this Madison County incident. Self-defense against the attack of a random stranger is not a crime, neither is the defense of one's family. These are false and unjust charges, and I fully support all four of these individuals in their fight against this injustice.

May God Be Glorified!

Robert E. Hill

Robert Edward Hill Jr.  
828 27th St Pl  
Hickory, NC 28601

EXHIBIT A

Dear Judge,

I am a 90-year-old widow who lives in Catawba County, North Carolina. I was married for almost 60 years to a law enforcement officer before he passed away back in 2012. My husband worked for the North Carolina Highway Patrol for 35 years (1950-1985) and rose to the rank of Major. He was offered the political appointment of Colonel by the NC Governor twice in his career, but politely turned down the promotion twice. Earl T. Green was well-known and well-respected all over North Carolina up until the day of his death.

To say the least, I, the longtime spouse of a reputable law enforcement officer, was shocked at the arrest of the four Christian missionaries in Montana!

Eric Trent, his wife and sweet children came to live in my home when his missionary residence in Columbia, South America was cut short by Covid-19. I became the Trent Family's landlady. As mentioned, I am a widow and 90 yrs. old. Eric has been a great help to me. He is a godly father and husband and an ordained minister of the gospel. He is also a well-trained martial artist.

Eric is a man of exemplary character, always showing respect for me and my home. There is nothing that would make me believe that he acted in anything but in defense of himself and his fellowman in the case in which he is being accused.

Carter Phillips is an answer to prayer. Since I first met Bethany, I have prayed for a godly husband for her that would love the Lord and her more than himself. He is a godly, hardworking man, a talented musician, and an author. He is demonstrating great accountability as he is in the process of constructing a home for him and his bride-to-be.

Bethany Boyd is one of a kind. Intellectually gifted, very spiritually mature and an accomplished martial artist. She is a humble servant. When she is not involved in mission work, she comes and readily, without complaint, performs task for me that my aging body limits. I have observed her countless times, putting others above herself. She is a world traveler and dedicated missionary and daughter. She was quick to act on the side of a Montana highway with one of the 12 Principles she was trained in martial arts: "Use what you have in hand to defend yourself or another and diffuse a situation." She acted honorably in doing just that and in defending her father from a brutal attack.

I have known Jesse Boyd from birth. He is a mature, godly man, a man of integrity, a learned scholar, a dedicated missionary, a very knowledgeable expository preacher, and an accomplished martial artist. He is very respected by all his students, in his teachings, and in practicing what he preaches. He is a world traveler and speaks at least three foreign languages. Yet in all this, I believe he is a humble servant of God, his Lord and Master. Jesse was greatly loved and mentored by his grandfather, Earl T. Green, who wore a badge for many years.

These charges in Madison County, Montana are simply unjust and false. In America, it is not a crime to defend oneself or one's family. And, these missionaries did so from a stranger's

**EXHIBIT A**



unprovoked attack with great restraint. Please do what is right by them and throw out these bogus charges.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Craft Green (born July 5, 1932, widowed December 24, 2012)  
2673 Touchstone Circle  
Newton NC 28658

January 13, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Elijah Nichols. I own a car dealership and performance automotive shop in Taylorsville, NC.

I have known Jesse Boyd since 2013. I met Jesse through a friend at church and we visited downtown Charlotte to hand out Bibles, gospel tracts, and preach on the streets. I watched and listened as Jesse was able to engage in conversation with many antagonistic people who hated hearing about Jesus; and Jesse always expressed humility, kindness, and respect while never wavering on his biblical convictions.

I later also attended a local beer festival with Jesse and some of my friends to engage in similar preaching and conversations with others. I spent some time away in KY, but reconnected with Jesse and Eric about two years ago when they started their long walk across America. They came by my place of business and engaged with both me and my employees, and we were always very blessed and encouraged by their love and testimony for Jesus Christ.

It was after this that my wife and I committed to help support Full Proof Gospel Ministries and Jesse and his family with monthly support we would be happy to provide proof of. We would not have done this if these people had questionable character.

Recently, I also performed work fixing his wife and daughter's Subaru Outback, and again was very thankful and blessed by any and every interaction. I have never seen Jesse act in any way as described in these court allegations. He has a long history of great and respectable character with all he comes into contact with.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me here or at my place of business:

Sincerely,

Elijah Nichols, Owner  
Redemption Racing  
5074 US HWY 64 90 West  
Taylorsville, NC 28681.  
828-278-8442

EXHIBIT A

**Vince LaRocca**  
**1865 3400 Ave Chapman, Ks 67431**  
**785-224-0053**

To whom it may concern

I'm writing this letter to share my experience and subsequent personal relationship that I have with the four missionaries that were part of a horrible experience & arrested in Madison County, Montana on November 12, 2022.

My wife & I first met Jesse, Eric & Bethany on a small gravel road here in Kansas about 6 months ago. We were leaving my Mother in Law's house which is out in the middle of nowhere when we passed a guy, Jesse, walking with a wooden cross and an upside down American flag. As we passed him, we were both a little concerned about what was going on. Was there a reason to be concerned for our mother's safety? As we slowly continued down this small county road thinking about what was going on, we came to a 2 lane highway and there was a vehicle parked off the side of the road. Now, we really thought something strange was going on, so I stopped and figured at least I would take a picture of the license plate # in case something happened later.

A few minutes later, Eric exited the car and approached us. (Bethany was resting in the car). I asked him what was going on and if they were associated with the guy walking down the road with the cross & upside-down American flag. He told us that they were Christians that were walking across America preaching the word of God. I asked why he had the American flag upside down? Eric explained to us that was because our country was in distress and has turned its back on God. And due to that, we need to Repent or Perish. We invited Eric for him and the others to please join us at our church the next morning, which was about 10 miles down the road in the direction they would be heading.

The next morning Jesse, Eric & Bethany showed up to attend our church service & also stayed for a potluck dinner we were having. It was great to get to know the three of them and about their phenomenal effort to preach the word. All three personally touched my heart and from that day forward, I started to follow their daily posts on social media.

A couple of months later, on their way back west after a break at their home in North Carolina, they again blessed me with their presence and stopped in my home town of Chapman to have dinner with me!

In my three personal meetings with these individuals & by following the posts that also involved Carter & Josiah, I have zero doubt that they did anything unlawful and only used very well controlled self-defense to protect themselves and fend off an attacker.

**EXHIBIT A**

Myself and many people across the country & the world who have seen these individuals dedicating their lives to our Savior, not only pray for them but also for the attacker & other wicked people behind these unjust charges. PLEASE, immediately allow the removal of the ankle bracelets and drop all charges.

God Bless,

Vince LaRocca  
Chapman, Kansas

January 13, 2023

To whom this letter may fall,

I am here to shed light on the characters of the four people being falsely accused of felony assault. Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, Bethany Boyd, and Carter Philips are four people I am happy to have crossed paths with in life. They have the joy of the Lord in their hearts, and it is evident upon meeting them. They each have their own unique personality, all of which lacks violence and aggression. I have never felt threatened or uncomfortable whilst around them. I have felt quite the opposite. I know they are all willing to protect their loved ones, their church, and themselves which they have the God-given right to do so. These four are committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have their affections set on things above. They have no desire to prey upon people and attack them. They have the fear of the Lord. They all have been on a long journey walking across America to share the Gospel with citizens who desperately need to hear it! From the shore of North Carolina to a city in Montana, there had been no issues for the entire stretch. The only discomfort they caused was preaching the Gospel to people who rejected it and hate Christ. Even whilst imprisoned they all four had opportunities to share about Christ with their fellow inmates. Instead of sulking in pity, disrespecting officers, picking fights in jail, trash talking, and plotting vengeance they chose to uplift the Lord and have faith and share that with others! In fact, Eric was able to have two Bibles sent to two different inmates once he was released with a troubling ankle monitor. This is not the character of anyone who would pick a horrid fight on the side of a road! I implore you to see these things within the four of them and see the truth of the matter. These four wonderful people are servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please hear the cries of their loved ones for their innocence. Violent people do not have this much support and love from others!

Sincerely,

Scarlett Gilbert  
PO Box 1133  
Hildebran, NC 28637

EXHIBIT A

January 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ralph Ronald Carothers. My purpose in writing this letter is to vouch for the character of Jesse and Bethany Boyd. I would gladly write a letter for the other young people because to be involved in this ministry, they have to be young people who love Jesus, love this country, and who are willing to sacrifice to get the Gospel out to everyone who will listen. I just do not know them personally, so my letter of support is for Jesse and Bethany.

I first met Jesse when I was pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church in Hickory, NC over 40 years ago. He was a little guy then, but I watched him grow up while we were there. His parents, Paul and Theresa Boyd, were servant leaders in our church. We became close friends.

We left Lakeview Baptist Church to go to the mission field. We served as missionaries with the International Mission Board for 28 years. During that time, we kept up with Jesse's ministry and prayed for him. We were able to visit with the Boyds while we were on Stateside Assignment and have kept in touch with them all these years.

I can honestly say that my experience with Jesse has shown me that he is a man of integrity who loves Jesus Christ enough to give his life and livelihood to helping other people come to know Him personally. His ministry of crossing the USA with the Gospel message draws a sharp contrast to other young men his age who are dedicated to accumulating wealth and striving for success. It takes a deep love for the Lord and His message of hope to dedicate himself to such a daunting task. He has sacrificed comfort, riches, an easy lifestyle and many other things to fulfill his commitment to the Lord. He has suffered rejection, abuse and criticism along with encouragement and support from people he has met along the way who were impressed with what he is doing.

Jesse does not have a history of criminal activity or any unethical behavior.. His ministry board can attest to his character and integrity in this ministry. I have never experienced or heard of any kind of immoral behavior or disrespect for the law. It's ridiculous to think that he or any of the others could be a flight risk. They all have conducted themselves as model citizens as we are commanded in the Scriptures.

Their only crime is loving people so much that they would be willing to make this trek across America to share the God's Message of Hope to everyone who will listen. Their motives are pure and their record proves it. The people whose lives have been changed by this ministry would say the same thing.

EXHIBIT A

I haven't known Bethany as well, but the times that she has visited in our home, we sensed that she was a beautiful, young Christian girl who has chosen to follow Christ and has rejected the selfish, worldly values of her generation. She wants to make a difference for Christ, and has been willing to sacrifice her own comfort and ease of being at home so that she could support her Dad in a cause much greater than realizing the American dream. We sensed a peace in Bethany that only comes from knowing God and understanding your purpose in life. It's a rare thing to see a young lady her age not enslaved by social media and pop culture. Her parents have raised her to be a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ, not an immoral, selfish girl who can't satisfy her needs with anything her culture has to offer. She knows who she is, her purpose in life, and she is willing to stand up and invest her life in what she believes, unlike any of her peers. It's unthinkable to me that our friends are being harassed and threatened, when they have no criminal record or incidents, and yet there are so many young people dominated by drugs, alcohol, sex and immorality and real crime. These are upstanding, outstanding, godly, pure, admirable young people. They are our brightest hope for our nation.

It appears to me that it is cruel and unusual punishment for them to be wearing ankle monitors, when there is no evidence that they can't be trusted. That cannot logically or ethically be justified. I'm praying that true justice will be done in each of their lives. The truth is, we will all give account to God one day for the decisions we make in life. Jesse and the young people are all men and women of integrity. They should not be treated as criminals.

My wife, Margie Williams Carothers, supports all that I have said in this letter and asks that I add her name to the letter.

Sincerely Yours,

Ralph Ronald ("Ron") and Margie Williams Carothers  
1007 Kyle Lane  
Spring Hill TN 37174

January 14, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am writing this letter to inform you of what I know about Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent.

I first heard Jesse Boyd speak at a church in Canton, SD. I was invited to hear this guest speaker who had traveled many places outside the US to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with primarily Jewish people. This was January of 2017.

Since then, I have followed their ministry. After following the ministry for a time, I saw consistency and truthfulness and decided to support the ministry in way of prayer and finances.

When the team decided to walk across the US, I told them if they ever needed a place to stay that they were welcome in our home. This past summer, Jesse, Bethany and Eric were guests in our home. I can say these folk are not criminals. We were so blessed to open up our home to them and enjoy great conversation over some meals. I would open up our home to them again if they would need.

Their character is upstanding.

Sincerely,  
Virginia Ballard  
Yankton, South Dakota



Subject: Character Reference for Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Carter Phillips, and Eric Trent

January 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to provide a character reference for the Gospel missionaries who were confronted and attacked in Montana while on a trip walking across America to spread the Word of God.

This group of Christian missionaries are sponsored by the Full Proof Gospel Ministries based in western North Carolina organized as a non-profit association in 2004 with the support of Bible-believing local churches. This ministry is committed to the free distribution of the printed Work of God, for the Jewish people first, and also for the Gentiles. Their objectives are to freely distribute the scriptures, publicly proclaim the gospel, go into all nations, and mobilize gentile churches to invest in Jewish missions.

Due to international travel restrictions associated with COVID, the ministry has been taking their activities across America through organized walks along the highways and byways of this great land. The group was about to complete their walk from Virginia to California when they were confronted and physically attacked in Montana.

The purpose of my note is to vouch for the character and the reputation of these individuals who were confronted in Montana, attacked by an individual along the road, and then unjustly accused of instigating the physical exchange. These are not just individuals but they are Godly Christian families that have dedicated their lives to the spreading of the Gospel. Their mission is not to do harm to those they meet but to share the Gospel with them and provide them with Bibles and Christian literature if they would like to accept them. They have no other motive.

They would not have engaged in any physical interaction unless it was in self-defense. The true facts of this situation will surely bare witness to the root cause of the subsequent actions taken.

This information can be submitted as part of the defense of these individuals as the attorneys for them think best and the Judge will entertain. My prayer is that justice will prevail as the evidence is reviewed and they will be completely exonerated.

Submitted by Larrie Trent, 1762 Colby Dr., Forest, Virginia Phone: 434-509-7981

Vice-Chairman of the Deacon Board of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia;

President of the Lynchburg South Camp of The Gideons International, Lynchburg, Virginia

Management Consultant to the Business, Operations and Security Committee for the Board of Directors of the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Q Clearance

EXHIBIT A

January 14, 2023

Dear Judge:

This letter is in regard to the four missionaries who were assaulted in Montana on November 12, 2022. We have known Jesse Boyd, and his daughter Bethany, for several years. Our son has traveled as a missionary to Peru, Nepal and India with Jesse and we have come to know the Boyd family as an extension of OUR family. Jesse is a humble man, always speaking of his love for Christ, His church and the Jewish population who don't know Christ. Bethany is a quiet, soft-hearted young woman, yet she is wise for her age. We have known Eric Trent and Carter Phillips not quite as long as the Boyd family, but we do know their character. Eric is a beloved husband and father of two children. He knows how important it is to share the Gospel with others and he does it with grace and love, never jeopardizing his safety. Carter Phillips is a polite, intelligent young man, eager to have a wife and family, yet his focus is always on sharing the Gospel with anyone he meets.

The intent of this letter is to ask you to please take into consideration the character of these four missionaries. The ankle monitors have begun to break down their skin, would you please consider having them removed? This team has traveled many miles in many countries without confrontation. What happened on November 12, 2022 was not of their making, and I would hope you could see that. Thank you for your time. We will be praying for the truth to be revealed in this situation.

Sincerely,

Mike and Diane Stengel  
Beresford, South Dakota

EXHIBIT A

January 15, 2023

Dear Judge:

We are long-time residents of Catawba County, North Carolina who successfully owned and managed a popular local restaurant for many years. We are writing to you concerning the four missionaries who were arrested in Montana, three of them from North Carolina. It is very disturbing to see how they were treated just because they were sharing the Gospel of Christ. We feel that if you are an honorable man, you will drop the charges against them. We personally know each of these people who never had a single problem during any of the 5,000 plus miles they had already walked across the United States, carrying the cross and flag. We have supported these folks and their ministry for many years, and they love the Lord and have no problem telling folks all about Jesus. Their characters speak volumes to many people here in North Carolina. They are known and loved by their neighbors, local law enforcement, and people all over this state. We know that they would never have initiated the confrontation on the side of a highway in Madison County on November 12, 2022. Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter are very fine and upstanding people.

Please do what is right and throw out these ridiculous charges that have unjustly labeled an attacker as a victim and innocent people as defendants.

Thank you Sir,

James & Vickie Crafton  
5801 W NC 10 Hwy.  
Hickory, NC 28602

EXHIBIT A

Dear Judge,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Eric Trent. My wife and I reside outside of Richmond, Virginia, and Eric is our nephew.

We have known Eric all his life and can vouch for his upstanding character. He is a God fearing, man of noble character who loves the Lord and this country. He was recently ordained as a minister of God and faithfully pursuing his path in ministry as a missionary. He is a family man who loves and takes care of his wife and two children.

He is polite, generous, full of joy and laughter. He is a bright light in our family. For further discussions we can be reached at:

20640 River Rd  
Chesterfield, Va 23838  
804.840.0791

Regards,  
Tony and Rhonda Felice

January 16, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, and Eric Trent for eight years, and I am familiar with their ministries at FPGM. I became acquainted with them in 2015 as I was involved in some of their overseas work. My name is Emile Petruk and I am a full-time seminary student and a part-time babysitter and I live outside Louisville, Kentucky. I can fully vouch for their sound character and commitment to do any right thing including following all state laws. These individuals are God-fearing Christians who only want to spread the loving message of the gospel without causing any trouble or breaking any laws. I have no doubt that they behaved in a manner consistent with state laws concerning self defense due to threat of bodily harm. Jesse Boyd loves his family and I know he reacted purely out of self defense and concern for his children's safety. He would never provoke a stranger or seek out the harm of another person.

Thank you  
Emile Petruk

Address  
620 E Ninth St  
New Albany, IN 47151

EXHIBIT A

January 16, 2023

Dear Judge:

I am writing you today in regard to the false charges against Jesse Boyd. I have known Jesse since 2001 when he taught high school students at Tri-City Christian School in Conover, NC. He taught and tutored my son, Christopher Troy Lawrence. Jesse was trustworthy, safety conscious, and a devout follower of Jesus Christ back then. He had a direct compact upon my son for which I am eternally grateful. In these 22 years I have known and followed his ministry and his family, nothing has changed. He is the same steadfast Christian now. He has a beautiful supportive family, many friends, and many followers.

I am Sandra Mallonee Lawrence, 74 years of age, a Christian, and a retired Telecommunications Network Engineer. My son is a Tech Sargent in the USAF, now stationed at Honolulu, HI. He has 2 degrees in English and Computer Science. He is trustworthy, safety conscious, and a devout follower of Jesus Christ. He has served 11 years now and in many locations, a NATO base in Jordan, Osan, South Korea, Anchorage AK, and many other states. You see, having Jesse Boyd in this world has caused a ripple effect with the influence he leaves in his path. My son is just one of many.

What has happened to Jesse, his 12-year-old son, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips is wrong. There are people in this world who target Christians and others who are different from them. Their mental faculties can not abide someone who wants only to help and save others with no gain expected except a saved soul. Just too much to fathom in their mind so they try to stop them by any means. I understand this middle-aged accuser has a long history of doing just that. It makes me wonder what ripple effect this fellow is leaving.

I hope you will consider this in the future. Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter are innocent. I know it and our Lord knows it.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

*Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.*

*Sandy Lawrence  
1117 Fox Chase Drive  
Newton, NC 28658*

EXHIBIT A

January 16, 2023

Dear Judge,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Katie Kruger. I'm a 45 year old healthcare worker in North Carolina and a former member of the Lake Norman Volunteer Fire Department. I've been married for 17 years to my husband, and we have two wonderful boys, ages 6 and 8. My letter to you is a plea to hear my words and consider them. I've known Jesse Boyd since I was age 3-4. He and I lived across the street from each other. We used to play in the woods all day building forts, and playing in the creek. Those childhood years are priceless. I've come to know and love his sweet daughter, Bethany, getting to know her at their church. I've visited their church with my family many times over the past few years. Hopefully I will get to meet Carter Phillips soon! That is also where I met Eric Trent and his precious wife, Mindy.

This may be a long letter and again, I hope you read it and take my words deep into your heart. These folks are not 'normal' people. They are so far beyond good. They inspire me to walk with God and live a clean and wholesome life. They are shining examples of what wholesome living, respect for others, and obedience to God look like. It's hard for me to put it into words. I don't want to bore you, and I don't want to be just another support letter. I want you to believe me! So badly I wish that you could know these people so they can inspire you like they inspire me.

They are not violent at all. They have been all over the world and never had an issue. They have been spit on, shoved, attacked with boards, and so many other things that are too numerous to list. All for preaching Gods word. It's ironic to me that they have been arrested in our own country, for self-defense. I beg you to drop these charges against them all.

I'm not a legal eagle, and not familiar with legal stuff. I'm not eloquent with my words. I'm just a person who can tell you about who these folks are. They have a right to protect themselves and each other. They have a right to carry protection. They have a right to stay alive. I've struggled to understand how self-defense equates to being put in jail, but my thoughts on what transpired don't matter. What matters to me is that you see them for who and what they are. PEACEMAKERS. Sincerely. They are.

These folks influence myself and my children beyond anything they could know. Their Christian walk, their preaching, and their boldness to tell people about the Lord. The way they parent. To me, they are angels on this earth. I really do believe that. They love me and have always been there for me. I can only hope and pray to be even close to the amazing parents they are. Little Josiah...what a darling boy. I'm sad he had to experience what he did there in Montana. I pray he will see justice prevail.

Please call me if you want to hear more. It's hard to convey my desperation in this letter. Please drop all the charges against these four saints.

In Christs Love,

Katie Kruger  
Mooresville, NC  
828-639-4007

EXHIBIT A

January 16, 2023

# Your honor,

I come to you on behalf of my firstborn son, Jesse Boyd. I will not take your time listing his accomplishments or telling you about his ministry. I will leave that to others.

I will only attest to the fact that no mother could ask for a better son. He is not perfect and he will be the first to tell you that I will call him on it when he's wrong. He has always honored his father and I and cares for us readily whenever we need help. He is a wonderful father and husband. He is his brother's best friend. He is a hard worker and devoted to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He speaks truth boldly and bluntly but has a heart of mercy and grace for the downtrodden and less fortunate. He is a fierce defender of those in his care and the mistreated.

Please consider what motive he would have had to start a fight with a random stranger on the side of the road in Madison County, Montana. Why would he do so and endanger the lives of his children, his friend and his future son in law, a young man who he knew was going to ask his daughter to marry him on the next leg of the walk? The man who attacked him has admitted that he got out of the car. Please do the just and righteous thing and drop these charges. Jesse responded in self-defense according to Montana law.

Finally, I will say this, Jesse, Eric, Carter, Bethany and Josiah were where God had called them to be doing what God had called them to do.

Respectfully,  
Theresa G Boyd  
3110 Ninth Tee Drive  
Newton, NC 28658



January 16, 2023

# Your honor,

I have known Bethany Grace Boyd since her father called me early in the morning, February 9, almost 19 years ago. She is my oldest grandchild. Perhaps that should disqualify me from speaking to you on her behalf but I can do no less than speak to her fine character.

Bethany was born in Mammoth Lakes, California, where her parents had taken a brief stop to wait for her birth. Her father was riding a bicycle across the United States so she began her life on the road.

Bethany has been homeschooled and finished her senior year of high school in the backseat of the SAG vehicle while trading off walking with the other team members. No one forced her to do so. She insisted on being part of this long mission because she loves her Lord Jesus Christ and cares about the state of her country. She celebrated her graduation this past August and afterwards she was back on the road with the rest of the team.

Bethany does not come from wealth or entitlement. However, she has been rich in experience and adventure from her birth. She accompanied her mom and dad as they finished the bike ride from East to West. Soon afterward she accompanied them again as her dad rode his bike from the tip of Maine to Key West Florida. She has lived in Nepal, in India, in Argentina, and Peru. She traveled through Tibet on their way to China where she handed out gospel tracts to everyone on a train to Beijing. She walked on the Great Wall of China, and accompanied her family to Tiananmen Square where her Daddy preached in the open air.

She has hiked roads and trails all over the world and the United States. She is an accomplished rock climber and has bagged countless peaks—one in excess of 17,000 feet in Peru. It was no surprise that she wanted to take part in this walk across the United States. Bethany's focus has never been adventure for the sake of adventure but how she could use these opportunities to share the gospel with all those she comes in contact with.

Bethany has taken karate since the age of seven. She received her first black belt at the age of 16. She plays the guitar, the piano and the ukulele. She has been a leader within our church and local homeschool group. She has always shown great respect and honor to those in authority over her. Her younger siblings and cousins love her and look up to her as an example. She is wise and mature beyond her years and a joy to everyone she meets.

Judge, I ask you to consider what it must have been like for this young girl to watch her father attacked by a raging, maniacal stranger. She moved as quickly as she could to

EXHIBIT A

get her 12 year old brother in the car out of harm's way. She didn't protect herself by getting in the car with him but came to her father's defense. Ask yourself what it was like for her to be swatted by law enforcement, handcuffed and separated from her father, brother and friends. She was arrested and taken to jail. I need not go into detail about what happened to her upon arrival. That was Saturday night and when we were finally able to talk to her Monday afternoon, she didn't even know what she was charged with, what had happened to her brother or where the others were. Since her release, she has had to wear a monitor. For anyone who knows her, this is an incredulous nightmare.

I beg of you, as her grandmother to please do the righteous and just thing and drop these charges. Bethany acted courageously to defend her father according to Montana State law.

Respectfully,  
Theresa G Boyd  
3110 Ninth Tee Drive  
Newton, NC. 28658

January 16, 2023

# Your Honor,

I have known Eric Trent since he was 18 years old and began taking karate at my son's dojo. It was very evident from the beginning that he had a real gift for this skill. Soon afterward he began attending our church and took an active part in our assembly. He has always been very teachable.

Scroll forward a couple of years and Eric sought counsel from our elders about spending an entire summer on a mission team ministering to the lost in India. He did so and met his future wife (Carter Phillips sister) who was also on the team. They married six years ago this month.

Eric and Mindy have served the Lord in India, Nepal, Argentina, Peru and Columbia. During their time in Nepal they lost their first baby to miscarriage. Although many thought they should come home after that, they chose to stay and continue to serve the Lord. Since then, God has blessed them with two additional children. Micheal is three and Louella will be two in April. Eric is a wonderful father. He not only gives his family quality time but he gives them a quantity of time. It has been a great sacrifice for him to leave his family for long stretches of time while participating in this walk across America but he has done so in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Even on the road, Eric spends time with his wife and children, checking in with them via FaceTime.

When Covid made overseas ministry impossible, Eric and Mindy became tenants of my mother Marjorie Green. She is 90 years old and they have not only shared her home but have willingly cared for her, assisted her with anything she needs, planting and maintaining a garden for all of them, yard work, etc. Eric definitely has a servant's heart and never leaves home without first checking with my mom to make sure she is OK and going to be OK while they are gone.

Eric came to the defense of his friend and ministry partner when that partner was attacked, unprovoked, on the side of a highway in Madison county. He used great restraint because he was taught to do so. No stitches were required and no bones were broken. Eric responded to a situation which the laws of Montana support and uphold. I appeal to you to do the right and just thing and drop these charges.

Respectfully,

Theresa G. Boyd  
3110 Ninth Tee Drive  
Newton, NC. 28658

EXHIBIT A

January 16, 2023

# Your Honor,

I have known Carter Phillips since he began visiting his sister here in North Carolina as a young 12-13 year old boy. He usually stays with my mom when he visits because his sister Mindy and her husband Eric are her tenants. I have seldom met a finer young man. He is very respectful, very gifted and a hard worker.

I have been sending Carter scripture and praying for him for several years. He readily asks for prayer and seeks to honor the Lord in all he says and does. I was so impressed with his spiritual maturity that I asked him to be the camp counselor for a camp we used to hold each summer. He did a wonderful job leading these boys and we were very grateful for his help.



When camp was over that year, Carter told me he was going to be making a bid on a school bus upon returning home and intended to convert it into a home. He had worked hard to save the money and successfully acquired the bus. He has worked hard these past two years to create a wonderful home. It is almost complete. He has done the work himself and is debt free.

EXHIBIT A

Carter is a prolific writer and a learned historian. He has written a work of fiction, taking place in the Renaissance Era and that book is with the editor now. He is presently working on a sequel. He has accomplished all this while working full time.

Carter has walked with the team several times since they started their walk across the United States. He is always such an encouragement and everyone is sad when he has to return home.

Carter has been in a relationship with my oldest granddaughter and recently asked her to marry him. He was with the team that day because he had intended to ask Bethany to marry him on the walk. They were waiting in the SAG vehicle for the rest of the team to get to the car to begin that leg of the walk when they were approached by Brad Terrell and this unfortunate incident occurred. Carter had the engagement ring in his pocket. Respectfully, judge, I ask you to consider what sense it would make for Carter to throw away his promising future by attacking a stranger on the side of a highway in Madison County, Montana.

Finally, I submit testimony of this young man while being unjustly incarcerated in Bozeman:

“This young man told me he was so glad he wasn’t released Tuesday because that day he had great opportunity to encourage a new believer and witness to others! We are so grateful to God for Carter’s love for Christ!”

Please do the righteous and just thing and release this young man who only acted to defend his friend in accordance with your own Montana State law.

Respectfully,  
Theresa G Boyd  
3110 Ninth Tee Drive  
Newton, NC 28658

January 16, 2023

Your Honor,

I have known these young people for quite a long time. I have followed their ministry for many years, and I can vouch that their character has been honorable and outstanding in all the years I've known them in ministry and with them sharing in our church. One young man, Carter Phillips, was raised in our church and has worked many years in a boys home in our state. I've been in the ministry over 55 years and can 100% vouch that what they have shared is the truth, as they do not lie. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. My God give you wisdom in your judgment.

Don Courville  
Springfield Missouri  
417-849-1975

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an Ordained Minister and Elder at Tabb Street Presbyterian Church in Petersburg, VA under Hanover Presbytery. I am also a former Police Officer with the Division of Capitol Police for the Commonwealth of Virginia. As both a Pastor and a former member of the Law Enforcement community I have met and dealt with people of various character and places in life. I have seen men and women that lack character and morality, and I have met many good and godly people of excellent character.

I have known Eric Trent since he was a child. From the very earliest age, his character and godliness has shown forth brightly for those around him to see. There is no doubt in my mind as to the moral integrity and uprightness of his character. The list of people in my life that I trust completely is very small, yet Eric Trent is with certainty at the top of that list. He has through the years stood firm as a man that does right and seeks truth and justice in all of his actions.

I have had the opportunity to share the gospel with him out on the streets, and he is a genuine and caring person. While he is not a weak or timid man, he is moral and upright. His strength he uses to defend those who need help. His words are to encourage repentance and faith. His actions are to call those away from the fires of hell, and to care for his friends and family.

While there are very few that I would vouch for as I am doing now, Eric Trent is one for whom I can speak of positively without hesitation or reservation. He is a godly and just man, who cares for all mankind. His desire to be a Christian witness is unmatched, and I am proud to call him a brother in Christ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eli Jones", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Eli Jones  
Tabb Street Presbyterian Church  
reformationvirginia@gmail.com  
804-888-1503

EXHIBIT A

January 16, 2023

Dear Judge,

My husband and I have known Jesse Boyd and are familiar with FPGM ministries for many years now, since 2016. We got to know them through our daughter, Emile Petruk. Jesse and his traveling companions visited us and stayed at our home in 2016 while they did some peaceful street preaching and evangelism in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We had the pleasure of getting to know them as they stayed in our home. We have continued to follow their ministry through email updates. We can fully vouch for the integrity and peaceful intent of this ministry. They have our highest respect for the work that they do.

We know that they are never intentionally aggravating anyone when they share the message of Christ. They only want to inform people of the truth of the Bible in a most loving manner, whether or not people accept the message.

I work as a home health caregiver in Eagan Minnesota, and my husband is an electrician working for our region's electric union. Our address is 1250 B Dunberry Ln., Eagan, MN, 55123  
Email is Leahpetruk@gmail.com  
(651) 434-2749

Thanks for your consideration  
Leah and Arkadiy Petruk



January 16, 2023

Your Honor,

We would like to personally attest to the excellent character of each of the four missionaries in question.

We have known Jesse Boyd and Bethany Boyd for about 10 years. We have witnessed their interactions with family, friends and our community. Both of them display the highest of moral character throughout their daily lives. Jesse has always been respectful and humble whenever he interacts with us. He also has mentored our son and helped shape his character. We are grateful for his influence. Bethany also displays a respectful and gracious attitude. She is the finest example of how a young lady should carry herself. She cares deeply for her family and friends and is always willing to serve others. She is intelligent and also very humble.

Carter Phillips we have known for about 8 years now. Carter is a creative, caring young man who is a delight to be around. He is enthusiastic about life and displays the character of a fine young man. He is always helpful and has the brightest countenance.

Lastly is our son, Eric Trent. Eric is one of the most humble, caring people you will ever meet. He was not long ago ordained into the ministry of serving Christ and is well suited for this calling. He has been gifted with the ability to serve others and has a sincere love for his fellow man. We are very honored to call him our son.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration with this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael & Julie Trent  
Midlothian, VA  
ttrent.tt01@gmail.com

EXHIBIT A

January 17, 2023

To the presiding judge of the this case,

My name is Jennifer Middleton, and I write to you today on behalf of Jesse and Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips. I am married, a mother of three, and I have been homeschooling my children for 15 years. I also work a part-time job from home and am a black belt instructor who teaches alongside Jesse, Bethany and Eric at Catawba Valley Martial Arts. I would like to share my relationship that I have with these individuals, hoping you will get a clear understanding of who these people TRULY are.

Jesse Boyd- I have known Jesse for 11 years. During that time he has been a true blessing in my life. About 8 yrs ago I started training in martial arts under Jesse and since then I have learned not only how to defend myself but how to defend my family and those who cannot defend themselves. Not only just in the physical but the mental as well. Jesse teaches principles such as meekness, duty, love, RESTRAINT, a lot of which most people today do not possess. He has not only taught me martial arts but has taught me things of the Lord by the preaching of the Gospel in our church, through mission trips, on the street corner, and by example of his everyday behavior.

Bethany Boyd- I have known Bethany for the same amount of time as Jesse and have watched her grow from a little girl. We have come up through the ranks together and I couldn't have asked for a better person to do that with. I look at her just as if she was my own daughter and know her well enough to say that what actions she had to take that day in question were totally justified. Bethany thinks of others first and puts them before herself all the time. She is also one of my daughters' best friends and loves to do things with her like hiking, martial arts, and lunch dates. She displays qualities of respect, meekness, virtue, honesty; more than most girls her age do today.

Eric Trent- I have known and trained with Eric Trent for about 9 years. Even though he was in his early 20's when we met, I have still been able to watch Eric grow into a godly young man who loves his wife, kids and church family. I train and teach alongside Eric and have learned so much from him as well. He is honorable, respectful, trustworthy and loyal. Our families share many things together such as hiking, dinners, holidays and mission trips. When doing many things like that together you get to know people pretty well. So with that, I can say I know Eric pretty well and that the things he is being accused are simply insane.

Carter Phillips- I met Carter and his family 6 yrs ago when his sister married Eric. Since then I have learned that Carter is hardworking, trustworthy and fears only God not man. Even though we do not attend church or do martial arts together, he and his family are like family to us. We stay in touch regularly, see each other on holidays or special occasions and pray for each other constantly. I have also seen this young man grow over the years, even from a distance and his

willingness to serve the Lord at the drop of a hat shows who he TRULY is and I am blessed to be apart of his life.

In conclusion I would like to say as a mother/wife, I am and will always be protective of my husband and my children. I will be constantly aware of who we associate and spend time with and I assure you Sir, this group of individuals is NOT who I would be concerned about being out in our society. As a matter of fact, they are just the opposite. Our society needs more men/ women like these four individuals. I plead to you that you would drop the charges that they face so they can continue to do God's work here in America. It sure does need it. But if not, I ask that you will have the ankle monitors removed immediately. They are clearly not a flight risk, and the financial burden that comes with these is unfair and unjust. They are the victims in this matter, not the man who got out of his vehicle on the side of the highway to approach and attack them in the presence of a child.

I appreciate your time and willingness to read and consider my letter.

Thank you,

Jennifer Middleton  
Vale NC

1/17/2023

Dear Judge:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Jesse Boyd and Eric Trent. I understand them to have legal matters before your court. Being a former police officer in the state of North Carolina for eight years, I understand the seriousness of the offense these and the others are facing before you.

I have known Jesse for at least 10 years, and Eric for at least 5 years through a close fellowship with Living Word Baptist Church in Creedmoor NC, which I pastor. In the time I have known them, I have never had any occasion or suspicion to doubt their word, motive or character. Our church supports them in funds and prayer, and I have often times had them fill my pulpit freely. I can assure you before God and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that I would never allow anyone of a questionable nature to fill my pulpit to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus.

I fully understand I was not present when all this occurred, but wanted to let you know that I have faith that Jesse and Eric did nothing out of a malicious nature or intent.

Thank you for granting me audience in this matter.

Rev. Michael Vaughan  
Pastor, Living Word Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 1172  
Creedmoor, NC 27522

EXHIBIT A

17 January 2023

Your Honor,

In view of January 23, 2023 hearing involving NC missionaries, Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, Carter Philips and Bethany Boyd, I'm writing to express my support for them and to testify as to the excellence of their characters.

I'm a 3-year resident of Hickory, NC, a Christian and a farm hand who met the missionaries on Memorial Day 2021 as they were walking with the cross through my community and stopped to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our town square. I alone sat listening in the mostly empty square to a preacher who nonetheless, boldly proclaimed the Good News, as well as a stern admonition to a nation that has turned its back on God. I was personally privy to the warning these missionaries have taken to Americans from "sea to (almost) shining sea." That day, in the square, God had also answered many months of prayers for a solid church where I could worship and grow with. I knew with certainty, I got my answer, and it was good.

I started attending New Testament Christian Fellowship, the very church the missionaries worship and serve with; and I have not looked back. The congregation welcomed me with open arms and not one day has passed that I'm not astonished by God's placement of me in this beloved body of believers; a church modeled after the first churches established and written of in the NT Book of Acts. It's the real deal, a true Christian, Bible-believing church that is uncompromisingly and lovingly devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, to each other, to Americans and all peoples throughout the world.

The leadership in NTCF, including Jesse Boyd and Eric Trent is dependably stalwart and resolute in faith. They are gracious and compassionate men who love, care for and if need be, will protect their families and each member of our congregation. Bethany Boyd also upholds uncompromising values and loyalty to her Lord, family and community. She is now betrothed to Carter Philips, a mature young man whom I have witnessed display a deep faith in God, sharing His Good News across our nation in all humility and selfless love.

Sir, I implore you to consider the right and duty of self-defense these dear servants of God undertook on November 12, 2022 after their lives were threatened. And please look at the godly lives of these missionaries, some who have served throughout the world, as Americans who have never been treated as unjustly or cruelly as they have in the state of Montana, USA.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Smith,  
533 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory, NC 28601  
603-812-3239

EXHIBIT A

January 17, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Pastor Jesse Boyd for at least ten years. I am a Christian, a wife and mother, and a registered nurse for 36 years; the last 15 years serving our nation's beloved Veterans. I have had the pleasure of communicating with Pastor Boyd through his ministry, Full Proof Gospel Ministries, and through his personal Facebook account. I have supported Pastor Boyd's ministry and his laborious, painstaking journey across America to proclaim hope for our country. I can attest to the uprightness of his character as an honest and trustworthy individual.

Pastor Boyd is a God-fearing man who has given his life to the service of others, whether it be family, friend, or stranger. I implore you, Your Honor, to search his background, his history, and the accounts and testimonies of his many friends and family. You will not find a shred of evidence that Mr. Boyd would have acted in a manner in which the accusations against him have been leveled. In every single encounter I have had with Pastor Boyd, he has been gracious, kind, and loving. He has always displayed characteristics that prove beyond a shadow of doubt that he is a man of his word and a man who can be trusted to tell the truth even to his own hurt. It would be a grave injustice to consider any of the false accusations being charged against him. It is my great privilege and honor to know such a fine man. Jesse Boyd would lay down his life for anyone in harm's way, even a stranger. It is my genuine hope and prayer that you will consider this as my testimony to the character of Jesse Boyd as well as his entire team.

Most sincerely,

Ann Cwalina, R.N.  
Drums, Pennsylvania

# Angela Poole

---

January 17, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Mr. Jesse Boyd & his family for over 25 years. I met Jesse at Tri-City Baptist Church in Conover, NC when my husband began as the worship pastor there in 1994. Jesse was a senior in high school at the time and our families became quite close as Jesse befriended our special needs son and his parents served with us in the music ministry there. I celebrated his wedding to Jamie and have maintained a friendship with them watching their family grow through the years. I have participated in their ministry, Full Proof Gospel Ministries, through finances and prayer from its beginning.

I have found Jesse to be a man of honor and honesty without guile and with a healthy respect of the rule of law. He is a passionate man who has given his life to our Lord using the opportunities all over the world to tell others the joys of salvation freely given through Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on Mr. Jesse Boyd.

Sincerely yours,

Angela Poole

Eddie & Andrea Schroder  
1000 Albatross Lane  
Mount Pleasant SC 29466  
760-889-7772  
[schroderone@me.com](mailto:schroderone@me.com)

January 17, 2023

Dear Judge:

We are writing to you regarding a dear friend that is facing felony charges in Montana. Our family has known Jesse Boyd for nearly 30 years. We first met Jesse and the Boyd family while attending church together in Conover, NC in the early 90s. We were blessed to attend the wedding of Jesse and his wife Jamie and have watched their family grow with three wonderful children. It has been a pleasure to watch Jesse mature from an honorable young man with great integrity into a full-time missionary with outreach and impact all over the world. He and his family have given their lives to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ here in America and to the nations. There are so many examples that we could share with you but have decided to share only a few that have made positive impacts on our family.

In 2013 while our family was residing in southern California, Jesse and several of his fellow missionaries visited us. Our family joined Jesse and the other missionaries in several street preaching opportunities at some of the local universities. After several hours of preaching, a few students became angered and called security services to demand the missionaries vacate the premises. Jesse and his team were calm, respectful and kind to the security officers and were eventually able to resume preaching. Additionally, Jesse took great care to not only share the Good News with the students but to also engage thoughtfully with them even after being accused of trespassing. Many conversations were had and gospel tracts handed out that day. Our family witnessed Jesse's continued dedication to honorable behavior and biblical long-suffering in the many ministry encounters we experienced. It became apparent that Jesse truly does practice what he preaches!

Also during Jesse's visit one of our teen-aged sons, who at the time was an aspiring filmmaker, asked Jesse and the other missionaries if he could film a short documentary on their missionary outreach. Jesse chose to selflessly spend not just hours, but days recalling his journey as a Christian and the calling that God had placed on his life and the lives of his fellow ministry partners. The impacts of that time still resonates with our family.

We have known Jesse many years and he has never wavered in his virtue, authenticity and genuineness. He will always be honest even when it is to his own detriment. Judge, we humbly ask that all charges be dropped against Jesse and his missionary team members which include his 18-year-old daughter Bethany, her fiancé Carter Phillips and a consistent missionary partner, Eric Trent. We greatly appreciate your consideration and offer further communication if it would be helpful in any way to the case.

Sincerely,

Eddie & Andrea Schroder

EXHIBIT A



January 17, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Daniel Middleton, and I am writing this letter on behalf of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips. I am a Route Specialist at Cintas in Hickory, NC, and know each of these through New Testament Christian Fellowship where my family and I have been members for over 11 years.

I met Jesse and Bethany upon their return from a year long missionary tour in Nepal, where they and their family preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the native tongue, distributed Christian literature and taught other missionaries and pastors to the edification of the church.

Jesse has been instrumental in my life, as a Christian, through discipleship and has, over the years, become more than a mentor as our relationship has grown into great friends. He is also my instructor in the martial arts, where we operate under a biblical worldview, teaching self defense techniques and Christian ethics.

Bethany was very young upon their return from Nepal, but I have witnessed her grow into a very godly young woman. She has submitted herself to the Lord Jesus Christ and has become one that other young ladies in the church view as someone to emulate. Bethany also trains with us in the martial arts, and has become a great instructor and martial artist.

I met Eric Trent shortly after I began my training in the martial arts, when he joined our class. Eric joined New Testament Christian Fellowship in 2015 and was one of the first, of a team, to join Jesse and his family on a trip to India for missionary work. Eric has become a great preacher of the Gospel, an excellent martial artist and a great friend.

I met Carter when his sister Mindy also joined the team to India. He is a very humble young man who loves the Lord. Carter is a young man who has given his life to the furthering of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and meets all the qualities men dream of their son becoming.

I have known each of these individuals to always honor the Lord Jesus Christ in their preaching and witnessing to the public. I have been with them countless times witnessing on the streets in America, Nepal and Bangladesh. Never have I seen any of them out for conflict, but only to honor the Lord Jesus Christ in their preaching and in their fulfillment of the Great Commission He gave us in His Holy Word. I am imploring you to drop all the charges against these four missionaries, and allow them to get back to their business, which is the furtherance of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Daniel Middleton  
Vale, NC

EXHIBIT A

Susan Roberts, RN  
1214 Purto St  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Cell Phone 701-370-0982  
1/16/2023

To the Judge and to the Officers of the Court,

My name is Susan Roberts, RN. I have lived in Kodiak, AK for 16 years. I came here to work locally as an RN in a rural setting. I am writing in concern for my friend and missionary, Jesse Boyd, and his co-laborers with him on his journey, "Long Walk USA".

I have known Jesse Boyd as a missionary for over 13 years now. We met at the recommendation of a church we were affiliated with in northern North Dakota. At the time, Jesse was biking across North America from the Florida Keys through Canada to Alaska carrying the Christian flag and an evangelistic message to share Christ with the personal encounters along the path. We hosted Jesse and his family and his support car driver at that time. He brought an evangelistic message to our rural, remote Alaska town of Kodiak. He would witness to people in the parks or outside the bars. His goal was that which the Bible asks of us: to be a witness for Christ to... "the uttermost parts of the earth." And that was just what we saw. He also shared about his foreign ministry in Nepal and many other Asian and Middle East and South American countries. These were not self-serving missions, but evangelistic missions. In fact a couple years later Jesse brought one of trained ministers to my house in Kodiak, Alaska- a Nepali national, to introduce him to us and to share what the Lords work was doing in Nepal. I can speak to Jesse's character. He is honest, straight forward, sincere man to his convictions. He is responsible, helpful, and considerate of other's needs. He is well educated and well spoken. He is very disciplined and has taught his children to be so too. Bethany has grown and matured and graduated from high school since we last met. She has grown up in an evangelistic home and environment. She, too, has participated in foreign evangelistic trips with her father's ministry. This "Long Walk USA" journey was her first major epic sized journey/commitment following her graduation. I have never personally met Eric Trent, but I have followed the activities of both he and Jesse in a variety of settings and countries. I have always cherished the missionary stories and events that they have shared. I have great confidence in the purpose and personal demeanor of these missionaries.

I understand that you have a very challenging job to do in straightening out truth from fiction regarding all of the alleged activity in Madison County. We only pray for the exposure of truth, clear truth in this case. I know that these people are not capable of the allegations as they have been colored in this instance. If you feel the need to speak to me about any of this, or if you have particular question that I could help you with, please feel free to call me at the cell phone number above.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Roberts, RN

January 17, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am Pastor Eric Yaqoob from Pakistan. I and my family and church have known Jesse Boyd for years and also Eric Trent, Carter Phillips, and Bethany Boyd. Some years back, I met Jesse and Bethany Boyd in Nepal. They invited me to join them to see the beauty of Nepal and also to have a very good time of Christianb fellowship.

In my time with them, I felt much more protected and blessed. They were so kind and loving that I will never forget their hospitality. I found them to be very positive people and always ready to help others. Jesse Boyd and his family have always supported us and our ministry work in Pakistan. Many times they helped us in medical conditions and sometimes they helped our school and church events. For years, we have known this family and they are very good people.

Dear Judge, please have them freed from all the court charges, as I and my family and our church will be very thankful to you.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Yaqoob  
Toba Tek Singh, Pakistan

January 17, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Jesse Boyd for a very long time. I have followed his travels of sharing the Good News since I met him and more so when technology allowed us to connect. I live in Texas and have been blessed twice with his visits as he passed through my area.

The second time was about 2 years ago and that is when I met Eric Trent for the first time. I was blessed to host them as they passed through. They were nothing short of kind, respectful, and grateful. We exchanged good conversation on the Lord's Word and a hope for the future. Their heart is all about making sure people know about our Lord and Savior. I would not hesitate having them in my home again. They are welcome anytime. And so would anyone they might bring with them. I would trust them completely in my home.

I care for children in my home. I have done that since my 23 year old son was born. I taught Kindergarten 8 years before that. My heart is for our Lord and our children. People close to me must be passionate in these things, the same as me. Jesse Boyd is one of those people.

Thank you for your time.

Blessings,  
Lisa Langston (DFW Texas)

**Mr. & Mrs. Yoel Seton**

HaAskan 16/16  
9378008  
Jerusalem  
Israel  
972-54-206-7865  
[yoel@fastmail.net](mailto:yoel@fastmail.net)

January 17, 2023

To the Honorable Judge,

I am writing to provide character references for Jesse Boyd and Eric Trent.

I have known Jesse Boyd since 2004. We met when Jesse was passing through Northern California on one of his long missionary bike rides. At that time I had the privilege of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ with him in the middle of downtown San Francisco. We have been friends ever since. I, later joined by my wife, have been following Jesse and the work of FPGM for nearly 19 years.

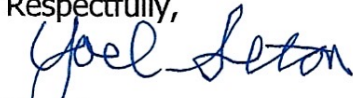
During the 10 years that I was the director of a ministry providing biblical study tours of Israel, Jesse came to visit us in Jerusalem. I had the pleasure of guiding him for several days around some off the beaten track biblical sites in the surrounding area. Jesse visited us again in 2019, and it was during this trip that I met Eric Trent, his ministry partner, as well as their wives, Jamie Boyd and Melinda Trent.

Jesse and Eric are simple, honest and ultra-dedicated Christian missionaries and devoted family men. While Jesse is certainly outspoken, I have never sensed from him the slightest inclination towards violence or physical aggression of any kind. Eric is even more mild-mannered. In all the years of our acquaintance, I have never heard Jesse, (and more recently, Eric), even joke about being aggressively violent – it would be totally out of character for them. That's what makes the false allegations currently brought against Jesse and Eric so completely implausible and downright ridiculous.

I have not yet met Carter Phillips or Bethany Boyd. But I am certain that to be accepted as part of Jesse's ministry team, that they must be young people of outstanding godly character.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,



Yoel Seton



Chad Johnson  
671 Normandy Station Rd  
Taylorsville, Kentucky, 40071  
1/18/2023

Dear Judge:

My name is Chad Johnson I am writing you regarding Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, and Bethany Boyd.

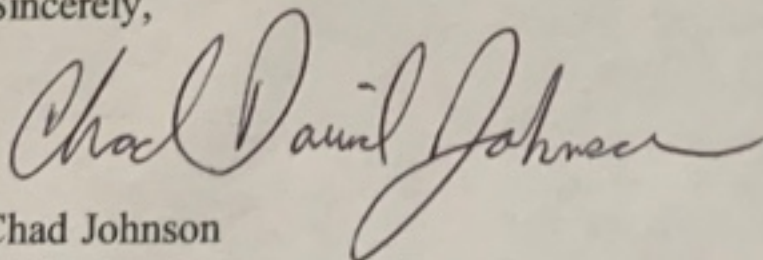
I have known Jesse, Eric and Bethany for many years, we are fellow believers in Jesus Christ and very dear friends. I believe that I am in a position to speak to each one's moral character, and I hope you will take this letter into consideration when making your decision.

As Part of their Ministry and work as missionaries we have had the privilege to host them in our home and participate in their missionary work. They have always shown the utmost integrity and compassion for their neighbor and their work as missionaries for Christ.

In this time when the Love of many has grown cold, and most people are only self-serving, it is encouraging to know that there is a remnant of people, like Jesse, Eric, and Bethany that sacrifice many comforts to reach this lost nation for the Truth.

I understand it can be difficult to make decisions like this when you do not actually know the person's you are Judging, so I hope you will take this letter and I'm sure the countless other letters into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chad Johnson". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Chad Johnson

Bruno Benoni  
247 Falling Green Crescent  
Kitchener Ontario  
N2R 0E9  
Canada.

Kitchener, January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Bruno Benoni; I am a naturalized Canadian born in Switzerland and own a business here in Canada. I am also a family man; happily married and father of 3 children. I would like to put in a word for my good friend and brother in Christ, Jesse Boyd, his daughter Bethany, and his Missionary Friends Eric Trent and Carter Phillips.

I have known Jesse Boyd since 2009. Interestingly, I first met him on the side of a highway in the Yukon Territory when he was riding a bicycle from North Carolina all the way to the top of Alaska. Since, we have worked together in Missions in South America. I have visited him in North Carolina; where I got to know his wife and the family. He has also been in my home in Ontario.

Jesse and his team have been falsely accused of assaulting a man in Montana; Jesse's only intention is to preach Jesus Christ to everyone he comes in contact. I have read what happened on the day of the incident, and I can assure, your honor, that Jesse was attacked by this Montana Resident and acted in pure self-defense; protecting his family and friends.

If you need any further details about Jesse or his team, feel free to contact me

Email: [brunben33@yahoo.ca](mailto:brunben33@yahoo.ca) or  
Phone: 519-616-2763

Sincerely,  
Bruno Benoni

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Jesse Boyd since he was in the second grade. I am an educator and he was my student. I have had the privilege of keeping up with him all these years.

He comes from a loving, caring family who lives off the land. Their beautiful garden feeds many. Their family, including Bethany, have a heart for others.

When our grandson was critically ill with leukemia, they continually reached out in support and love. I have seen them reach out and help so many.

Please dismiss the charges against Jesse and Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent and Carter Phillips.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Ludwig  
Hickory, NC  
[momludwig@aol.com](mailto:momludwig@aol.com)

EXHIBIT A



January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am writing in support of Jesse Boyd and the three others in his company who have been charged in your district. I have known Jesse and his family for over 20 years and find them very good citizens who are law-abiding and care for others. I have been to their home and have observed their family in many circumstances. I do not hesitate to declare my support for them.

I know Jesse to have an honest, caring heart for others. His character is outstanding. I trust his word and his motivation.

I am a Lutheran Pastor, a licensed counselor, and a retired University professor.

Sincerely,

Rev., Dr. David J. Ludwig  
Hickory, NC  
ludwig@lr.edu

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge, My name is Adam Collins. I am a real estate agent living in northeast Florida, I have known and watched Jesse, Bethany, Eric, Carter for approximately 12 years now and have supported their ministry several times over the years financially and countless times through prayer for them all. Of all the many evangelistic and preaching ministries that I have supported and watched now since I became a Christian in 2007, I do not know a more loving, gracious, Christ honoring group individuals in all of this time. I have watched literally hundreds and hundreds of social media posts, ministry updates, and video encounters with citizens in the US and in several other countries. There is none that I have seen and witnessed to be more concerned for their fellow man, their nation, and other nations than these faithful men and this young lady. I personally had the pleasure of evangelizing with Jesse back 10 years or so ago here in Northeast Florida on a college campus in Jacksonville and I was able to watch in person the love for Christ Jesus and love for those listening that Jesse displayed. It was nothing short of a blessing and an honor and I will never forget it. The gentleness and genuine care for people, for their church family, for their families, and for this and other nations, along with their consistent respect for authority is honestly unmatched from what I have seen. I have been encouraged and inspired more times than I can count by these precious folks and no doubt that will continue. I pray and plead on their behalf to the Lord Jesus for them regularly and I will continue to reach out to them for counsel and help as I have before.

Adam Collins

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Collins', with a stylized, flowing script.

246 Glenneyre Cir  
St. Augustine FL 32092  
[adamcollins5263@gmail.com](mailto:adamcollins5263@gmail.com)  
904-449-1928

EXHIBIT A

**DAWN S. BOYLES**  
**123 Winding Brook Way**  
**Statesville, NC 28625**

**Mobile: (203) 449-3850**  
**Email: [stevensboyles@gmail.com](mailto:stevensboyles@gmail.com)**

January 18, 2023

Dear Honorable Judge:

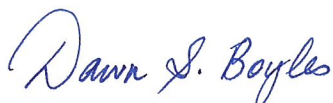
I am writing this letter to express my support for Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, and Bethany Boyd. I have known these individuals for approximately four years. I am the Director of Human Resources at DAE Systems, an Aerospace and Defense company. My 35 years career in Human Resources has taught me a lot about human behavior and positive character traits like integrity, trustworthiness, kindness, sincerity, respect, courtesy, humility, responsibility, and fairness to which I will attest to for these individuals.

I know these individuals through fellowship with the local church. I also know them as missionaries who often sacrifice the comfort of their homes to preach the gospel. I support their missionary work monthly with a financial gift that is automatically drafted from my account. I mention this not to brag or boast but to show that I wholeheartedly believe in the work they do as missionaries and the genuineness they have shown for humanity. I also count it an honor to have Christian fellowship with them as they are true believers of the gospel. These individuals are truly kindhearted and exemplify the character traits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. They have traveled to various countries making many sacrifices to share the gospel which is the Great Commission our Lord gave us (Matthew 28:19-20).

I have heard many sermons that Mr. Jesse Boyd preached that not only touched my heart but moved me to repentance and as a result I have a closer walk with the Lord today. Mr. Boyd, the Christian leader of his household with his wife has raised his children to be obedient and law-abiding citizens. Bethany Boyd is Mr. Boyd's daughter and although she is a lot younger than I am, I will always remember the leadership role she played during a Christmas dinner event. Bethany was a role model to the younger children who played a part in the event. Bethany not only took part in the meal preparation but also the entertainment afterwards which expressed the true meaning of Christmas. The Christmas dinner event was very impressive as Bethany showed such humility and love for Christ which was demonstrated throughout the program. You see Bethany Boyd is a result of Mr. Jesse Boyd being a great role model in the home to his son and daughters by being a humble and loving father and husband, exhibiting the positive character traits I mentioned above.

I have listened to Mr. Eric Trent sermons as well. His wife and children are upstanding citizens in our community. These men, Mr. Jesse Boyd, and Mr. Eric Trent could have chosen a lucrative career as many ministers of the gospel do but what makes these individuals stand out to me is their deep love for the Lord and humanity that move them to live a very lowly life and the faith, they demonstrate by trusting God to provide for their daily needs because they obediently preach the gospel. They have touched many lives and have brought many to know the Lord and I am forever grateful that they are part of my life as my Christian brothers and sister.

Yours sincerely,



Dawn S. Boyles

**EXHIBIT A**

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

We are Charlie and Pat Inyart, from Tunas, Missouri, and I, Charlie, work for MFA, in the hardware department, and my wife is a homemaker. It has been our privilege to know Carter Phillips for over 10 years now. We currently attend the same church.

Carter's consistent conversation to our congregation is one that desires to see the gospel of Jesus Christ be manifest to all those in need of Christ, as Lord and Savior. At a young age we remember Carter's interest in, and self disciplined to read the Bible and talk about what he had read. From as long as we can remember he has had one heart and mind-to bring the gospel forth. We have never seen any behavior in him, even at a young age, that would warrant any concern in us for aggression to others. Never have we seen him with a spirit of anger, or of harshness, unbecoming one who professes Jesus Christ, as Lord. Nor have we ever heard of this behavior spoken about him from another. We have no frame of reference for any form of aggression from anyone we know that knows him. He is not argumentative, but kind and courteous in all his dealings. He has always been mature beyond years, for his age. He was not raised in an aggressive family, nor would that behavior have been acceptable.

To find out the allegations against him are most disturbing. We know that many today are against the freedom to speak of Jesus Christ in the public square. Please take this truth, that is evident all around us, as you consider his case. We are grateful that the Attorney General took this case and respectfully ask that the freedom to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, that Carter and his fellow missionaries have, be protected as our Constitution permits.

We would understand Carter to believe and practice the whole counsel of God. If any of his behavior is wrongly misconstrued as an attack upon another person, we would ask that his behavior be defended as the God-given right to protect one's self or another from harm, as their defense suggests. This so-called, "aggressive" behavior that he is being accused of, is his God-given right to protect life, which we understand were his actions that are being called into account.

We are appalled that Carter and his fellow missionaries, with no criminal record, should be treated as guilty until proven innocent, and required to wear an ankle bracelet. It does not appear that both sides of the story were taken into consideration in making that decision. We implore you to seek justice in this matter.

With all due respect,

Charlie and Pat Inyart  
Tunas, Missouri

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Jesse Boyd for over 12 years. I have seen him interact with people in general on numerous occasions. As a retired teacher and Headmaster, I can vouch for his concern for and interest in others. He is a man of character and integrity. He is a devoted Husband and father. It seems a gross miscarriage of justice has occurred. But, I trust you are in a position to fairly interpret the evidence and clear this family of any charges.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly (407-920-2968) for more information about Jesse Boyd, his ministry team and his walk across US. I am familiar with all aspects of his endeavors.

Sincerely, Scott Smith  
Headmaster Emeritus  
Smith Prep Academy  
Longwood, FL

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

I am an elderly widow who has known Jesse Boyd and Bethany Boyd since birth. I was introduced to Eric Trent when Jesse and Eric stayed in my home while on a missionary journey. I am a retired school teacher. I have followed their ministry since beginning. Carter Phillips I have never met personally but have heard nothing but good of his character. I kindly ask you to lower their bail and remove their ankle monitors. It would be good if these charges would be dropped as they clearly acted in self-defense. I am thanking you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Dubois  
Lake Orion, MI



January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

We (the Hedbergs) have known the 4 missionaries Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, Bethany Boyd, Carter Phillips and the work of FPGM for over 10 Years. We are from the hill country in Texas. We have known and supported their ministry through FPGM for over 10 years. We can vouch for their characters and know that they are faithful servants of the Lord and have been missionaries all over the world. They also love the Lord and have been sharing the Gospel all over US. We believe they were unjustly arrested and falsely accused, and request for all their charges to be dismissed immediately.

Sincerely,  
John and Nora Hedberg  
1101 Thorpe Ln  
San Marcos TX

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Jimmy Hofer. I have known Jesse Boyd his entire life. Jesse's father and I have been best friends since we were five years old. I am a retired firefighter and EMT.

I serve as a member on the Full Proof Gospel Ministries Board of Directors of which Jesse is the President. It is the responsibility of this Board, including myself, to oversee Jesse's actions and to hold him accountable while working for the ministry.

I find Jesse Boyd to be a man of honesty and virtue, dedicated to his calling, which is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide. When he is faced with a difficult situation, he demonstrates extreme self-control. This is who he is and who he knows God wants him to be. When he is on the road he is representing his Lord, Jesus Christ.

He would not do anything to darken the name of Jesus. Please consider having him released from the ankle bracelet/location device. He is not going to run! He is going to stand for what he knows God wants.

Please consider dropping these false charges. These charges do not represent Jesse Boyd in any form or fashion. I will be praying that you will make a decision based on the true facts of the case.

Thank you for your attention,

James (Jimmy) Hofer  
1156 West Parks Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154  
601-832-2412



January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Jimmy Hoefer. I have known Eric Trent for about 5 years. I am a retired firefighter and EMT.

I serve as a member on the Full Proof Gospel Ministries Board of Directors. Eric Trent serves as a full-time missionary with FPGM. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, including myself, to oversee Eric's missionary work and to hold him accountable to the ministry's statement of faith, statement of purpose, and bylaws as well as his assignments and his actions while representing the ministry. I find Eric to be a very conscientious and responsible young man. He has a very strong Christian testimony and is a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eric's demeanor is one of calmness and an easy-going spirit. He responds to situations with much thought and patience. That is not because he can't defend himself or others, it is because he lives a life patterned after Jesus.

The behavior described in the false charges brought against Eric do not reflect who he is at all! When I have spent time in the company of Eric Trent, including times he has stayed in my home, he has always been a joy. That is who he is!

Please consider removing his ankle bracelet. It is not at all necessary for him to have. He is not a flight risk!

Please consider dropping these false charges. These charges do not represent Eric Trent and what he stands for.

I will be praying that you will make a decision based on the true facts of the case.

Thank you for your attention.

James (Jimmy) Hoefer  
1156 West Parks Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154  
601-832-2412

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Jimmy Hofer. I have known Bethany Grace Boyd her entire life. I am a retired firefighter and EMT.

I serve as a member on the Full Proof Gospel Ministries Board of Directors with her father. I have known her grandfather for 65 years.

Bethany is one of the finest young women I have ever known. She is honest, caring, selfless, and always willing to help others. She is always ready to lend a hand whatever the circumstances may be. Considering her young age, she is extremely grounded in her faith. Her goal in life is to be a missionary and serve the Lord wherever He may call her to go.

Unlike other teenagers that are being enticed by what the world has to offer, Bethany Grace is focused on being exactly where God wants her to be. Right now, that is being dedicated to completing this missionary walk across America.

I doubt, your honor, that such can be said for any other teenager you may know. There is no way that this exceptional young woman is involved in committing a crime of violence against anyone. That is not who Bethany Grace is!

Please consider removing her ankle bracelet. It is not at all necessary for her to have. She is not a flight risk!

Please consider dropping these false charges. These charges do not represent Bethany Grace and what she stands for.

I will be praying that you will make a decision based on the true facts of the case.

Thank you for your attention.

James (Jimmy) Hofer  
1156 West Parks Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154  
601-832-2412

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Julie Hoefer. I have known Jesse Boyd for 29 years. Jesse's father and my husband have been best friends for 65 years. I am a retired special education teacher. I hold a Masters degree in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. I am a retired Mental Health Therapist certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

I am, to say the least, a very good judge of character. Based on the many years I have known Jesse, I can easily and honestly say that he is extremely honest and straightforward in his words and actions. He has based his life choices on ONE thing! That one thing is that God has called him to full time Christian service. That, your honor, is the only reason he has been walking across the United States for more than a year.

I believe very strongly that past behavior is a very good predictor of future behavior. With that in mind, I would ask you to take a long look at Jesse's past behavior and compare it to his attacker's past behavior. Jesse does not start fights with strangers that he would love to share Jesus with. He desires for his life to reflect the life and beliefs of Jesus. His concern and compassion for strangers is always very evident in his actions. It is totally illogical to think that Jesse set out to hurt anyone, unless for the reason of self-defense.

Please consider having him released from the ankle monitor. He is not concerned with avoiding his responsibilities or confrontation, therefore, he is not a flight risk. The charges for the monitors is coming out of ministry funds which is all needed for mission work.

Please consider dropping the false charges made against him and his missionary team. These charges do not represent the character and beliefs of Jesse Boyd.

I understand that your job is very difficult. Please know that I will be praying that you will make a decision based on the true facts of the case.

Thank you for your attention.

Julie Hoefer  
1156 West Parks Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154  
601-832-8319

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Julie Hoefer. I have known Eric Trent for 5 years. I am a retired special education teacher. I hold a Masters degree in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. I am a retired Mental Health Therapist certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. I am, to say the least, a very good judge of character.

I have known Eric since he has become a part of Full Proof Gospel Ministries. I have had the pleasure of having him in my home on multiple occasions, I have had the blessing of praying for him and his wife while on multiple mission journeys through the years. I can sum up Eric's personality in two words, gentle and kind. He always has this bright, genuine smile on his face that just sets you at ease. He has gracefully accepted his calling to be in full time Christian service. This calling is shared by his precious wife.

His character is one of love and compassion for his fellow man. The thought that Eric would choose to fight a stranger, he had never seen before, on the road is ridiculous! That is not who he is! He would be more concerned with giving aid and encouragement. That is who he is, no doubt about it!

Please consider, your honor, that Eric has no history of this type of behavior. He is such a kind, generous man. He has made a choice to walk across the United States for more than a year now. He has done this because God has called him to share the gospel with everyone he meets. He has been away from his wife and children in order to participate. What a sacrifice! There is no legitimate reason why he would attack a stranger and risk going to jail. He is a father and husband. The false charges make no sense, your honor.

Please consider having Eric released from the ankle monitor. He is not going to avoid his responsibilities to the court or to his Lord, He is not a flight risk. The charges for the monitors is coming out of ministry funds which is all needed for mission work.

Please consider dropping the false charges made against him and the rest of the missionary team. These charges do not represent the character and beliefs of Eric Trent.

I understand that your job is very difficult. Please know that I will be praying that you will make a decision based on the true facts of the case.  
Thank you for your attention.

Julie Hoefer  
1156 West Parks Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154  
601-832-8319

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Julie Hoefer. I have known Bethany Grace Boyd her entire life. I have known her parents and grandparents for almost 30 years. I am a retired special education teacher. I hold a Masters degree in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. I am a retired Mental Health Therapist certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. I am, to say the least, a very good judge of character.

Based on the many years I have known Bethany, I can easily and honestly say that it would be very difficult to find a finer young woman anywhere! She is treasured by everyone who knows her. She is extremely compassionate and never misses an opportunity to help someone. I have seen this every time I am around her. A few years ago, while she was visiting in my home, I asked her what she felt like she was being lead to do with her life. She was very quick to tell me that she was being lead to be a missionary. That did not surprise me in the least. You see, your honor, Bethany has always had a deep and genuine desire to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. All of her character and personality perfectly fits that calling. She has been on the mission field ever since she was born. Unless she felt like her life or the life of another was in danger, there is no way she would ever fight/hurt anyone.

Her purpose in life is to share the love of Jesus Christ. You can not do that by randomly fighting a stranger. She has been focused and dedicated to finishing this walk across America with her father and the missionary team. Why, your honor, would she risk her future and her freedom by choosing to break the law and hurt someone? She would not, because that is not who Bethany Grace Boyd is!

Please consider having her released from the ankle monitor. She is in no way a flight risk. The charges for the monitors is coming out of ministry funds which is all needed for continued mission work.

Please consider dropping the false charges made against Bethany and the missionary team. These charges do not represent the character and beliefs of Bethany Grace Boyd.

I understand that your job is very difficult. Please know that I will be praying that you will make a decision based on the true facts of the case.  
Thank you for your attention.

Julie Hoefer  
1156 West Parks Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154  
601-832-8319

EXHIBIT A

**Jim Robertson  
33381 Coral Reach  
Dana Point, CA. 92629**

January 18, 2023

Madison County Courthouse  
100 Wallace Street  
Virginia City, MT 59755

Subject: **FOUR MISSIONARIES ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

Dear Judge:

I am a company owner and engineering contractor and have come know the missionaries since their arrested on Montana Hwy. 287 on November 12, 2022. All of them have been easy to get to know, intelligent, kind, and genuine in their Faith. A call was made to the Madison County Courthouse in November shortly after their arrest and were told that the missionaries would have an opportunity to prove their innocence. Alternately I request that the case be dismissed and the requirement to wear ankle monitors be removed until sufficient evidence, that proves their guilt, be presented. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Jim Robertson,  
714-420-1450

**EXHIBIT A**

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am a single young man who works in construction. I have known all four of the accused missionaries for many years. Carter is my younger brother, and the others are all close friends. I know their character well, and none of them are the type of people who go looking for a fight. It is my belief that they acted in self-defense.

For the record, I visited with these missionaries just a few days before this incident took place. They were in the Boise area for a few days of rest. We shared some meals together, and they all spoke of continuing their walking journey into Montana with joy and excitement.

Respectfully,

Michael Phillips  
Nampa, Idaho

John McGlone IV  
Founder, Jesus Preacher Ministries  
3105 Independence Ridge Rd.  
Breeding, KY 42715  
270-576-3591

Your Honorable  
Madison County, Montana

Jan 17, 2023

Your Honorable,

I am writing on behalf of Jesse Boyd, and members of his ministry; Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips.

I have known Jesse since I moved to Fayetteville, NC in 2009 when I began my full-time evangelism ministry with PinPoint Evangelism. Though I had not had a chance to labor with him directly at that time, I have watched his ministry over the years and testify to his excellent character as a follower of Jesus Christ, faithful husband, father, and minister of the Gospel.

I recently had many opportunities to join Jesse, Bethany, and Eric both in ministry on the road, while they were walking through KY, ministering at NKU, Northern KY University, and also in Nashville, TN. They are above reproach in their character, conduct, and speech towards their fellow mankind. Demonstrating the love that Jesus has for us in patience, humility, and accuracy in proclaiming the mercy and justice of God in the hopes men would turn to salvation in Christ.

I was shocked to hear of their arrest in Madison County and the charges that followed. I walked with this team for quite a few miles in my home state and saw their interactions with strangers along their route near my home with my own eyes. I plea the court to completely dismiss these charges which are antithetical of their character and ministry.

Regards in Christ,

John McGlone IV

EXHIBIT A



January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

I have known Jesse Boyd for 12 years. I am a retired pharmacist. I know him through our mutual desire to honor the principles of the Bible. He is one of my closest and most trusted friends. I trusted him to come into our home before I ever met him, based on his honest reputation among other of my acquaintances. He and his family have stayed in our home many times and are welcome here now. I have been with him in private, in the public square and in church. I support Full Proof Gospel Ministries that God has entrusted to him and now have relatives involved in that ministry.

I have seen him dealing with those that dislike his desire to speak the truth of the Bible to them. I was with him when a fellow was intent on arguing and/or fighting. Since Jesse would not engage in a physical altercation with him, I can't say if the guy wanted it or not. But he certainly acted like it and for probably 15 minutes, he "pushed" Jesse with verbal assaults. Jesse physically backed up slowly during that time desiring to avoid a physical altercation. It finally ended and we left.

Jesse speaks of how he teaches and practices restraint within his martial arts training. I saw a perfect example of how he does what he says he will do in this matter. I know of no man that tries harder to honor the Biblical principle of "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" than Jesse Boyd.

Sincerely,  
Terry Phillips  
10183 State Highway A  
Crane, Missouri 65633

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

I have known Eric Trent for 7 years. I am a retired pharmacist. Eric is my son-in-law. I met Eric before he and my daughter Mindy went on a mission trip with a team of young people. The trip was sponsored by Full Proof Gospel Ministries and supervised by Jesse Boyd.

Eric and I got to know one another before he and Mindy were together. I have so much respect for Eric. I know his parents and other family members, and they are God-fearing, honest people. I have watched Eric as he realized God wanted he and his family to be involved in full-time ministry. He has dedicated his life to the pursuit and sharing of the truth of Scripture. He was recently in our home and as we discussed Bible passages that can be difficult to understand, it was obvious how diligently he has been studying. I have never seen him exhibit aggressiveness towards others. I love him, trust him and appreciate him as much as any man I know.

Sincerely,

Terry Phillips  
10183 State Highway A  
Crane, Missouri 65633

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

I have known Bethany Boyd for about 10 years. I am a retired pharmacist. Bethany is my future daughter-in-law as she is engaged to my son Carter. Bethany is one of the most polite young ladies I have ever met. She has been in our home with her dad and other family members many times. I have never observed anger or frustration in her attitude toward others. She is such a loving, kind, compassionate person and we have observed this over the years in many ways. She has been a close friend to my children long before she and Carter were engaged. I love her and trust her as one of my own children.

Sincerely,  
Terry Phillips  
10183 State Highway A  
Crane, Missouri 65633

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

I have known Carter Phillips since he was born. I am a retired pharmacist. Carter is my son and one of my best friends. We have ten children and Carter is our youngest son. He was one of the easiest of our children to raise because he rarely caused trouble. He is one of the most intelligent and gifted people I know. He can outdo most adults with his knowledge of the Bible. He plays multiple instruments very well; learning to play them on his own without instruction. Carter has written a soon-to-be published book and hundreds of songs. More importantly, he has put those gifts to work serving others.

For years, Carter has been a counselor to other young men in trouble with their parents and/or the law. He has poured himself into helping them to turn their lives around, to become honest hardworking young men, to reestablish good relationships with parents, to become mature adults. I have never seen him be angry with others or mistreat them. And I have never heard of such a report from others.

Carter is a very active member of our local church. He is a hard worker and always strives to do a great job with every endeavor, whether personal, in church, part of his job, counseling, writing, or expounding the truths of the Scripture.

Sincerely,

Terry Phillips  
10183 State Highway A  
Crane, Missouri 65633

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

My Name is Sam Ueland. I am the General Manager at Golden City Grain & Cotton Company in Golden City, MO.

Carter Phillips had been employed by our company on a part-time basis for the past few years. As his direct supervisor, I will say Carter Phillips has been an honest hardworking young man who has never posed any threat to our employees or costumers. He is welcomed here, and we hope he will continue working for us in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Sam Ueland, General Manager  
Golden City Grain & Cotton Co.  
Golden City, Missouri

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

My name is Shirley Schuman. I am a retired teacher, an elderly widow, living in the small town of Crookston, NE. Last summer, I was delighted to meet Jesse and Bethany Boyd as well as Eric, at our Baptist Church in Valentine, NE. They were passing through and a member of another church talked to them and invited them to visit our church as his wasn't having services that night. He also put them up in a local motel as they had been on the road for some time.

I had to go to another town west of here the next day, so I thought I would watch for them on my way back. They had come about 20 miles and were planning to camp and cook in the next town that night. After I visited with them for a short time, I went on east to my place but got to thinking about where they would spend the night. There was no place to camp or buy food in that town, so I went back and asked them to come back to my place, as I have a guest house and a guest bedroom in my home. They said they would appreciate that, so Bethany came back with me to get the guest house ready for the guys, and she was staying in my house. After breakfast the next morning, they drove west to the place where they had stopped walking, to pick up the trail and head west again. I was so impressed with all three, so I asked that they keep in touch with me to let me know of their progress. Also, I told them that they were welcome to come back the next night so they would have beds and showers. I was happy that they were able to stay another night after putting in a long day of walking. After that, we kept in touch by texting.

After reaching another milestone, they told me they were returning home till the weather cooled and for Jesse to be with his wife to celebrate their anniversary. Later in the summer, I received a text from Bethany requesting a return to my guest facilities. I was delighted to have them come back. Before they left, I asked if they carried guns for protection and showed them mine, so we compared our guns.

After that, they kept me informed of their progress so I could keep them in my prayers. I was shocked when I heard about them being arrested for defending themselves in Montana and having to wear the ankle bracelets. It is unbelievable this has happened to peace-loving folks who would not harm anyone unless they were forced to do so to protect themselves or each other.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Schuman  
Crookston, NE

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge:

My name is GERALD INGRAM. I am self-employed, and I have known Eric Trent, Bethany Boyd and Jesse Boyd for going on a year now. I was a room attendant at a Lodge in Valentine, Nebraska when a guy from a small church in town came in and booked a room for them. I had several interactions with them while they stayed with us at our lodging facility. They hosted fellowship/prayer in the lodge, as well as personal spiritual time with me as well. I also look back on their journey and have followed their long walk ever since they walked through my town.

IT WAS A PLEASURE AND A BLESSING TO HAVE THEM COME THROUGH MY TOWN AND CROSS MY PATH, AS THEIR ONLY PURPOSE IN THEIR MISSION IS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF HOPE. I AM SURE THERE HAS TO BE SOME FALSENESS IN THE MATTER IN FRONT OF YOU. IF YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO LOOK DEEPLY INTO THE LEGALITY AND STATEMENTS OF THOSE INVOLVED AND THE POLICE REPORTS, I'M SURE JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL IN THEIR FAVOR.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gerald Ingram  
Valentine, NE

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Jon Lane, and I am a small business owner in Spearfish, South Dakota.

I have known Jesse Boyd for approximately 20 years and have joined him overseas, and many times here in the United States preaching the Gospel. That has been our purpose together in many places, proclaiming Christ to those who will listen, not trying to pick fights, or cause any trouble. Interestingly, I first met Jesse in 2003 when I was living in Platte, South Dakota and managing the local funeral home. He was pedaling a bicycle across America with his wife driving their support vehicle. I looked out my office window one morning and saw him with his bicycle in the grocery store parking lot across the street. I approached to inquire as to his purpose, and our families have been close ever since. We have labored together all over my home state of South Dakota, all over his home state of North Carolina, in Nepal, Bhutan, India, Romania, Moldova, Peru, and Ecuador. For two entire summers, my oldest daughter served as a volunteer with Jesse's missions ministry, Full Proof Gospel Ministries, one summer in Northern India and another summer in Peru. A young man who also served as a volunteer with FPGM for two summers is now her husband, and they just had their first child.

Prior to this particular incident, Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips stayed with us in Spearfish, South Dakota. Their walking route came right through town. All of them were very respectful and showed great character. The whole time in our area, nothing like this ever happened, and they were doing exactly here what they did there. I even came alongside and walked with this team for a couple of days as they moved across my county. I engaged folks with them and was able to see and experience how they conduct themselves while walking long distances with the cross.

These Christians have a right under our US Constitution to be doing what they were doing in Madison County, Montana—simply walking and preaching the Gospel to those who will listen. To see how far they have walked on this journey should be quite telling as to their motives. They are not transients, not looking for a fight, simply walking and proclaiming the truth about Jesus.

I would ask you to please consider this in your evaluation of these four fine Christians and Americans.

Thank you,

Jon Lane, Owner  
Black Hills Superior Cleaning  
Spearfish, SD  
605-787-3043

EXHIBIT A



To: Honorable Judge Luke Berger  
5<sup>th</sup> District Court  
Madison County  
100 W Wallace St  
Virginia City, Mt 59755

18 Jan 2023

Subj: CHARACTER WITNESSES FOR JESSE BOYD, BETHANY BOYD AND ERIC TRENT

Honorable Justice Berger:

1. My wife and I (Steven and Corinne Smith) would like to attest, in the strongest of possible terms, to the positive and endearing qualities of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent. We first meet the threesome on 07 October 2022 when we had the pleasure of hosting them on their TheLongWalkUSA stopover for three nights and four days during their passage through Cody Wyoming. I have subsequently visited with the threesome on two occasions afterward.  
During that time, we spent many hours conversing and observing the three individual's character. I can say without a doubt they are of the strongest moral character, polite and humble individuals.
2. **Steven L Smith:** As background, I am a retired Navy Officer (Commander, USN Ret) of 21 plus years of active-duty service, followed by 13 years of senior U.S. Navy civilian service (GS-15). While in active duty, I deployed four times, including three deployments to the Persian Gulf area. As a senior GS civilian, I was responsible for executing \$100's million+ of Navy funds. I can I have supervised, both military and civilian employees, for 32 of the 34 years of Navy service. I have also co-authored a book on achieving organizational and personal values (*The Value Equation*). These responsibilities and experiences have provided me an in-depth insight into leading and judging the character of people.

Based on my experience and professional judgement, again, I can attest to the character and demeanor of the three individuals: Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, and Eric Trent. From my perspective I can tell you that Jesse Boyd is a humble, polite but unrelenting individual when it comes to the truth, justice and protecting his family from imminent danger. In turn Bethany Boyd is one of the sweetest and polite young women I have encountered in many years. But I have no doubt she has the courage to enter a fray to protect the ones she loves from unwarranted attack. Eric Trent is an extremely polite, soft mannered man whom I could not find fault with his behavior. He is a solid man dedicated to his mission, a trait we find missing in so many of our younger generation.

Charging these missionaries as vagrants, in my mind, is equivalent to the Pharisee's declaring John the Baptist, Jesus and his many apostles as vagrants and throwing

EXHIBIT A



them in prison. If we now punish those with the courage to stand up and peacefully walk this country to make a positive difference, then we also mock the courage of our Founding Fathers. Lest we forget, those strong-willed men and women left their homes to fight for freedom across their country, and would give up everything, including their lives, for this country.

Is Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd or Eric Trent any different? Your honor, I am personally humbled by their courage.

3. **Corinne B. Smith:** As background experience I have worked in banks, law offices, retail stores, museums, and restaurants. Unlike my husband who had the opportunity for long careers, I gave up my numerous opportunities for successful business careers to stay home and raise a special needs child and my scientific gifted daughter. Through dedicated parenting, my son was able to join and serve in the National Guard for seven years and hold a variety of business jobs. My daughter just left the Navy as a Lieutenant specializing in Nuclear Engineering and is onto a family of her own. (I am proud to call that success.)

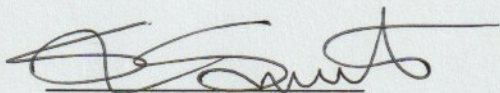
In my various jobs supporting my family, both full time and part time, I was able to interact with literally thousands of fellow employees and customers. During the thirty years of serving business organizations, I have gained the ability to quickly find insights into the characters and demeanors of people. This is my professional experience.

In my opinion, Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent are honest, polite and foundational Christians I would trust without hesitation.

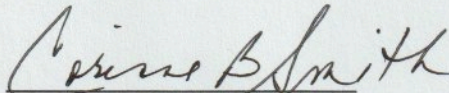
In our opinions, the charge of vagrancy for four people loading a late model Outback, who are clearly clean and well-kept, are not only unsubstantiated vagrancy charges but were made to violate their basic freedoms in this country, particularly freedom of religion.

Thank you for listening to our petition.

Very Respectfully,



Steven L. Smith  
401-481-6863  
6 Ridge View Trl  
Cody, Wyoming 82414



Corinne B. Smith  
401-225-8180  
6 Ridge View Trl  
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Maria Teresa Beck  
913 N Lake Claire Cir  
Oviedo, FL 32765

January 19, 2023

RE: Jesse Boyd

To: The Honorable Judge

My name is Tess Beck, I am a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines. I have known Jesse Boyd for 17yrs and am writing on behalf of his good character.

I met Jesse on a plane on my way to S.Carolina in January of 2006, he was sitting next to me on the flight & shared the gospel with me.

I have followed his family and ministry as they have traveled all over the world sharing the gospel for these many years, it has been a great blessing to me.

In June of 2017 my husband and I had the honor of hosting Jesse and his team of young missionaries on their way to Peru in our home. I have a special needs child to whom his precious daughter Bethany Boyd showered her with kindness and affection.

I can say with all sincerity that Jesse Boyd and his family are of the highest moral character and uprightness.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Maria" and the last name "Beck" clearly legible.

Maria (Tess) Beck  
[tickles13@yahoo.com](mailto:tickles13@yahoo.com)  
(561) 308-6670

EXHIBIT A



January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Mark Smith. I currently live in Spokane, Washington. I would like to submit a letter of testimony from my personal experience with Carter Phillips, Bethany Boyd, Jesse Boyd, and Eric Trent.

Starting with Carter, I met him at Anchor Academy in Vanduser, Missouri. He was a staff member at this institution and a good one at that. The only way I could describe him is a genuine Christian. He is one who stands up for right in the face of adversity. I've known him for over a year now, and he's proven that he is a dependable, honest, and godly man. He's become one of my closest friends due to his surplus of character.

As for Bethany Boyd, Jesse Boyd, and Eric Trent, I met them when I was at Anchor Academy while they were walking across the nation. They passed through a few times and every time was a joy. Jesse is a man of strong morals who stands unwavering. He loves and cares for his family and will protect them without hesitation. Bethany is also a very godly individual who, same as her father, loves and will protect her loved ones. Eric is none other than a light. The first time I met him, I immediately liked him. He was glowing with joy and filled with godliness.

Due to what I have briefly laid out, I sincerely hope you take this testimony into legitimate consideration. It has been an honor having these individuals enter my life along their long walk across America, and I would never take my time with them back. If you wish to follow up with the legitimacy of this letter, my contact information is as the following:

Email: markaltheblacksmith@gmail.com

Mobile: (509)-565-9362

I due hope that you will bring about justice, and I, with my whole heart, believe that they are innocent of all charges. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Smith  
Spokane, WA

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My wife and I have known Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, and Bethany Boyd and the work of Full Proof Gospel Ministries through #thelongwalkusa since September of 2022.

It was a Divine meeting, inspired by the Spirit of the Lord. They were walking up a long mountain road in South Dakota in 100F weather. I was sweating just driving in my truck. We pulled over to make sure they had enough water to drink and to learn more about their message. To discover the recent news of how our brothers and sisters were treated in Montana was deeply upsetting.

Judge, I believe that when you meet truly good and loving people in the world, you can tell by the way they choose to live out their life. When we met Jesse, Eric, and Bethany, it was quite clear that they are those who choose to live out their faith so that it permeates their whole being. After only a short time knowing them, we had experienced only encouragement and love, and no hate or violence. Our personal experience of their strong moral characters, leads my wife and I to believe the actions they took were in self-defense and were provoked by the rage of the true attacker.

Judge, I urgently call on you to help these wonderful, loving people and recognize the injustice and hate they've received and remove all charges as they were acting in self defense completely and broke no law.

Thank you for your time,

Macullen and Kylie Daniel  
Travelers Rest, SC

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am writing this letter to vouch for the character of Jesse, Eric, Bethany, and Carter.

My name is Shawn Holes. I am 60 years old. I have been married for 34 years and I have two biological children, three grand children, and two adopted children. I have lived in Idaho for almost 13 years. I am a missionary to University students. I have been in full time work as a missionary for 15 years and I have traveled all 50 states including many countries spreading the good News of Jesus Christ and His mercy, love, forgiveness, and the joy a person can have in knowing him as their Lord and Saviour. I have spoken to countless people of all creeds about Jesus Christ and I have met many missionaries, pastors, layman, and Christians along the way.

I have known Jesse for nearly 20 years, Eric for 10, Carter of 14, and I have known Bethany since she was a little girl (15 years). I have done ministry with them, eaten meals with them, stayed in their homes, fellowshiped with their families, preached in their churches, traveled with them, and I would would consider them some of my closest friends and most trustworthy people I know.

Jesse and these young people love Jesus. They are kind, generous, compassionate, merciful, loving, and forgiving. They represent Jesus as ambassadors spreading the good news of the gospel as they walk across America walking the entire distance. They are being a bright light in a very needy quickly changing world. They stayed in my home for several days just prior to this incident. Eric helped me cut branches on a 100 year old tree, Bethany made meals with my wife and adopted children, and Jesse was laid up in bed mostly with a back injury and couldn't get around. While they were here we even went downtown Boise to sing and hand out Christian materials.

Please consider my relationship and experience with these missionaries as a good source for you to understand their character and lifestyle. If you should care to ask me any more questions I am happy to help in any possible way.



Shawn Holes

406 East Broadway Ave.  
Meridian, Idaho 83642

EXHIBIT A

Casey L. Willis  
1144 Ione Baker Rd  
Hickory, NC 28602  
785-341-8651

January 19, 2023

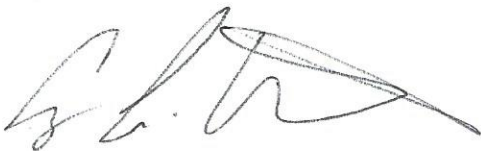
To whom it may concern:

My name is Casey Willis. I am currently serving as a local police officer and previously served as a Sergeant in the Army. I have known Jesse Boyd since 2004. I met him while I was cruising on Hwy 70 in Hickory, NC. I had stopped to stretch my legs and was approached by Jesse, his brother and their friend. They stated that they were street preachers and were out speaking with everyone that was cruising to spread the word of Jesus Christ. I listened that night to what was preached and witnessed to me. I was saved and baptized shortly after in the Rock Creek/ Jacobs Fork River area in western Catawba County, NC. Since then I have been friends with Jesse Boyd and his family to include attending church with them.

The reason I am writing this letter is to attest the respect that I have for Jesse Boyd and his purpose to witness to as many people that cross his path of the word of Christ. Jesse Boyd was the officiant in my marriage in 2005 (per North Carolina General Statute 51-1, that is on record with the Catawba County Clerk of Court and a copy can be provided upon request). Additionally Jesse Boyd has stayed in contact with me over the years to include during my military deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Jesse Boyd has provided moral and spiritual counseling/ mentorship over the many years.

I thank the court for taking the time to read this letter. I request this letter be taken into consideration as a testament to Jesse Boyd's moral fiber and character. I am available to confirm the facts of this letter upon request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey L. Willis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Casey L. Willis

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

We have known Jesse Boyd and the work of FPGM for nearly 20 years. I, Scott, am a public school teacher and live in White Oak, PA along with my wife Cara and 11 children. Our family has personally hosted Jesse (and his wife and children, along with FPGM workers) a couple of times in our home when they have travelled through the area. It has been our privilege over the years to get to know them and their very important ministry of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the United States as well as the rest of the world.

We would say without hesitation or reserve that Jesse Boyd and those associated with FPGM are God-honoring, honest, law-abiding citizens who are without reproach. I would trust Jesse with my life and with my family if I were put into a difficult situation. He has been a trusted friend for many years. His life, his character, and his reputation are of the highest quality. Not only would he do what is right before his family and friends, we know that he answers to God first and foremost. And whatever comes out of his mouth is the truth.

We believe, Your Honor, that you will do what is right and just and that you will uphold the Montana law. We are asking you to reduce the bail set upon them, remove the ankle monitors, and dismiss all charges against them.

Sincerely,

Scott & Cara Mizener  
3511 Foster Road  
White Oak, PA 15131

EXHIBIT A



5199 Copeland Lane  
Bozeman, MT 59715

18 January 2023

Dear Judge,

I am a retired widow and I live in the Bozeman area. Through a friend, I learned of a group of people who were walking across the United States sharing a message of hope in Jesus Christ to the people they met along the way. I also learned that they were looking for a place to stay as they came through this part of Montana. I thought it would be interesting to meet them and have them stay at my house.

The first people to stay with me were Carter Phillips and Josiah Boyd. They were traveling from Missouri to meet up with the rest of the group who were in Island Park, Idaho. They were delightful house guests and I looked forward to meeting the rest of the group.

Not quite a week later, I learned of the incident that led to the arrest of the group. I let Jamie Boyd know that she was welcome to stay at my house while the situation got sorted out. Jamie and her daughter Charlotte flew into Bozeman arriving in the afternoon. We were able to pick up Josiah, who had been placed with a family in foster care, on the way home from the airport.

The next day, the rest of the group, Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Carter Phillips, and Eric Trent were released from jail and they all came to stay at my house. I do not have a large house, but everyone settled in and pitched in and it all worked very well.

These people are very dear to me. I have teased them about how I am now part of their family after having them stay with me. I look forward to when I can spend more time with this wonderful group of people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara N. Leitch".

Barbara N. Leitch

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am writing this email on behalf of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Carter Phillips, and Eric Trent.

I want to start with a sincere "Thank you" for having one of the hardest positions in our society today. I cannot imagine the cases you deal with day in and day out as someone who has to uphold the law against a society which has no regard for our laws of the land.

My husband Stoney and I have known the Boyds' for over 25 years. They are a wonderful family. I know them to be faithful, tax-paying, law-abiding citizens. They are people with a reputable good standing in their community. In a world full of constant hate and crime, you would think a dose of "Good News" could be spread around to give us hope. That is all they were trying to do. It seems a little hypocritical to me when we are told we are to show respect for others by treating them with equality and showing no hate towards those who think, look, and act differently than we do, yet that is the very act towards them that has put them in the position they are in.

I am asking you to kindly reconsider the penalty placed upon them. In the light of all the awful crimes I am sure you have to deal with on a daily basis, could this one be of a much lesser offense in simply trying to share some hope in what seems like a hopeless society?

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I will pray for you, to have wisdom for each day.

Sincerely,

Missy Benfield  
Albemarle, NC

EXHIBIT A

January 12, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am sending this as a citizen of Catawba County, North Carolina and a fellow Christian of Jesse Boyd. I live in his community and attend church with him and his family.

Madison County has wrongfully accused this man and his family of attacking one of your local citizens, when they, were the ones being attacked.

I can vouch for this man's character as peaceful and respectful. He is faithfully spreading the word of God across our great nation.

I pray you look at this case with truth and honesty and consider their side of defense.

Thank you,  
Linda Wray  
Vale, NC

PSALM 59:12  
Petition for Deliverance from Violent Men

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Bobby McCreery. I am an evangelist sent out by my local church in West Georgia.

I have known Christian missionary Jesse Boyd, his parents, and his brother (and family) for 11 years.

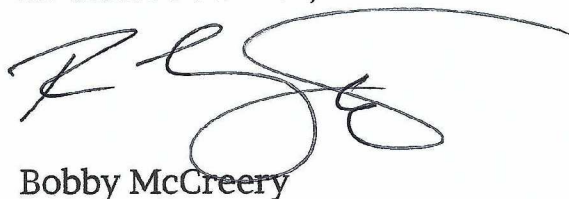
I have labored in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Jesse and his family members numerous times in those years. I have found Jesse to be a faithful witness for the Lord, loving God and loving others.

Jesse is a student of the Scriptures and has a passion to share them with others. I have watched up close and from afar as Jesse has traveled this nation and throughout the world sacrificing his own comfort to bring the life-giving message of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to others that they might be reconciled to their Creator.

What I have known of Jesse is a faithful example of a workman not ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) as well as personifying **Philippians 2:3-4** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

I am praying for the Lord to vindicate his servants Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter in this matter. I have also prayed for you Judge, that you might fulfill your God appointed mandate to be a terror to those who do evil, and not to those who do good.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobby McCreery', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Bobby McCreery

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Dear Judge:

My name is Anthony Poole and I am a retired Pastor/Minister and have known the defendant, Jesse Boyd, ever since he was in High School (right at 30 years) as his music minister, friend and co-laborer in Jesus. I also know Bethany Boyd, Josiah Boyd and Eric Trent.

I have watched Jesse faithfully lead his non-profit ministry, Full Proof Gospel Ministries, since it started. Jesse has proven to be a faithful minister called by God to minister the name of Jesus all over the world, a true friend and a constant soul in all his endeavors. His word is his word and is true and he is a person you can count on to do what he says he's going to do. That is a rare quality in today's world.

The ENTIRE time I have known Jesse and have observed his ministry steps all over this world, I have never heard reported a troubled minute, a single accusation or a negative word thrown at him for any reason whatsoever other than to discredit the Christ that he preaches.

I simply cannot imagine the scenario that has been brought against this man, his family and his colleagues, as having any vestige of fairness or truth when for four decades I haven't seen in my presence or in my knowledge of his ministry trips anything that even resembles this type of accusation.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this testimony. May God guide you in all your judgements as you serve the great state of Montana and this country.

Blessings and Regards,

Anthony Poole, Retired Pastor  
4330 Rodeway Ct NE  
Hickory, NC 28601  
904-314-8321

EXHIBIT A

1-19-2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Thomas Mejia and I am a water/wastewater operator for the City of Livingston, in California. I met Jesse Boyd along with his daughter Bethany and Eric Trent for the first time around the Covid outbreak in 2020.

I welcomed them in my home and enjoyed great fellowship and dinner along with my wife Elvira and my then 5 year old daughter. I also had dinner with them the next day at a restaurant with my father, brother and co-worker. My son James Mejia along with my brother had also traveled to Peru with Jesse and his family along with Carter. The Peru trip was pre Covid. I also attended a meeting at a fellowship in Patterson, California where Jesse, Eric and Bethany were able to share Gods word and answer questions and share experiences of their travels with a group of young people. These are all times throughout a few years where I've had interactions with them.

Never once did any of them display anything other than loving hearts and a heart to serve Jesus Christ. I've never seen any way, shape or form of any aggressive behavior. Each one of their characters has been above reproach. They are always welcome to my home at any time or any day.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mejia  
2937 Evergreen Way  
Livingston Ca 95334  
209-535-3268

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge:

My name is Jackson Miles from Oak Grove LA. I am sixteen years old, and my phone number is 318-331-5514.

I have known Carter Philips for 12 years. I met him and his family at a revival conference in Ohio and became good friends with him the next year at a Bible study. I have always known Carter as a man of God who follows his convictions, is trustworthy, reasonable, and never angry or violent. He would never act in violence unless he felt his health and life or the health and lives of his loved ones were at risk.

I sincerely hope you will find the truth that Carter acted only in defense of himself and his friends.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jackson Miles  
Oak Grove, LA

EXHIBIT A



January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Nelson Kale. I am an electrician and owner of Kale Electric in Hickory, North Carolina. I have been married to my wife for 39 years. I am retired from the St. Stephens Volunteer Fire Department and now serve on the fire department's board of directors. I am a father of three and grandfather of three. I have known Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent since September of 2021. They have been training my youngest child in martial arts so she can defend herself, protect others and achieve a self discipline to better herself in all aspects of life. I trust them with my child. They are good Christian people that do their best to help people. They are very kind and compassionate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson J. Kale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nelson" being more prominent and the last name "Kale" following in a similar style.

Nelson J. Kale



January 17, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Elaine Kale. I am a Certified Public Accountant and co-owner of RLI-CPA Certified Public Accountants PC in Hickory, North Carolina. I am a mother of three and grandmother of three. I have known Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent since September of 2021. They have been training my youngest child in martial arts so she can defend herself and protect others. I trust them completely. They are kind, moral and caring Christian people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine D. Kale', with a stylized, cursive script.

Elaine D. Kale

January 18, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am Zelina Kale a student of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent. I have been training with them since September of 2021. They teach me martial arts moves and morals. Everyone in our dojo lives by the code to never attack but to defend ourselves and others. I feel safer and more accepted in the dojo than any other sport I have done. They are kind, caring and helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zelina Kale". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Zelina Kale

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Diane Rogers, and I work for a veterinarian clinic in Modesto, CA. I had the privilege of meeting Jesse and Jamie Boyd in late 2020. We met up for coffee and breakfast with some other new acquaintances and my son, who has traveled with them previously. They were a pleasure to speak with, and I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation. Jesse was very polite and kind and a true Christian who shares his love of God to everyone that crosses his path. They truly carried themselves as servants of Jesus Christ in every manner bringing glory to HIS name.

Thank you ,

Diane M Rogers  
Modesto, CA  
209-678-4883

Date: 01/20/2023

To,  
Honorable Luke Berger,  
100 W Wallace St.  
First Floor, Virginia City  
MT 59755 US

Dear Judge,

My name is Mark Saksham Gideon, and I am born-again Christian here staying in India. I am working as Assistant Manager in Accenture from past couple of years and keep sharing the Gospel with my friends and people whom I meet during my day or if I am traveling anywhere in world. I know Jesse Boyd since 2015 as they were the people whom I met in my church as I am part of the Guest welcome team and meets and greet them and get to know more about them. I got to know more and met over dinner outside or at his place I believe and since then became good friends. During his stay in India, I was able to help him and his family to give a tour of Delhi and invited the entire family of Jesse at my place over dinner. We exchanged so many information and became good friends. I also go to know that I will be the part of a team for gospel work in 2016 which would be in northern part of India which I was really looking forward. After they left got the invite and I was also a team member in 2016 as mentioned above and enjoyed sharing the gospel with people who wanted to hear exchanged our thoughts and share each other experiences. I was part of team for almost good 5 to 6 months wherein I never saw or heard that they fight, abuse someone or get into fight for no reason. I always saw the love, respect, bond, and relationship with one another which I really admired in every team member whether its Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, Carter Phillips, or my sweet sister Bethany Boyd.

We had an amazing time in northern part of Indian named as Leh and learned mountain climbing and thanks to Jesse's team member who helped and trained us during our time there. We even worked among the poor people and shared the gospel with people meeting on our way while we were doing trekking for far distances. I can also tell you that I was lucky the second time when again I was part of team under Jesse's own team member. I loved and cherished memories with them and cannot believe that they indulge in fights or any other instances which breaks law. I am sure that they also respect the law and would never do such thing. They have a ministry in which we share the gospel and help poor and needy people at various locations when they are traveling and exploring new places. They just keep the same behavior with every person whom they encounter on their way.

I could vouch for Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, Carter Phillips, and Bethany Boyd that they are amazing, fun loving, lovable and respectful people and should not be dragged in this as our Scripture does not allow this do the same. As far as I am concerned, they would have never involved in this thing in the first place. I know I am not there in US but can say that we all are children of God, and our Heavenly Father does not allow or teach us these things as they are being charged with right now.

If you need any further information from me or any clarification, anytime feel free to email me. I have left me below for future reference.

Mark Saksham Gideon  
Delhi, India  
Email: [marksaksham007@gmail.com](mailto:marksaksham007@gmail.com)  
Phone : +91 9958609174

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge, my name is Dennis Vance and I am a commercial loan officer at a community bank in Springfield, MO. I had the privilege of sharing the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ several years ago along with Jesse Boyd when he and a couple of other guys (I think they were from Nepal) came through Springfield, MO. We shared the gospel with students at Missouri State University. I'm writing you to share that Jesse is one of the most humble evangelists that I've ever witnessed with. He graciously shared truth with the students that day and I would evangelize with this man again any time, any place. Jesse is a very reputable Christian and he reflects the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. I hope you receive this letter as a character witness for Jesse as it is meant to be. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Vance". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Vance" clearly distinguishable.

Dennis Vance

417-766-0954

[vance7373@gmail.com](mailto:vance7373@gmail.com)

3955 E. Latoka St. Springfield, MO 65809

EXHIBIT A

January 18, 2023

ATTN Judge:

My name is Kimberly Raj, and I am a homemaker living in the state of Kansas. Over the last 5 years, I have had the opportunity to get to know Jesse Boyd and his daughter Bethany. Additionally, to a lesser degree, I have been able to spend time with Carter Phillips and Eric Trent.

All four of these, now felony-accused, persons have personally ministered to me and my children over these years. In 2017, my late husband passed away in a drowning accident and the church body with which 3 of the accused are associated has regularly invested in our lives. They have hosted us in North Carolina on numerous occasions for a week at a time and one time, we were out of town, Jesse and Eric stayed in our home and left it exactly as they found it, if not better.

On one of our visits to North Carolina, Jesse, Bethany and Eric hosted a karate demonstration for my children and let them get in the training. They only taught them principles of respect, self-control, and self-discipline. In our time of knowing these persons, Bethany has especially impressed me as she represents a strong woman, full of character and good will; one after which I would encourage my own daughters to emulate.

Most recently, my 7 children and myself walked with three of the accused persons as their journey across the United States took them within a couple hours of our home. Carter was the only one not with us during that excursion but my children thoroughly enjoyed their time walking with the other three as they mentored and encouraged them to be men of strong conviction and character.

Just as I previously wrote to others associated with this case, I have never known Mr. Boyd, his daughter, Mr. Phillips or Mr. Trent to be motivated by violence. I have always known them as those that have firm Christian convictions of what is right and what is wrong as opposed to those who would be "looking for trouble" or an opportunity to injure another. Please consider this testimony, and do what is right.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Raj  
Topeka, KS  
[KimberlyKRaj@gmail.com](mailto:KimberlyKRaj@gmail.com)

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Brad Davis, and I am the Vice-President of Sales for Twin City Knitting, Inc., a sock brand and manufacturer in North Carolina. I have known Jesse Boyd the majority of my life as our fathers worked together for many years. I also had the privilege of working directly with Jesse at TCK in between his many international mission trips. From a working relationship he was creative, hardworking, and passionate about what we were doing. During the time we worked together I was not a believer in Jesus Christ. He and his brother Matthew shared the gospel boldly with me, but always in a respectful and genuine concern for my salvation.

During the trial, I will be praying for Jesse, his family, and the other missionaries; but also yourself and others involved in the trial. I pray that the truth will clearly be revealed and that these missionaries will be back on the road serving the Lord. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my letter and the letters of others.

Best regards,

Brad Davis, VP Sales  
Twin City Knitting, Inc.  
Conover, NC

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Kristopher Estep, and I have had the pleasure of pastoring Barberville Baptist Church in Waynesville, NC, for the past 12 years. It has also been about the same time that I have known Jesse Boyd, along with his daughter Bethany and son Josiah. I came to know Eric Trent about six years ago. I have only met Carter Phillips once.

I write to you today to urge you to drop all pending charges against them.

I first met Jesse through a mutual friend, Shawn Holes, after he invited the two of us to join him in doing some ministry on the campus of Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Not long after I met Jesse, I was blessed to spend three weeks with him and some other missionaries as we traveled from North to South through the western United States while preaching on college campuses. It was an incredibly fruitful time, and during that time, I came to respect Jesse even more than I already did. His love for Christ, his passion for the gospel, and his concern for others were evident in many ways.

Following this on numerous occasions, I ministered with Jesse and Full Proof Gospel Ministries. As a result, my church decided to bring Full Proof on as a mission organization that we support every month, a privilege we have continued for many years.

Then again, in 2015, I had the opportunity to travel to Bangladesh as part of a team from FPGM led by Jesse. We spent almost two weeks working in some of the most impoverished areas of the capital city of Dhaka and out in the far country region. Again I was impressed by the leadership, integrity, and Christian character that Jesse lived out.

During the beginning stages of their walk across America, Jesse, Bethany, and Eric stayed at my house for two nights with me, my wife Becky, and my family, Piper (9), Henry (6), and Jack (2). We had an extraordinary time together, and in fact, Bethany babysat the kids one of those nights so the rest of us could go to dinner. My wife and I are very selective in who we allow to watch our children, so this speaks to our extraordinary trust in Bethany. Later in their journey, they again needed a place to lodge for a couple of nights. We were unfortunately out of town, but I thought nothing of offering our house to them for another couple of nights. We arrived home to find the house cleaner than when we had left it.

During my time in knowing Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter, I have always known them to be of upstanding behavior, Christ-like love, respect, and most of all, with a mind towards pleasing God in all their actions.

EXHIBIT A



I again ask that all charges be dropped.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request,

Sincerely,

Kristopher Estep  
Senior Pastor  
Barberville Baptist Church  
1441 Russ Ave.  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
(828) 646-1970

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Kyle Stengel, and I'm a student at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, SD and a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard. I have known Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Carter Phillips, and Eric Trent for over 8 years now, and my wife has known them since she was a child. I have personally been on three separate overseas missionary trips with Jesse and his missions organization, and I have been to many college campuses and street corners with Jesse and Eric preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesse's love for the Lord and people has inspired me greatly in my walk with God and he has imparted much biblical wisdom to me throughout the years.

I have witnessed people screaming at, spitting on, and laying hands on Jesse because they hate the message of the Gospel, but I have never seen him lay a finger on or threaten anyone in retaliation.

I can attest to the fact that these four are God-fearing, honest Christians that are "doers or the Word" as it says in the book of James. They put the words and commands of the Lord Jesus Christ into action and live by them. The claims that have been made against them are contradictory of their character that I have witnessed firsthand and of their mission and purpose of being in Montana in the first place. I pray that Almighty God gives you wisdom in this case and that you consider my personal testimony of these four.

Sincerely,

Kyle Stengel  
610 Second St. SE  
Watertown, SD 57201  
605-610-6303

EXHIBIT A

1/19/23

Dear Judge,

My name is Taylor Phillips. I am an electrician and small business owner who lives with my family in Monroe, Louisiana. I have known Carter his whole life and I've known Jesse and Eric for many years. I am very familiar with their ministry and have been in their company many times. They are loving and kind people who practice what they preach. I have witnessed them living lives that honor God, desiring to serve others above themselves. I can vouch for their character and would trust them with my life should the need arise.

Respectfully,

Taylor Phillips  
Monroe, LA

EXHIBIT A

1/19/2023

Dear Judge,

I am Louis Graff, an Independent business owner of a Retail Food Brokerage in California and I do business all throughout the west coast including Colorado, Idaho, and Texas, and I have known Jesse Boyd for 5 years, and Jesse has always been a model of upstanding moral and ethical character.

He has stayed with me at my house in Utah on a couple of different occasions for longer than just a day or two, so I have gotten to know him very well.

He is a God fearing educated man who can speak several languages, has been a history teacher, and he is a traveling pastor and missionary.

Due to Jesse's upstanding values and morals, my family and my business decided to support his efforts for two years now.

Jesse is so trustworthy that I would literally allow him to watch my grandchildren unsupervised.

He has shown that he has an undying compassion for anyone who does not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Jesse has demonstrated integrity in every decision that I have seen him make over the years, so in hearing about the situation that happened in Madison County Montana, it is SHOCKING and APPALLING that this injustice has occurred.

Jesse and two of his children along with Eric Trent have traveled more than half way across this great country of ours on foot....why is this the first and ONLY incident that has occurred?

It's hard to believe that this could happen in the state of Montana....which is viewed from the outside as a free and beautiful state.

In the best interest of Justice, all of these false allegations and charges should be dismissed.

Respectfully,

Louis Graff  
LG Sales & Marketing Solutions, LLC  
209-485-3410

EXHIBIT A

1/19/2023

Dear Judge,

I am Louis Graff, an Independent business owner of a Retail Food Brokerage in California and I do business all throughout the west coast including Colorado, Idaho, and Texas, and I have known Eric Trent for 5 years, and Eric has always been a model of upstanding moral and ethical character.

He has stayed with me at my house in Utah on a couple of different occasions for longer than just a day or two, so I have gotten to know him very well.

Eric is a God fearing man who has spent a good portion of his young life as a missionary domestically as well as in foreign countries.

Eric is so trustworthy that I would literally allow him to watch my grandchildren unsupervised.

He has shown that he has an undying compassion for anyone who does not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Eric has demonstrated integrity in every decision that I have seen him make over the years, so in hearing about the situation that happened in Madison County Montana, it is truly unbelievable that this has happened.

Eric, Jesse and two of Jesse's children have traveled more than half way across this great country of ours on foot....why is this the first and ONLY incident that has occurred?

It's hard to believe that this could happen in the state of Montana....which is viewed from the outside as a free and beautiful state.

In the best interest of Justice, all of these false allegations and charges should be dismissed.

Respectfully,

Louis Graff  
LG Sales & Marketing Solutions, LLC  
209-485-3410

EXHIBIT A

1/19/2023

Dear Judge,

I am Louis Graff, an Independent business owner of a Retail Food Brokerage in California and I do business all throughout the west coast including Colorado, Idaho, and Texas, and I have known Bethany Boyd for 5 years, and Bethany has always been a model of upstanding moral and ethical character.

She has stayed with my wife and I at my house in Utah on a couple of different occasions for longer than just a day or two, so I have gotten to know her very well.

Bethany is a God fearing young lady who has spent a good portion of her young life as a missionary domestically as well as in foreign countries.

Bethany is so trustworthy that I would literally allow her to watch my grandchildren unsupervised.

She has shown that he has an undying compassion for anyone who does not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Bethany has demonstrated integrity in every decision that I have seen her make over the years, so in hearing about the situation that happened in Madison County Montana, it is unfathomable that this could have happened.

She has traveled more than half way across this great country of ours on foot....why is this the first and ONLY incident that has occurred?

It's hard to believe that this could happen in the state of Montana....which is viewed from the outside as a free and beautiful state.

In the best interest of Justice, all of these false allegations and charges should be dismissed.

Respectfully,

Louis Graff  
LG Sales & Marketing Solutions, LLC  
209-485-3410

EXHIBIT A



January 19, 2023

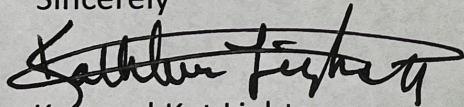
Dear Judge,

My name is Kathleen, better known as Kat, my husband's name is Ken Lightsey. We are the creator and director of Stable Living Program and Our Own Pace in California. These are unique programs that focus on the abilities of disabled and challenged adults to enrich their lives and build stronger communities. We help to teach individuals who are easily targeted by people who want to take advantage of them to be as safely independent as their abilities allow.

I have known Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, and Eric Trent for about ten years. I can say they truly care about the wellbeing of others. They have dedicated their lives to sharing the word of God to individuals all over the world. They hold true to the word of God and live their lives sacrificially serving and sharing. They have stayed in our house many times and volunteered in our program during their visits. My husband has traveled with them on multiple occasions in the states and overseas.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (209)620-0006.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Lightsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken and Kat Lightsey

1014 S Street

Newman, CA 95360



To the State of Montana and anyone else it may concern,

My name is Kevin Kelley. I am an independent contractor and own my own remodeling company in North Carolina. I was brought to this state almost 15 years ago through my service in the United States Marine Corps. After 4 years of service and a deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, my family and I remained in Onslow County, North Carolina.

I am writing today to speak to the character of the members of Full Proof Gospel Ministries, Jesses Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips. My family and I have hosted these missionaries on several different occasions and have had the blessing of staying with the Boyds in their home on multiple occasions. Jesse has always exemplified what it is to offer grace and mercy to everyone that He encounters while also maintaining and standing firm in the truth of Scripture. He has always taken responsibility and great care in leading his team and anybody serving alongside him to glorify God in all of their actions and interactions. This is what we are called to do in every situation: sometimes that is in the simple conversation of the truth of the Gospel and sometimes that is in the defense of truth or physical security of one that cannot defend themselves.

Jesse and his team acted in accordance with the Word of God. They showed great restraint and mercy to their attacker as they have many times before in their travels and service to God. Jesse is a man that will (as he always should) stand in the line to defend his family and any other person that may be defenseless. He is a man that cares greatly for his family, friends and for the glory of our great God. I firmly believe that any altercation that happened was and is, solely defense of self, family, and friends, according to the word of God.

I pray that the courts would see through the false charges against all these individuals and commend them for their grace toward their attacker. May God be glorified in all.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Kevin Kelley  
Hubert, NC  
1/19/23

EXHIBIT A



**January 19, 2023**

**Dear Judge,**

My name is Josh Williams. I work as a Physical Therapist Assistant and I am also a student at Catawba Valley Martial Arts. I wanted to write to you today, to implore you to reconsider the standing of the following individuals: Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent and Carter Phillips; as I can certainly proclaim that these individuals are good, upstanding and honorable people. As I have come to know more about them and learn about the martial art from them as well, there is at least one thing that I can say about them, and that is their character. Never once have I heard either of them speak on harming others for no apparent reason. Our dojo has a code of conduct that is enforced and requires each individual to uphold themselves to that standard, in and out of the dojo. As you may already know; Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent, each hold a title of black belt in the respective art that we practice. As a black belt, each submits themselves to a specific code of ethics that requires them to fulfill, should the need or situation arise. These requirements, in summary, consist of not being another individual in the bystander effect, should there be a situation where an innocent person is being harmed. These individuals do not pick fights with any one person, as that goes against our code of conduct, and they most certainly do not “gang up” on any one individual, without good reason. As I do not know the entire situation of the case before you, I am asking that you reconsider the facts and evidence that have or will be presented to you, and ask yourself, “if three trained fighters attacked an innocent bystander, then wouldn’t that individual have been incapacitated in a more brutal fashion or possibly dead?”. The individuals that I am pleading a case for only mean to travel and spread the gospel of love, mercy and repentance to those who choose to hear it and mean no harm to others. Again, I implore you to reconsider this case against them. If you have chosen to read the entirety of this letter, then I thank you for your time and for your patience. I hope that you have a wonderful and blessed day. Sincerely,

**Josh Williams**

**EXHIBIT A**

January 19, 2023

With Highest Regards, Your Honor,

I am authoring this letter on behalf of my great friend and martial arts student, associate, and companion Jesse Boyd.

During my 59-year journey within the martial arts I have taught thousands of students, visited several dozen countries, and met and mingled with many of the greatest martial artists of all time. Without reservation I can say Jesse Boyd is amongst the finest I have met. I have spent considerable amount of time with Jesse Boyd's family, students, and friends. I am blessed to have a unique relationship with Jesse, one rooted in a deep mutual growth both through the martial arts and as great friends. Jesse Boyd is gracious, kind, and generous, a man of noble values.

This is Jesse Boyd's character, and these attributes existed before his martial arts journey began. Jesse Boyd's passion for learning, understanding, and sharing his wisdom through martial arts further served as a catalyst bonding these great principles layer upon layer enhancing his great character. Jesse Boyd emanates peace, Faith, understanding, humanity, and goodness. In Today's world we could use a lot more Jesse's and his steadfast dedication to bettering others.

As a matter of fact, when we met, this is who Jesse was. In the decade I have known Jesse, I have never seen him lose sight of his commitment and resolve to better himself and others in the "light of goodness" based on Faith, patience, and martial arts principles. Cultivating Capability through building bridges and opening doors wherever, whenever, and however Jesse Boyd can by embracing, celebrating, and playing forward the great spirit of good martial arts is how Jesse Boyd guides himself and others.

When I met Jesse Boyd, he had already dedicated many years in the traditional martial arts. I was able to observe him on the highest of levels: physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. Balance in these four quadrants is crucial to reaching any higher level within the martial arts. Observing Jesse Boyd training, teaching, and examining, he maintained his "balance."

Jesse Boyd has been to many countries, interacted with people of all religions, cultures, and ethnicities. He blends in. Jesse promotes peace, understanding, and celebrates the good. He uses the martial arts as a conduit convey this message.

Your Honor, please take a close look at the Jesse Boyd his students, friends, teachers, and peers know. This man teaches peace. He teaches benevolence to others.

Warmest Regards,

Senior Grandmaster Jon Wiedenman  
Traditional Chang Moo Kwan, Tae Kwon Do  
San Pedro, CA

"Cultivate Capability"

Dear Judge,

1/19/2023

My name is Timothy Mejia and I have known Jesse Boyd and his family for approximately 9 years. I am a Senior Wastewater Operator with the City of Modesto in California and have come to know Jesse and his family mainly through foreign missions' trips and Christian evangelism here in the United States. We have spent much time together in countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Israel, and Peru. In Peru, I've witnessed Jesse and his family invite many backpackers back to their apartment for a freshly cooked meal and great conversation. The conversations eventually always led to Jesse sharing his faith in Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life found in Him. Never once did I witness a guest become agitated or angry. Over the years Jesse and I have become quite close. Not having a family of my own, on numerous occasions Jesse has invited me over to his North Carolina home to spend time with he and his family over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. They are like a second family to me. I have spent much time with Jesse, his family, Eric, and Carter and they are good Christian people. They have a sincere love for God, the Gospel message, and people. Jesse has been a great encouragement to me over the years and I frequently contact Jesse and his wife Jamie for advice. I'm known as "Uncle Tim" by his children and have done many hiking trips and family excursions together with them. They are of good, upstanding Christian character and we need more families like them during these trying times.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Mejia

209-535-4118

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge:

I have known Carter Phillips for around sixteen years, ever since I was a little kid. I am a full-time college student now. In the past, I have known Carter through family get-togethers and extracurricular activities like orchestra, and now I attend church with him. Carter Phillips is one of the kindest people I know, and I mean that. He is one of the few people that I would trust to watch my back. I have seen his kindness and generosity play out over and over again, and I cannot over-emphasize how good a friend he is to me. Please keep this in consideration and know that I am simply stating facts as they come to mind. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nathan Samuel Underwood  
Fordland, Missouri

January 20, 2023

Dear Honorable Judge,

I have known Jesse Boyd since the second grade where we attended a Christian private school together. I am currently a practicing Chiropractic Physician in North Carolina where Jesse resides. Jesse and I have kept in touch over the past 40 years since we met in the second grade. I still consider him a close friend.

Jesse's conviction to his faith is unparalleled. He has been around the world, spreading Christianity to more countries than I can recite. Though I wasn't present at the incident that Jesse was involved in, I do know that he is a good, patriotic, Christian man. He has dedicated his life to spreading the word of God around the world, many times at the risk of his own safety.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bruce Withers  
Denver, NC

EXHIBIT A

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Christian Parks and I reside in Southeast, Ohio. I am a small business owner who contracts in residential home restoration. My name and business is honored in the community, and I have plenty of references to solidify my character. Also, I attend church and am accountable to my Elders.

I know Eric Trent, Carter Phillips, Jesse Boyd, and Bethany Boyd. I spent a year doing ministry work with Jesse Boyd. I would like to assure your mind that their character is to be productive citizens in society and to keep peace with all men as best as possible and follow the Laws of this Country. Your Honor, my hope is that you would strongly reconsider dropping all charges that were pressed against them and bid them free to walk freely in this Country abiding in the Law of the 1st Amendment. This Constitution you swore an oath to uphold and defend in its application to the citizens of this land. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Christian Parks  
Lower Salem, Ohio



590 Ramie Mitchell  
Hiddenite, NC 28636  
January 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter requesting that the charges against Jesse Boyd and Eric Trent be considered void based upon the fact that these are men who are dedicated in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are not men of aggression; instead, they are men with the desire to share attributes of our loving Savior. As the ministry they are a part of has shared the gospel in other countries as well as across America, these men have shown concern for the spiritual welfare of their fellow man.

I have supported Full Proof Gospel Ministry financially for years, and the money has helped these missionaries to continue walking, teaching, preaching, and providing prayer to a nation that needs reliance on God Almighty. The outreach these men have offered has been beneficial to so many seeking to find hope in a desperate world. Their kindness, peacefulness, love, goodness, and faithfulness have drawn many to the light of Christ.

Jesse Boyd has been a visitor in my home. He has always displayed a respectful, appreciative, and loving nature to all members of my family. He has preached God's Word faithfully in churches in our area. I trust his dedication and willingness to serve God and others well in all circumstances. Jesse was also a fellow teacher with my wife several years ago. He taught my son during his high school years and displayed godly leadership skills with a servant's heart, as well as teaching the truth of the Bible.

I have met Eric Trent, a Christian friend of my son. He is a humble, kind, friendly, and a godly man. He has dedicated his life to working as a missionary, and his family and friends are blessed by his love, leadership, and Christian example. He is not a violent person, in fact, his gentleness and concern for others is notable.

I fully trust that these men have been falsely accused in the state of Montana, and the violence came from the hands of the accuser. I agree that there are times that protecting your children and yourself is necessary, and any action to end an unwarranted attack on the part of these men was done with restraint and out of necessity. Self-defense and protecting your family is not a crime.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Clifford L. Gwaltney, ThD



917 Ramie Mitchell Rd  
Hiddenite, NC 28686  
January 15, 2023

Dear Judge:

I am a trustee and board member for Full Proof Gospel Ministries and have personally worked in ministry along side of Jesse Boyd and Eric Trent both locally and abroad in nations such as Nepal. I write this letter pleading for the dismissal of charges against these men and I personally bear witness of their godly and kind testimony. I was on the ordination counsel for Eric Trent to be ordained into the ministry. This decision was not taken lightly wherein his integrity and godly character were fully examined by many Pastors including myself. Jesse Boyd was my 10th grade teacher at a local Christian School which has led to a lifelong friendship. He was and is my mentor. I knew him in my early years as a man with just morals and godly convictions that showed in his everyday life and even to this day, he still stands apart from the crowd with integrity and care for his fellow man. His testimony back then led me to examine my own life and truly seek Christ in all I did. Jesse still has that testimony today. I began this walk across America with these men at Cape Hatteras and I hope to walk with them sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we reach the Pacific ocean, if my lungs hold out.

I am a Pastor with a terminal lung disease, Pulmonary Fibrosis, and have been confined to oxygen 24/7. Both Jesse and Eric have stood in the pulpit of the Church I Pastor and they have heralded the Gospel truth. In fact, I trust my life with these men. Eric has carried additional oxygen for me as we have traveled together in the US sharing the Gospel and Jesse has taken responsibility for my well being when we have traveled locally and abroad. I trust the unwavering integrity, dedication to godliness, and character of Jesse Boyd to the point that he and his wife will have full custody of my children if both my wife and I pass. My wife as well has a rare disease, Cogan's Syndrome, and has already become totally deaf with the possibility of total blindness and I have already lived beyond the life expectancy for my disease, so our children becoming theirs may become a reality sooner than later. It is our desire to see our children raised by a couple we can trust, Jesse and his wife are those people we have chosen for this task.

My question for you is this, would a respected Pastor of a seasoned Church established in 1908 allow an aggressive wretch of a man in his office, the pulpit, to speak? No. Would that Pastor allow an aggressive and violent man in the presence of his children? Absolutely not. These men have stood and proclaimed truth from my office at Church, the Pulpit. These men are trusted with the wellbeing of my children and Jesse will one day step in my place as a father to them if my lungs fail. These men are not criminals. These men are dedicated to their families, their churches, and their LORD while sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their Nation. Jesse and Eric are not the aggressors as they have been falsely accused of in the state Montana. I gladly put my reputation on the line for them because I trust their godly leadership.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Brandon L. Gwaltney

EXHIBIT A



Craig and Susie Twiggs  
PSC1 Box 2705  
APO AE 09009

January 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

We are Craig and Susie Twiggs, currently living abroad and working in support of the US Air Force Base in Ramstein, Germany.

It is our privilege to speak up for Jesse Michael Boyd today.

Jesse and his wife, Jamie, were our neighbors at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California in the early 2000s. Our friendship continued after graduation and our subsequent move to North Carolina.

Jesse has always treated us with kindness and respect. We have been houseguests at the Boyd family home. They are gracious hosts. We were happy to assist Jesse and Jamie with foodstuffs and support as they began to bike across America in 2003, with their "Jesus Saves" flag on their little white trailer and their first born, Bethany, due in a matter of months.

Since that time, we have moved away but have followed them through their Full Proof Gospel Ministries website and regular updates. We are just two of their many prayer partners and are so proud of their journey.

It is our hope that this letter serves to show our admiration and support of Jesse Boyd and his family.

Very Respectfully,  
Craig and Susie Twiggs

Email: [mrstwiggs@hotmail.com](mailto:mrstwiggs@hotmail.com)  
Phone: +49 174 602 1094

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge:

I wanted to put in a good word for Carter Phillips. I have worked with him at Golden City Grain and Cotton for about 4 years. He has been a great fellow employee. He is a hard worker, cheerful, respectful and always has a positive outlook on life.

We were actually involved in a work accident together, and he has been extremely forgiving through it, as I felt responsible for this.

Carter is a gentlemen, and someone I would want by my side as a friend. He would have my back, and give me the shirt off his. I have great respect for him!

For any other questions or further inquiry, my phone number is (417) 279-2370.

Thank you for your time,  
Jonathan Dart  
Golden City, MO

The Honorable Judge  
District Court

January 20, 2023

Your Honor,

I have been a Practitioner in the same county where Jesse Boyd was born, raised and now resides with his family. I am writing to you today on behalf of myself and the community I serve here in North Carolina to communicate a strong concern for the treatment of Jesse Boyd, his family and missionary team.

My husband and I have known Jesse personally and have entertained he and his friends in our home. We went to church with he and his family for many years. Jesse always excelled due to his talent, skill and intelligence. He is a very bright man. Jesse has a great deal of integrity, but, most importantly is a God-fearing man.

Our family had the privilege of watching Jesse instruct our South Korean foreign exchange student at the age of 15 years old. Today, Jongmin who is like a son to us, is now 32 years old. Jesse made quiet the impression on Jongmin who has returned to his country and serves his community there very successfully. We have known Jesse to pour into many lives through his love of knowledge and education.

My family has also had the privilege of watching Jesse, over the years, carry the cross to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. I and my community could not be more proud of him. My family

EXHIBIT A

and our community are privileged to know a man of Jesse Boyd's character.

Again, I come to you with grave concerns, not only for my self but for our community as we stand by and watch this atrocity play out before us.

Please consider my letter prior to hearing Jesse, his family and the ministry team's case.

Sincerely yours,

Rita Hawthorne-Runnels, RN-C, CCH, CHHP  
The Sanctuary WholeHealth and Wellness, PLLC  
Doctors of Natural Medicine  
2760 Birdie Lane NE  
Conover, NC 28613  
e: [the-sanctuary@charter.net](mailto:the-sanctuary@charter.net)  
p: 828-455-2805

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am an owner of Stines Gallery in Hickory, N.C. and have known Jesse Boyd and family for many years and can't think of any family of more Godly influence to others. This especially is true to Bethany, Carter and Eric who are true followers of Christ. I am close to twice Jesse's age and over the years he has encouraged me for his zeal to spread the Gospel literally all over the world.

That is the reason I have always supported Jesse and his church and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Tommy Stine  
Hickory, NC

EXHIBIT A

7402 N Farm Road 209  
Strafford, MO 65757

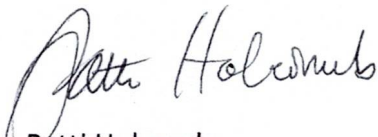
January 20, 2023

Dear Judge:

I and my family have known Carter Phillips for a couple years. He and his family are members of our church, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Springfield, Missouri. From our observations of Carter, he is a meek and humble young man, very bright and musically talented. His desire is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelievers. Although we do not fully know all the details of this case, I sincerely believe this action that he is accused of is out of character for Carter. I have never observed any incident to lead me to believe that Carter would be anything but self-controlled and trustworthy.

Thank you for hearing this case and we trust that justice will be served in our court system – dismissing this case without merit.

Sincerely,



Patti Holcomb

EXHIBIT A

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

We have known Carter Phillips and his family for over sixteen years now. Our families have had the blessing of watching our children grow up together and have enjoyed very close friendships. We have spent countless hours together at many gatherings in each other's homes including dinner parties and also celebrations such as birthday parties and graduations. We also attend church with the Phillips family. We have watched Carter Phillips grow up into a fine godly young man who has an impeccable character. We hold Carter in the highest regard and gladly submit this letter of reference.

Sincerely,

Greg and Amy Underwood  
Fordland, Missouri

EXHIBIT A

January 16, 2023

Dear Judge,

Our family had the privilege of meeting Jesse and Bethany Boyd along with Eric Trent and Carter Phillips over the weekend of September 16, 2022. We had received a call from the pastor of the local Baptist church in Hulett, Wyoming asking if we could possibly provide a place to stay for some missionaries who were traveling through the area on a mission to walk across the United States sharing the gospel. The pastor and his family had encountered these missionaries the previous night in the small town of Hulett and had enjoyed fellowship with them and had them stay in their camper. We have known this pastor and his family for many years and he vouched for their character and that they were trustworthy after just spending one evening with them.

We welcomed Jesse, Bethany, Eric and Carter into our home later that afternoon. My husband Cody and I run a trucking business and he was away on a run to Denver and I wasn't sure he would make it home that evening. I was a little hesitant to allow someone into our home as I was home alone with my four children (ages 9-16). I didn't take the decision lightly to allow strangers into my home especially in a rural area. We had never met these guys before or heard about their missionary work. However, I trusted the pastor's opinion and once we had the opportunity to meet the missionaries, we had no concerns about whether we were safe or could trust them. We had a great evening of fellowship and my husband was able to make it home late that evening.

The next day we had planned to go camping nearby and be gone overnight. The Boyds and Eric and Carter had spent a long week walking and were very thankful for the dry place to stay (it had rained the past few nights) so we invited them to stay and rest at our house another day. We allowed them to stay in our home the second night without us even being there. We greatly enjoyed the time we spent with them and it was a blessing to our family. We did not have any concerns about letting them stay in our home. We knew they were genuine trustworthy people.

I hope that you will take our words into consideration as to the character of these people and the mission that they are on to spread the gospel. Please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Cody and Kristy Dennis  
48 Thorn Divide Rd  
Carlile, WY 82721  
(307) 756-9401

EXHIBIT A



Dear Judge,

This is Makyna Boyd, cousin of Bethany Boyd and both a niece and martial art student of Jesse Boyd. I have known them both all my life. I have known Carter and Eric for several years as well. All four of them are very respectable people, and strong in their christian faith. They are very respectable in karate class as well. They take care to teach us students how to defend ourselves against people who try to harm us. We all pray we'll never come into a situation like that, but if something does happen, they have made it so we are prepared.

I pray the Lord will help you to see the truth in this situation and that Jesus will guide you to the right decision concerning them. I'm praying for both them and you in this. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

sincerely,

*Makyna H. Boyd*

EXHIBIT A

January 19, 2023

Dear Judge,

I have known Jesse and Bethany for 16 years, Eric for 7 and carter for 5.

I am a martial art student under the sound teachings of Jesse, Bethany and Eric. Ever since joining class, Jesse has taught me to control myself and to ONLY use this a weapon to protect the innocent and yourself if all else fails, it is a last resort. One of our Core Principles is "Practice what you Preach" and never once has he gone against his own teachings. I could not in a million years believe He would ever attack an innocent person, it's simply not something he would do. Bethany and Eric also hold to these principles as well. They are some of my closest friends, and my brothers and sister in Jesus Christ's blood. I would trust any of them with my life anytime anywhere. I'm praying that you will make the right decision about this case and throw it out, as it is clearly a case of self defense.

Sincerely,

Graham Boyd

*Graham E. Boyd*

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written in regards to Jessie Boyd, as a character reference on his behalf regarding a recent legal matter that occurred in the state of Montana.

I am honored and pleased to say that I have known Mr. Boyd for over seven years as a student of Changmookwan, Tae Kwon do. While traveling to California to attend a seminar on our style I had to pleasure to interact with Mr. Boyd over several weeks. I have also kept in touch with him regarding his "walk across American," preaching the word of God. I can say without reservation that no time did I ever witness any aggressive tendencies or behavior from this gentleman. Please also note that as a Grandmaster Level, Black Belt, I hold my instructors to a very high standard of Behavior and Conduct and are accountable for their actions as role models in the arts.

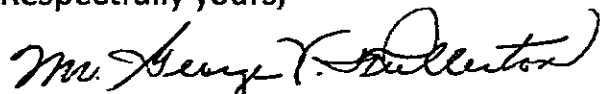
As a man of God, he has always practiced patience, understanding and compassion for his fellow man. I know that the actions he took on the date in question could have only been taken in Self Defense, and not in retaliation with planned malice. This would be totally out of character for him to do so.

As a former High School, Principle, and Martial Arts Instructor, I feel that after almost fifty years of service to my community, I have become a pretty decent judge of character. Traveling on the back roads and high ways of this country for years, Mr. Boyd has **Never** been involved in any physical altercations of the magnitude he is being accused of, especially while preaching the word of God!

I humbly ask your Honor, to use your years of experience on the bench to fairly evaluate the evidence or lack thereof, to give a Preacher, the benefit of doubt and grant him the right of Self Defense and Self Preservation for his family members who were also witnesses of the unprovoked attack.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Respectfully yours,



Mr. George V. Fullerton, (Retired) Principle

Diamond Ranch High School, Martial Arts Instructor

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge:

Hello, my name is Autumn Middleton, and I am 16yrs old from Vale, NC. I am a sophomore in high school, and I am writing on behalf of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips.

Mr. Jesse, Mr. Eric, and Bethany are my instructors at Catawba Valley Martial Arts. Mr. Jesse has been in my life for about 12 years. Through years of training under him, he has taught me to defend myself and others. Mr. Jesse is a kind man and he would do anything for anyone. He cares for me like I am one of his own. I have witnessed his character for many years and he always displays honesty, boldness, love and many more characteristics. He loves the Lord and his family more than himself.

Bethany Boyd is one of my best friends. She is always there for me and for others. Bethany has been taught and taught me things about being a godly woman: To be a servant for others and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We spend time together often doing activities such as martial arts, hiking, coffee dates and church. Just as she did to help protect her dad that day I would do the same for her too.

I have known Eric Trent for about 7 years and look to him as a big brother. He is a great martial arts instructor and loves all his students. He is patient and understanding. He loves to tell others about the Lord and what God has done in his life. He loves his family and friends and would do anything for anyone.

I know Carter Phillips through Eric and his wife. I met him back in 2017 when I attended his sisters and Eric's wedding. He loves the Lord and has always been kind to me and my family. He was raised in a godly home and has more respect for others than most young men do his age these days. Even though I don't spend as much time around him like the others, I know without a shadow of doubt that he would protect anyone who was in danger, regardless if they are family, friend or stranger.

I am asking that the charges against these four people be dropped immediately so they can continue to do God's work. Please don't be the one who hinders them from sharing the gospel to a lost and dying world.

"Talk no more so exceedingly proudly; Let not arrogance come out of your mouth: For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And by him actions are weighed." 1 Samuel 2:3

Thank you,

Autumn Middleton  
Vale, NC

01/18/2023

Dear Judge:

I have known Jesse Boyd for approximately 35 years, his daughter Bethany Boyd for approximately 10 years, Eric Trent for six plus years and unfortunately I have not had the privilege of meeting Carter Phillips yet.

I'm a licensed mortgage loan officer and insurance officer for several states and have been in this business for 25 years. I'm also a black belt in karate and that is how I know Jesse, Bethany and Eric.

Jesse came to my father, Larry Beal's, karate school when he was about 14 years old and we worked out together several times a week for many years. First of all, my father allowed zero punks in his class and had high ethical standards for all his students whether they were inside his class or in school or social events. He knew that being able to fight well could make a lot of young teens aggressive when they need not be. He had a zero-tolerance rule for fighting, picking fights, etc – outside of class. This was engrained into every student and those that did not abide by the rules (and trust me, he had his ways of finding out everything) were expelled from his class. Losing money was of no concern (not because we were a wealthy family) but he would not take money from parents just to keep their kid in the class if they could not maintain their ethics.

Secondly, you don't work out and spend hours a week with someone and not know their true character. That is what I have done with Jesse, Eric and Bethany. In our teens, Jesse and I worked out for years together. We inadvertently planned our weddings on the same day too and for that reason my father was at my wedding and not his. That being said, that shows just how close my father and Jesse were and how much respect my father had for Jesse. (Trust me, achieving respect from this man was not an easy feat) As the years progressed, Jesse was doing missionary work and from time to time our paths would cross and we would get to work out together or fellowship and catch up about our families etc. Jesse and my father continued to have a relationship as well and we were all devastated when he was killed in 2010. When Bethany started out in karate, due to my children and busy work schedule, I was in and out of class over the years and got to meet her and work out with her some. In these 6 years or so, leading up to her receiving her black belt, I had the honor of working out with her more than Jesse, because Jesse was overseas doing missionary work. During this time, I also met and worked out with Eric as well. When you are doing hard physical work, learning new concepts and new moves, while under the pressure of knowing others are watching your every move can cause a lot of stress for students. Some students tend to lash out, get angry or want to "get even" with the person they are sparring with – because they get emotional instead of improving their fighting or defensive skills, they just want to punch the person in the face. I have never seen this with Jesse, Bethany, or Eric. Sure, in the beginning, we're all human and have to overcome our emotional side, but in sparring you have to stay calm, centered and aware of your surroundings while being on the defensive.

EXHIBIT A

Sparring and knife work is something we focus on so that if you are attacked, you can take your attacker down without seriously hurting them or hurting them at all. Aikido is a great example of this. Although any of them COULD defend themselves by harming an attacker, for the hundreds of times I've probably sparred with them, I've never been hurt. Did they stop my attack? Yes. Did they incapacitate me? Yes. Did I sometimes get bruises. Definitely. But that was me going all in and being an aggressive attacker to simulate real life. I worked that way with Jesse for years, I gave zero slack to Bethany even though she was super young at time I met her and the same with Eric. That was a long way to say, that I know their character. You cannot spend that much time, closely working with people and not know their values and if they live them out. I believe Jesse and Bethany and Eric (most likely Carter as well) have some of the highest ethics and principles of any human on the planet and have not a mean bone in their body in WANTING to do harm to anyone. Do we believe in self-defense? Absolutely, we should defend ourselves and our families. Do we intentionally harm people or want to do harm? No, that is not part of our principles. We want to spread the love and hope of Christ and be able to speak freely about him.

I am blessed to know Jesse, Bethany and Eric and always look forward to when we get to work out or fellowship together. They are like an extended family to me and have welcomed me and my girls into their homes for worship, meals, etc. I hope I have helped you in understanding that these wonderful people could not possibly be dangerous, because their hearts simply won't allow it; nor would their values.

Sincerely,



Cher Beal

[cherbeal@gmail.com](mailto:cherbeal@gmail.com)

828-312-6470

Maiden, NC


01/20/2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Reagan Lineberger and I'm 17 years old. I have known Eric Trent and Jesse and Bethany Boyd for over 2 years. I'm a server at a local restaurant in my town in North Carolina.

I met the group when I started martial arts at Jesse Boyd's dojo. I worked with them for over a year until I left the dojo to focus on school. They are an amazing group of people and have helped many overcome the unimaginable. I still use the lessons that they taught me in my life now. They are anything but violent or dangerous. They inspire me with all of the amazing missionary work and kindness they have spread throughout the world and everyday during their long walk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reagan Lineberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Reagan Lineberger

01/19/2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Bailey Lineberger. I have known Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, and Bethany Boyd. I am a small business photographer and nanny in my hometown in North Carolina. I joined Jesse's Martial arts class in 2019. I trained with them for over a year, until I left the Dojo to focus on school. They all show their faith and go around the world to spread the gospel of God. They are not felons. They all live by a code of ethics. They believe in protecting themselves and their family. This group shows so much courage despite all of the times they have been turned away because of their outspoken religion. I still use all the lessons they taught me in martial arts. This group is anything but dangerous. They inspire thousands and thousands with their missionary work and their testimonies. I pray they get to continue the long walk and spread the word of God to the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bailey Lineberger".

Bailey Lineberger.

baileylineberger@gmail.com

EXHIBIT A



Dear Judge,

My name is Dan Pattison and I am from Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada, and I am a self-employed finish carpenter.

My wife Laura and I had the privilege of hosting Jesse Boyd, Eric Trent, and Bethany Boyd in our home in February and April of 2019 for several days before and after their missions trip to Israel. We did not meet them in person before this visit; we had only spoken by email and by phone. We were encouraged with their passionate desire to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jewish people and had no doubt after many conversations that it would be a joy to have them stay with us and our 2 daughters in our home.

We had an excellent visit and even though we had not met in person before, we felt very comfortable having them stay in our home. They demonstrated themselves to be excellent guests and we have continued to maintain our friendship with them ever since. We are very much looking forward to having them stay with us again some day. We have financially supported their ministry since before meeting them in person and have continued to do so regularly as we believe it is a vitally important ministry.

We do not believe that they are capable of committing the crimes of which they have been accused. We can attest to their character and conduct as being in keeping with followers of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Sincerely,

Dan and Laura Pattison

January 20th, 2023

Eric Wade Gilbert Jr  
307A 3rd St Sw  
Hildebran, NC, 28637

Dear Judge:

I have known Jesse Boyd, Carter Phillips, Eric Trent, and Bethany Boyd for over two and a half years. They are all exemplary followers of Jesus as well as law abiding citizens. These are true friends and family in Christ. I met Jesse Boyd and Eric Trent out at a community event where they were sharing the gospel and spreading a message of hope in love to the public around them. It was there when our friendship began in 2020. I attend weekly church services with them and their immediate families followed by sharing a fellowship meal on Sundays. These families have the most respectful, virtuous, and upright of children. You would be hard pressed to find anyone that would disagree on that. That can be attributed to their good parenting. These are family men of good morals. I've been to Jesse's house to celebrate his daughter, Bethany's graduation. Bethany is so mature, modest, and intelligent for a girl her age. Jesse's family were very hospitable and made my wife and I both feel very welcomed and at home when we visited. Jesse's son, Josiah, was even a volunteer usher on our wedding day and was happy to assist us. Jesse loves the Lord, he loves his family, he loves this country, and he is a man of honor/integrity. He even made sure to ask many people to help keep him accountable with completing the journey across America. He has been walking the highways and byways to call this country to repentance and faith since 2021. Eric was kind enough to join him and walk alongside him for support on the mission. Eric Trent is a disciplined, humble man who would give you the shirt off his back. He offered to let me drive his car if needed whenever my wife and I had to share a vehicle after mine was stolen last year. Carter is a self sacrificial young man who has been courting Bethany for some time and has recently just asked Bethany to marry him. Carter was planning to propose to Bethany while out on the road somewhere that evening the incident happened in Montana. They are now officially engaged after they both tragically went to jail and got released. These are all kind, caring, and dear loved ones.

In light of the terrible injustice that has been inflicted upon these God fearing Christians, I plead with you to consider lowering their bail and having their ankle monitors removed. They have been arrested and are being charged with crimes they never committed. The charges are all adding up and getting very expensive too. The ankle monitors serve no significant purpose to the situation whatsoever. What ever happened until innocent until proven guilty? They are being treated like the worst of criminals for doing nothing more than defending themselves from a raging aggressor who hated what they were doing. Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter are victims of a hate crime. They did practice what they preach; that being mercy, forgiveness, patience, and love to others that don't deserve it. For our God has shown us great mercy that we don't deserve for our sins against Him. They love Jesus and wish for bring praise and glory to His name, not reproach. They wouldn't do anything to misrepresent our Lord and Savior. These highly trained martial artists could have easily seriously harmed this man, but they had much

EXHIBIT A

restraint and did all they could to try and deescalate the situation. But the aggressor was simply irate and looking for a fight. They would never harm anyone without being endangered for their lives. The man who attack them is the criminal. We have the right in this country to protect ourselves and our loved ones if and when someone makes threats followed by physical attacks. These missionaries have traveled to dozens of countries, walked thousands of miles on this missionary journey across America, and have had thousands of encounters all over the place. Nothing of this caliber of an incident has ever occurred preceding Brad Terrell in Montana. They take the missionary work they do seriously and have no motive, reason, or interest to pick a fight with a stranger out in the middle of the freezing cold far away from home. To call this entire fiasco ridiculous is an understatement. I pray that you please consider the stress, suffering, and unrighteous burdens it has put on not only them, but their loved ones during these already hard times we're in as a nation. I know they have even forgiven Brad and want nothing more than for justice and the truth to prevail. Jesse and Eric both have wives and children who are scared and worried for their husbands/fathers. God has placed you in the very place of authority you are in to help punish evil and stick up for the innocent. Do what is right by your conscious before God. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Eric Wade Gilbert Jr.

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Daunte Murray. I am from Monument, Colorado, and I am currently a student at Three Rivers Junior College in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. I have known Carter Phillips for a little over two years now. I have also met Bethany Boyd, Jesse Boyd, and Eric Trent on a couple of occasions.

Throughout the time that I have known Carter, he has been an adventurous soul, faithfully serving the Lord in all that he does. He was a member of the staff at Anchor Boys Academy for a few years, and he even checked me into the program. During my stay there, Carter and I became instant friends, as he was a good source of Godly information. The Boyds and Eric all came to Anchor for a few evenings and Jesse spoke of their ministry in church and preached an evening chapel service. Of all the time I have known them, not a one of these folks has had an evil bone or intention in their body. Their mission is to serve the Lord whatever way He calls them to.

Sincerely,

Daunte Murray  
Monument, CO

January 20, 2023

Your Honor,

My name is Philip Demas and I am a friend of Mr. Jesse Boyd. I am a Captain at the Hickory Police Department in North Carolina and have been a law enforcement officer for 23 years. I have known Jesse for almost 15 years and I can honestly say he is one of the finest men I know. He is a preacher and has a strong belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. He has been called by the Lord to share the gospel with people while walking across America. I'm sure you can appreciate a man following the Lord's calling. Jesse is very well known in our community and to my knowledge has never committed a crime. I have been told the facts of the case and can assure you Jesse was only defending himself and his family. If you would like to speak with me about Jesse, please call me at (828) 638-1512.

Thank you for your time and reading this letter.

Captain Philip Demas, Hickory PD  
2615 Kettle Creek Court  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Kaitlin Rosenberg, I am a mother of 3, a wife, and a small business owner. I know Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, and Eric Trent from time they spent in our home. We invited them in as strangers and had the pleasure of spending a few days with them along one of their missionary journeys in March of 2019 and another few days a month or so later.

They were extremely kind and thankful for our hospitality and were able to share their ministry with our church. Bethany even helped my oldest son with his school work, as they were both homeschooled at the time. I have since kept up with them through social media and understand them to be honest and compassionate individuals. Eric and Jesse are both devoted and loving husbands and fathers, and their love for people around the world is remarkable and demonstrated in how they have lived their lives.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Rosenberg  
142 Holden Road  
Chittenden, VT 05737

To The Honorable Concerned,

I write today to provide a personal witness of character of Jesse and Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips.

My name is Grant Trivette, a close friend of these four individuals for the past three years. Occupationally I manage the Business Intelligence & Analytics team for Merchants Distributors Inc., one of the largest private wholesale grocers in the southeastern United States. I served my country with distinction in the 82nd Airborne Infantry, earning a combat infantryman's badge in Sadr City, Iraq between 2008-2009.

I attest that Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter are without doubt, honest, benevolent ambassadors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need of it. They are not only law-abiding Americans, but also have travelled to multiple continents as missionaries for extended periods of time respecting local laws, norms, and traditions to peaceably build rapport with all manner of persons.

Throughout their current walk across America, I was fortunate to join them one day through central North Carolina and witness firsthand the clear love and meekness in their ministry work. With every encounter they were kind and peaceable in conversation. They are characteristically considerate; avoiding or defusing hostility comes natural to them because we often must do so in today's outraged society.

Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter embody the lovingkindness, devotion to duty and honor that could transform this world. It is my prayer as their friend and their witness that nothing hinders their ministry.

Please note my contact information below, I am willing to correspond directly with you, at will. Thank you for your time in reading this note.

Yours faithfully,

*Grant Trivette*

Grant Trivette

151 Edgewater Ct.

Mocksville, NC 27028

(336) 462-2399

trivette.grant@yahoo.com

EXHIBIT A



January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am writing on behalf of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips. Though I have not personally met the Jesse Boyd family, I have been following his ministry and mission efforts throughout the U.S., as well as abroad for several years. Every testimony from trusted brothers have testified of his impeccable character.

Regarding Carter Phillips, I have known his family for many years, and have spent time in their home, as well as having preached in his church.

To my knowledge, all of these men and women are peaceable, mature, and kind to those that they encounter in the proclamation of the gospel. As one who has personally shared the gospel in various hostile situations, I can testify that the gospel will often provoke various responses, some of which can be hostile. During these tense situations, it is imperative that the evangelist maintain his/her composure and show much restraint, as to not tarnish the witness of their Lord, Jesus Christ.

From my knowledge of Jesse, this is exactly how he handles such confrontations. I would encourage you to consider the testimony of those who have written to you regarding Jesse and his family, and fellow evangelists, and to take such facts into consideration.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider these facts regarding Jesse, Bethany, Eric, and Carter.

Dr. Don A. Simmons, Jr.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am Betty Chang from Hermosa Beach, California. Currently, I am retired from The Hartford as an IT professional.

I met Jesse Boyd and his family and friends, including Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent, in early June 2021 on a road trip to visit my kids. I was traveling with my partner Jon Wiedenman who wanted to stop in North Carolina so that he could introduce me to some of his martial arts friends. Jesse, Eric, and Bethany are all students of Chang Moo Kwan, and Mr. Wiedenman has been a mentor and teacher to them.

We all spent 2-3 days together in Hickory, NC.

I can attest that the whole Boyd Family, Jesse's parents, brother, kids all are very courteous, very humble and diligently serving God. Jesse is a genuinely good person. He loves people and is trying to help people. The same can be said for Eric Trent and his family.

Please consider my honest support for Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, and Eric Trent.

Thank you,

Betty Chang  
2411 Prospect Ave. Unit 226  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

January 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Michael Arney, and I own and operate American Hardware in Hickory, North Carolina. I have known Jesse, Bethany, and Eric in martial arts for 8 years and have been doing martial arts myself for over 30 years. During this time, I have taught students and completed seminars for the US Army, NC State Highway Patrol, women's self defense, along with a regular class schedule.

I teach a pre-WWII version of Tomiki Aikido, a self defense art that uses an attacker's own attack and momentum against himself. This style was developed for combat and is for controlling, maiming, or killing. I stress and teach in class that during any type of confrontation, a student should use restraint and only go to the level necessary to control and end the situation. Ideally, at the conclusion of the situation, nobody has suffered any permanent injuries.

Jesse, Bethany, and Eric are all MY AIKIDO STUDENTS and are very capable of defending themselves to the extent necessary to stop a confrontation. They would NEVER start a fight but have been taught to end one quickly and with as much restraint as is possible. Instead of a bloody nose, the assailant in Madison County could have very easily ended up with broken limbs, or even dead, if my students had not shown restraint and compassion the way they were taught. As their teacher, I am very proud of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, and Eric Trent for how they handled themselves in this situation in Montana. I have and will continue to teach my students, both teenagers and adults, to emulate their example.

Self-defense is not a crime, neither is acting to protect another from attack. These are great virtues that should be applauded instead of prosecuted.

Sincerely,

Michael Arney, President  
Indigenous Tomiki Aikido Association  
Hickory, NC

EXHIBIT A

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is David Grantham, and I am a surgeon in Pinehurst, NC. I have personally known Jesse Boyd for over 30 years. We were classmates together in high school in Hickory, NC. Even then, Jesse was of high moral character. He comes from a wonderful family. His father and mine were acquaintances as well. Following graduation from Fred T. Foard High School, we parted ways only to reconnect on social media some 25 years later. I learned of his travels spreading the word of God all over the world and began to really admire his work. It takes a special person to so devote himself to the salvation of others that he would walk across America, often leaving his wife and younger children at home, asking strangers to seek Christ.

As a physician, I have the privilege to help patients with their physical health. But Jesse has devoted his life to helping people all over the world with their spiritual health. His input allows them an opportunity to realize the potential of spending eternity in Heaven with God, but I can only address one's medical condition. Thus, despite my personal accomplishments, I am in awe of Jesse and humbled to call him a friend.

When he began the long walk across America, I contacted him to offer my home for him, Eric, and Bethany. They spent two nights at my house with my wife and daughters home as well. The second night I was away on an educational trip and never had a concern with them being in my house with my family.

Clearly I was not present on that day in November, but knowing Jesse as I do, I have zero doubt regarding his innocence. Common sense dictates his inability to behave as accused. These people are not gypsies, homeless, or crazy as some have claimed. To know them reveals them to be kind-hearted, caring, and honest. I trust you will come to a similar conclusion upon the opportunity to objectively assess them.

Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David Grantham, MD

Pinehurst Surgical Clinic  
5 First Village Drive  
Pinehurst, NC 28374  
[www.pinehurstsurgical.com](http://www.pinehurstsurgical.com)  
[dgrantham@pinehurstsurgical.com](mailto:dgrantham@pinehurstsurgical.com)  
(910) 235-2716

EXHIBIT A

# MARYBETH RANSDALL

1933 Stone Bridge Lane, Marietta GA 30064 | 804-307-6008 | [marybeth.ransdell@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.ransdell@gmail.com)

January 19, 2023

**RE: Upcoming Hearing; Cause No(s) DC-29-2022 (22-24 & 26)**

**Dear Judge:**

I'm writing, with deepest respect, to encourage awareness and reasonable justice regarding a case reaching much recent attention in Madison County.

Since the mid-1990's, I have known Jesse Boyd and his family through our local community in Western North Carolina, through mutual friends/neighbors and as an active church member. From his youth onward, Jesse has been seen as a natural leader having a passion for people, a purpose for sharing positive messages of faith and an innate talent for connecting with others from all walks of life. Selfless, hopeful and future focused on making the world a better place – that is Jesse Boyd.

While the series of events leading to this upcoming hearing are most unfortunate for all involved, my sincere hope is that you evaluate the facts (including the character references of hundreds of individuals that know Jesse, his honorable track record) and see that the charges are unfounded and unnecessary. Ideally, you would support the motion to dismiss so that Jesse and his missions partners may return to the field, ministering to many who need it.

Understanding the seriousness of this case and the criticality of the position you are in, please know many are praying for you personally, and for your steadfastness, strength and clarity.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Respectfully,

*Marybeth Ransdell*

Marybeth Ransdell

EXHIBIT A

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am Jeff Musgrave. I am from Minot, ND, and currently serve as a pastor and a staff member for the Dakota Baptist Convention. I have known Jesse since May 24, 2009. He was making his way across America by bicycle proclaiming the Gospel. They visited our church that morning and some of our church members invited them to lunch at their home. We invited them to stay in our home for the next two days since the weather was not good for travel, especially on a bicycle. Our family was greatly blessed by their company. Jesse and I talked about many things and even in areas where we disagreed, he was always respectful and engaging.

My experience with Jesse in person led me to commend him to others we knew further west who could host him on the journey. Each of those people reported back to me what a blessing he was as he passed through. I have continued to receive his newsletter and pray for his ministry for over ten years now. In all that time, I have seen his character through his work and his writing. Jesse is a man I would trust to watch my own family without a moment's hesitation.

I respectfully wish to appeal to you to take into account this personal testimony of his character. I know Jesse to be a man of honor and integrity.

Sincerely,

Jeff Musgrave  
Church Relations Missionary  
Dakota Baptist Convention  
701-818-8801  
[jeff@dakotabaptist.com](mailto:jeff@dakotabaptist.com)

January 20, 2023

Dear Judge,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a character reference for Carter Philips.

I have known Carter for about three years. I am the director of a program in Missouri for at-risk youth. Carter became an employee of the program in the early spring of 2020. He has a very warm and friendly personality. Carter rarely meets a stranger, and enjoys connecting with people. He has always been good at diffusing situations and treating others with fairness and kindness.

I find the accusations levied against Carter Philips to be very inconsistent and out of line with his character and general demeanor.

Submitted by:  
Dennis McElwrath  
Program Director  
Harvest Foundation, Inc  
Vanduser, MO  
573-475-0988



January 21, 2023

Dear Judge:

Greetings. This is Dale Parkes from southern California. I am a truck driver by trade, no longer able to work due to serious medical issues.

I have known Jesse Boyd for almost a decade, having met him sometime in 2013 at the Free Speech Area on the grounds of California State University, Long Beach and together we preached the Gospel (First Corinthians 15:1-4) to those students and bystanders who would listen. Jesse Boyd takes the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) very seriously, and I follow him on Social Media in the hope he will one day return to my area so I could join him in preaching the Good News that Jesus Christ came to save His People from their sins.

I learned that Jesse Boyd and others in his party, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent and Carter Phillips were involved in a physical altercation with Brad Terrell who resides in Madison County, Montana.

Jesse Boyd along with those in his party were on a Coast to Coast walk across America that originated on the East Coast at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina with a goal of reaching the West Coast at a location yet to be determined on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

On the 12th of November 2022, Jesse Boyd was walking along US Highway 287 in Madison County along with some in his party and others in his party were accompanying him in a support vehicle when Brad Terrell drove up to the party in his vehicle. He initiated a confrontation and then got out of his vehicle. Mr. Terrell is clearly the aggressor as his act of exiting his vehicle initiated the altercation. Had Brad Terrell simply continued on his way, none of this would have happened.

The fact that criminal charges have been laid against Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent and Carter Phillips instead of Brad Terrell is a monstrous outrage and a grave miscarriage of justice. The Boyd party has already suffered considerably as the legal process they have already been through is punishment, whether that is intended that way or not. Brad Terrell should be the one on the docket facing charges.

Judge, due to the foregoing, as well as information in the Motion to Dismiss filed by the four missionaries' defense attorneys, I implore you to dismiss charges against Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent and Carter Phillips forthwith.

Yours very truly,

Dale Parkes  
Coronado, California

EXHIBIT A

January 21, 2023

Dear Judge,

I am writing to you on the behalf of my friend and co-laborer in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Jesse Boyd.

I have known Jesse for more than 20 years. In these 20 plus years, I have been honored and blessed to worship with him, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him on the streets of America sharing the Gospel, and to simply grab with him a cup of coffee. I have witnessed him time and time again in these times to be a man of great faith and boldness for the sake of the Gospel. I have also in those times of Gospel witness seen him be a man of great restraint and compassion for those who so desperately need to hear the saving message of the Gospel. I know him to be a man of great sacrifice, who spends time away from his family so others can hear this message. What I hear him being accused of just simply does not in anyway represent the man I know. He would not and could not do what he has been accused, his love for his God would not allow him to do so.

So, I would ask that you drop these ridiculous charges that have been made against Jesse Boyd and also those with him, Bethany Boyd, Eric Trent, and Carter Phillips.

If you desire to contact me for any further information on the character and my personal knowledge of Jesse Boyd, please reach out:

[kentb7684@gmail.com](mailto:kentb7684@gmail.com)

Thank you for your consideration,

Kent Blalock  
Conover, NC

EXHIBIT A

Ben Carothers  
329 Sydney Dr S  
Prattville, AL 36066  
January 20, 2023

Dear Judge:

My name is Ben Carothers, and I work in the Pulp & Paper industry in Alabama. I have known Jesse Boyd for over 35 years. We lived in the same city growing up and attended the same church.

Through conversations and personal communication, I have learned that Jesse, two of his children and two partners in the ministry were arrested while on a missionary journey in Montana. I am writing on Jesse's behalf as a personal witness to his character. Ever since Jesse graduated from his studies, he has been involved in traveling all over the world sharing and demonstrating the love of Jesus with others. He has engaged thousands of individuals in conversation and I have not been made aware of an account of Jesse demonstrating aggressive behaviors toward others. The charges appear inconsistent with a long standing pattern of tolerance to differing opinions.

Jesse has stayed in our home while traveling across the country. He displays a character of honesty, patience and integrity. Please consider my personal perspective as you thoughtfully engage in the details of this case.

Respectfully,  
Ben Carothers



January 21, 2023

Dear Judge,

My name is Mark Metzger and I run a financial advisory firm near Charlotte, NC. I have known Jesse Boyd since college, more than 26 years ago. We have attended each other's weddings and I have been closely acquainted with their whole family ever since. Jesse has even taken my 20-year-old daughter on a mission trip halfway around the world to India and that takes a lot of trust. I have known Bethany Boyd since she was a baby. I have also known Eric Trent since 2015 as well.

Everything I have witnessed regarding their character is admirable. They love their families well, love our country and have a deep and abiding respect for its laws. They love Jesus and long for others to know the peace and joy that comes from a relationship with their creator. Jesse, in particular, is not a person capable of violence without extreme provocation. He is a father, like me, who will defend his family only when he is very threatened. Please consider that the parties to this case are good people of good, noble character and that there are many others like me who love and trust them.

Sincerely,



Mark Metzger

Lisa Metzger  
20392 Old Sandbar Rd  
Oakboro, NC 28139  
[Carolnametzgers@gmail.com](mailto:Carolnametzgers@gmail.com)  
January 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Lisa Metzger, homeschool mom and small business owner from North Carolina.

I am a long time friend of Jesse Boyd, Bethany Boyd and Eric Trent. I have been a friend of Jesse Boyd since we met in college in 1997. I have known his daughter, Bethany, since she was a baby. And I have known Eric Trent since 2015, when he and my daughter went on a 3-month mission trip to India.

All three of them are close friends of our family. Jesse is a strong Christian family man and a bold minister, who loves and serves Jesus. Eric is a gentle soul, who loves his family and serves others whenever the opportunity arises. Bethany is a quiet young woman, whom we have enjoyed watching grow up and trek across the world, doing mission work with her family.

Anyone who knows these individuals knows that they are incapable of doing harm to anyone, except to defend themselves and others, and their track record throughout their ministry ventures proves that to be true. I ask that you look at the evidence and rule in the way that God would honor, despite any political pressure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Metzger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent than the last name "Metzger".

Lisa Metzger

EXHIBIT A

January 21, 2023

Dear Judge,

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of the Boyds and FPGM. I have been connected with their family and ministry for over 15 years. My family has hosted them in our home multiple times and we financially supported their ministry work for years.

I am a salesman for a company called iDonate which is located in Dallas TX. My family resides in Lancaster PA. I have served along side of Jesse and his daughter Bethany and have been part of preaching the Gospel with them.

I'm happy to assist you as a character witness. They are above reproach.

Peace,

Al Palmateer  
Lancaster, PA

EXHIBIT A

January 21, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Christa Medeiros and I am a registered nurse in CA, and also an avid hiker. I met Jesse, his wife Jaime, and Bethany while hiking in Sequoia National Park a few years ago. We started chatting at the top of Little Baldy, and that was the beginning of a continued friendly correspondence and my prayerful and sometimes financial support of their ministry.

Now, as it happens, I had been hanging out at the top prior to their arrival, reading my Bible and spending some quiet time with the Lord. I was getting ready to head down when I met Jesse. He would not have known I was a Christian. His friendly greeting and conversation quickly established a comfortable atmosphere. I don't remember the details of how he brought it up, but within a few minutes, he did steer the conversation toward faith, and the Gospel. All I remember is that it was done in a manner that seemed natural to him, was not condescending, not threatening, not in a "holier than thou" manner- it appeared to be based out of love and genuine care, and left me wishing and praying for that kind of courage to share the Gospel myself! My point is, that Jesse conducted himself as a missionary and preacher, a man and a stranger, in a way that any reasonable person would in no way be triggered to anger or violence by, or feel threatened by.

In the years since, I have followed Jesse and family on Facebook, communicated through emails, kept in touch with occasional mail. I know in my heart that he would not get physical with someone unless he was pushed to defend himself, one he loves, or any innocent bystander. Jesse is a truth seeker, an honest man, and a man of integrity.

Thank you for your time,

Christa Medeiros, RN  
Reedley, CA

EXHIBIT A

Saturday, January 31, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dan Peterman and I am a Christian, family man, and business owner from Idaho. I am writing this in regard to the incident in Madison County involving Jesse Boyd as well as his son, Josiah and daughter, Bethany and traveling companions, Carter Phillips and Eric Trent, all missionaries bringing the blazing truth of Christ our Lord to the lost and hurting across America.

It has come to my attention that there was an altercation where an individual named Brad Terrell accosted Jesse and gave him no end of grief on the side of the road just for the fact he was carrying a cross, going so far as to physically injure Jesse. This man Terrell even threatened the groups' lives, telling Jesse that there were guns trained on him and crew. We all know it was the message Jesse is carrying that incited this wicked man to violence against him and not Terrell's lie of being "parked in the way". Why?

The reason is that people are offended by the message of the cross when they are living their lives in rejection of their Creator. This is exactly what we have seen with this trad-con rhino who clearly has no respect for his fellow man. The fact that the local MCPD throws in with Bradley Terrell is disturbing at best.

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE? Where is the mercy? Where is the discernment the responding officers should have shown for this little missionary band on the side of the road?

It is very apparent to all of the thousands in America and around the world now that this criminal Bradley Terrell caused a very violent altercation and instigated the entire event all the while clearly covered for by a very corrupt department. When Jesse went to defend himself the fight went to the ground. At that point, Jesse's daughter and friend attempted to restrain the offender. For all of this, the officers onsite arrested Jesse Boyd and company with no care for the facts. I am disgusted and appalled by the actions of the police on scene, as well as the entire MCPD. Words fail me as to the sheer neglect of duty and oath shown by all authorities.

Jesse Boyd is my friend and brother in Christ whom I have had the privilege of knowing for some 13 years. He is an outstanding individual who loves Jesus, his family, and his country. He also has a huge heart for those outside of Christ and for that matter those outside of America. He has sacrificed his entire adult life for the cause of the Gospel. He is a career evangelist, missionary, and street preacher who has affected countless lives, my own included. His encouragement and support gave me great courage to continue witnessing the love of Jesus in my own town. I have personally seen his immense skill with rightly dividing the truth in love to reach others. In one instance when we were handing out tracts and engaging people with the truth of God's word we were approached by a very angry man. The man had been screaming epithets at us from a balcony, then walked down to us still screaming and acting as if to fight. Jesse Boyd practiced de-escalation like the champ that he is and had the individual carrying on a polite conversation before we were done. Jesse is well trained in martial arts and I can assure you

EXHIBIT A



that he pulled punches with Bradley Terrell, attempting instead to reach a peaceful resolution with the angry ne'er-do-well. Anyone who knows Jesse Boyd knows full well that the man cares far more about reaching people with the Gospel rather than entering into violence and he always takes the path of peace in as much as it is up to him. Jesse Boyd is a missionary in the truest sense who speaks several languages and has traveled the world taking the beautiful message of the cross to anyone who would listen. He spent many years in Nepal and translated some of the Bible into Nepalese really for the first time, since they had a corrupted version given them by Rome. He loves Jesus and has a driving passion to tell others of the forgiveness he has received, traveling more than once across America by foot and by bicycle to reach as many as possible. He has always and will forever have an open door policy at my house, where he is free to use it as his own rain or shine.

In closing, what is taking place in Madison County is by God's design. Though the enemy has moved to harm the children of God, the Lord will use it for good, of that I can assure you. The man who attacked Jesse and company and the officers involved in the arrest will all be found out for the corruption that obviously consumes them, for what is done in the dark is always brought to the light. One suggestion would be to get Internal Affairs at work now, for who knows just how bad it has already gotten. What we have seen with this particular incident is that there is much that needs exposed in Madison County, and there are now thousands of real Christians praying for Jesse and his family, and for the exposure of the works of darkness there. We are praying and will continue to pray for justice to be served to all involved. It would likely be much more comfortable for you at this point to agree with the Motion to Dismiss, a scathing document to be sure. Nevertheless, if you choose to proceed in this unjust prosecution of these innocent people, I am confident that we will see a mighty work of the Lord take place in Madison County.

Sincerely,  
Dan Peterman  
Reformation Tile & Stone  
Meridian, ID  
208-866-3962

January 21, 2023

Dear Judge:

I am Marilyn Hall, a retired elementary school principal, from Archdale, NC. My late husband, Terry, was on the Full Proof Gospel Ministries Board of Directors for many years. He was a friend and mentor to Jesse and believed strongly in presenting the Gospel wherever possible. He supported the ministry's walk across the USA, and we were honored to be in a location where the team walked, and enjoyed having them stay overnight with us during their journey.

Having known Jesse and his team, we know without a doubt that neither one of his team nor Jesse would resort, or has ever resorted, to violence at any time during many years of service in the ministry.

I humbly ask you to dismiss all charges against him and each member of his team. If you search for and find the truth, you will realize their innocence. If you spend any time with them, you also will know they are innocent.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Hall  
Archdale, NC



Airbnb your home



# Hi, I'm Jesse



[Update photo](#)

★ 52 reviews

Get to know Jesse better through reviews. Reviews can only be left by past guests or hosts.



[Check out reviews](#)

✓ Identity verified

Jesse confirmed

## About

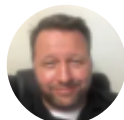
Multilingual Preacher, Martial Arts Instructor, Web Designer, and Peak Bagger from North Carolina who loves the LORD, his Bible, his wife & kids, and traveling anywhere and everywhere. (50+ countries, 1300+ summits, 3 times across the United States on a bicycle, currently walking across the USA with his teenage daughter). [read less](#)

🏠 Lives in Vale, NC

★ 52 reviews

October 2022

Jesse and his party were great guests! They followed all house rules and were very respectful. We were grateful for their visit. We hope they can visit again in the future.



**Ted, Salt Lake City, UT**

Joined in 2017

October 2022

Jesse was a great guest. He was easy to communicate with and left the apartment in excellent condition. We would be

EXHIBIT A

- ✓ Identity
- ✓ Email address
- ✓ Phone number
- ✓ Work email

[Learn more](#) about how confirming account info helps keep the Airbnb community secure.

happy to host him again.



**Megan, Billings, MT**

Joined in 2018

October 2022

we enjoyed getting to know these folks. They were very respectful and everything was left in perfect shape..thanks!



**Marcus, Otto, WY**

Joined in 2019

October 2022

Jesse and his group were wonderful guests to have. He communicated his plans clearly and they were very respectful of the space and clean. Would have them back anytime.



**Brandie, Worland, WY**

Joined in 2018

September 2022

Jesse was a great guest. Easy to communicate with and accommodate. Very kind and clean. We would welcome him back anytime!



**Tyler, Cheyenne, WY**

Joined in 2016

September 2022

Jesse's group was five-star guests, all around. Communication was a breeze and they went out of their way to leave the house looking spectacular.

**EXHIBIT A**



**Ashley, Belle Fourche, SD**

Joined in 2017

September 2022

Jesse was a fantastic guest. Exactly what an owner or host would hope to have. He is traveling across the country with his daughter and a buddy on an amazing mission. Be sure you have time to talk with him! Great guy, respectful, loves the Lord and our wonderful country! [read less](#)



**Kevin, Custer, SD**

Joined in 2020

August 2022

Awesome guests. Left the house spotless. Always welcome back!



**Donald**

Joined in 2019

June 2022

We had a really nice experience hosting Jesse. From the beginning, the communication with him was pleasant and smooth. When they arrived, they proved to be really excellent guests. We are grateful for their visit and hope that they will come back in the future. Thanks! [read less](#)



**Carrie**

Joined in 2022

June 2022

Jesse was a great guest. Great communication and left the place very clean. Would welcome him back any time!

**EXHIBIT A**



**Kris, Gordon, NE**

Joined in 2018

June 2022

Jesse & his guests were “the best” They were very good about communicating. They were so kind, considerate grateful. They left everything tidy.

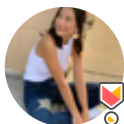


**Kathy, Atkinson, NE**

Joined in 2020

June 2022

I really enjoyed hosting Jesse & co. On their Walk Across America. They were my pleasure to host! They were very tidy, friendly, communicative and treated my place like their own!

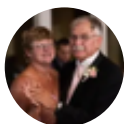


**Catey, Saint Paul, NE**

Joined in 2016

May 2022

Jesse was an excellent guest. They never made any damage's to the property. They were very friendly and wonderful to talk to. They completely cleaned the BNB. I would enjoy having them back again.



**Pamela, Longford, KS**

Joined in 2020

May 2022

5 stars for Jesse's group. They were great guest for THE BUNKER. I really enjoyed hosting them and learning about their mission in their Walk across America. What an adventure. Highly recommended.

EXHIBIT A



**Paul**

Joined in 2021

May 2022

Nice guest. Left the house in good order.



**Cynthia, Arkansas City, KS**

Joined in 2018

March 2022

Jesse and his group were great! Such nice people, that are serving the lord. They took great care of our farm apartment and had great communication. Jesse msg me everyday to let us know their plans and how everything was going. We highly recommend them as guests and hope they come see us again. [read less](#)



**Stephanie, Alton, MO**

Joined in 2020

January 2022

Jesse has always been great to work with. We appreciate him choosing our home as hr makes his journey.



**Samuel, Houston, TX**

Joined in 2017

December 2021

It was such a great pleasure to Host Jesse and them on their journey. We would welcome them anytime.



**Samuel, Houston, TX**

Joined in 2017

**EXHIBIT A**

December 2021

Jesse and Crew were amazing guests, even through loss of power due to tornado. The journey they are on is inspiring!



**Traveler's Lantern, Trenton, KY**

Joined in 2016

November 2021

It was great hosting this group always welcome here,thank you. Mary



**Mary**

Joined in 2021

October 2021

Jesse was a thoughtful communicator and left the house clean and tidy. We would gladly welcome him back for another stay.

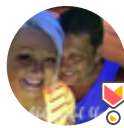


**Melinda, Ewing, KY**

Joined in 2018

October 2021

Wonderful guest Great friendly communications And very respectful



**April**

Joined in 2021

October 2021

Jesse was kind and humble, plus he and his family left our place in the best condition anyone has ever done for us before! I would host again anytime.

**EXHIBIT A**





**Paul, Welch, WV**

Joined in 2018

October 2021

Jesse and family were the best! Left the house very clean!  
Felt honored to host them!



**Anna**

Joined in 2018

September 2021

Great guests. Super clean up job. Would certainly host Jesse again



**Sherry, Spring Creek, NC**

Joined in 2019

August 2021

Jesse and his family were amazing! Super clean and even helped set up a new fridge that was delivered for the apartment!! Such nice, helpful and respectful folks. I hope that they choose us again when visiting our area. [read less](#)

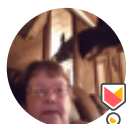


**Angela**

Joined in 2017

August 2021

such a pleasure having Jesse wonderful guest



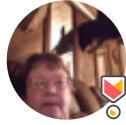
**Gale, Robbinsville, NC**

Joined in 2020

**EXHIBIT A**

August 2021

the house was left in great shape. very clean.



**Gale, Robbinsville, NC**

Joined in 2020

July 2021

Awesome guests! A pleasure to host! Left house clean and in order and followed the rules. We highly recommend them and welcome them back anytime!

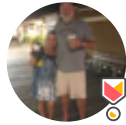


**Shelia, Galax, VA**

Joined in 2020

July 2021

Great guest. Went above and beyond with cleaning and we appreciate him doing so. Welcome back!



**Rob, North Augusta, SC**

Joined in 2015

November 2020

Jesse was a 5 star guest. He communicated his plans well, left our place tidy and followed the house rules. We will definitely host him back anytime.



**Alex & Raquel**

Joined in 2016

October 2020

Would love to have Jesse back at anytime.

**EXHIBIT A**



**Tarah, Aurora, UT**

Joined in 2019

October 2020

No problems!



**Nathaniel, Logan, UT**

Joined in 2019

October 2020

We were very blessed to have Jesse and family as guests. They are welcome back anytime.



**Rosa, Clearfield, UT**

Joined in 2018

October 2020

Nice group. Jesse is an excellent communicator. Left the house in great shape. Was quick to pick up items that were accidentally left. We would love to have them stay again!



**Jason And Stephanie, Saint Anthony, ID**

Joined in 2017

October 2020

Great Guest!



**Karim, Billings, MT**

Joined in 2016

April 2020

**EXHIBIT A**

Great guest



**Avery, Grand Junction, CO**

Joined in 2018

March 2020

Great guest!



**Emily, McKinleyville, CA**

Joined in 2014

March 2020

It was a pleasure hosting Jesse and his group. Easy going and respectful of house rules, Jesse was excellent communicating his arrival and other updates. The left the house in wonderful shape even offering to do extra cleaning before leaving. I would definitely recommend Jesse to other hosts. Welcome back anytime. [read less](#)



**Carolyn, Salt Lake City, UT**

Joined in 2014

March 2020

We would be happy to host Jesse again. He communicated with us and left everything clean and in good condition.



**Laura, Kutztown, PA**

Joined in 2016

January 2020

Excellent guest, very good communication and good use of the apartment. 100% recommended guests.

Translated from Spanish

[Translate](#) **EXHIBIT A**



**Mónica, Antioquia, Colombia**

Joined in 2013

January 2020

Jesse and his group were exemplary guests, they left the house in perfect condition and the communication was good! You are always welcome, I wish you a happy trip :)

 Translated from Spanish

[Translate](#)

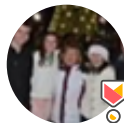


**Juan David**

Joined in 2016

November 2019

Jesse and his daughter and friends were wonderful guests. I am glad I got to meet them. They left the cottage very clean.



**Anne, Fairfax, VA**

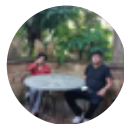
Joined in 2015

August 2019

Great group

 Translated from Spanish

[Translate](#)



**Edwin, Huaraz, Peru**

Joined in 2018

May 2019

Jesse and his group were great guests! Very respectful of the house and left the place looking neat and tidy! Awesome communication throughout their stay!

**EXHIBIT A**



**Leo, Teutopolis, IL**

Joined in 2018

November 2018

Great guest! Left home in clean condition. Highly recommend!



**Steven**

Joined in 2016

June 2018

Jesse and his family stayed 5 nights in 'La Violeta' . We experienced them as very friendly family, well educated. It was a pleasure to talk and enjoy some meals together. They left the house in mint condition. Wish them all the best and hope they will come back next time they visit Chile! Or Switzerland! [read less](#)



**Ninón & Lou, Bern, Switzerland**

Joined in 2011

May 2018

Very good communication and care of the property

 Translated from Spanish

[Translate](#)



**Vacasa Chile, Valparaíso, Chile**

Joined in 2015

May 2018

Jesse and his wife are really kind couple. we don't have any problem with them. They left the house clean and tidy.

**EXHIBIT A**



**Alex Mauricio, Puerto Montt, Chile**

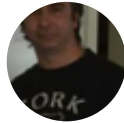
Joined in 2016

March 2018

A quiet and pleasant family, adjusted to the rules, clean and tidy. Very good communication at all times. Highly recommended.

 Translated from Spanish

[Translate](#)



**Sebastián, Puerto Varas, Chile**

Joined in 2016

September 2017

Jesse and Jamie are an absolutely lovely and engaging couple, pure joy to host. They left our home so nice and tidy, you wouldn't know they had been there if I hadn't checked them in myself. Their stay was brief, so we hope they come back so we can share more stories. [read less](#)



**Elise & Frank, Arroyo Grande, CA**

Joined in 2016

July 2017

A magnificent guest as well as all his companions. All respectful, tidy and very manageable. With great knowledge of the tourist areas of Huaraz and very excited to learn the local culture. They took good care of the apartment during their stay. I recommend it for any host.

[read less](#)

 Translated from Spanish

[Translate](#)



**David**

Joined in 2016

**EXHIBIT A**

---

[Reviews by you](#)

---

**Support**

[Help Center](#)

[AirCover](#)

[Supporting people  
with disabilities](#)

[Cancellation  
options](#)

[Our COVID-19  
Response](#)

[Report a  
neighborhood  
concern](#)

**Community**

[Airbnb.org:  
disaster relief  
housing](#)

[Combating  
discrimination](#)

**Hosting**

[Airbnb your home](#)

[AirCover for Hosts](#)

[Explore hosting  
resources](#)

[Visit our  
community forum](#)

[How to host  
responsibly](#)

**Airbnb**

[Newsroom](#)

[Learn about new  
features](#)


[Letter from our  
founders](#)

[Careers](#)

[Investors](#)

[Gift cards](#)

---

© 2023 Airbnb, Inc.  
[Terms](#) · [Sitemap](#) · [Privacy](#)  
[Your Privacy Choices](#) 

 [English \(US\)](#)   [\\$ USD](#)





## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Alexander Louis Roots, hereby certify that I have served true and accurate copies of the foregoing Answer/Brief - Reply Brief to the following on 01-23-2023:

David A. Buchler (Govt Attorney)  
P.O. Box 73  
100 W. Wallace Street  
Virginia City MT 59755  
Representing: State of Montana  
Service Method: eService

Thorin Aidan Geist (Govt Attorney)  
Montana Department of Justice  
Prosecution Services Bureau  
215 N. Sanders  
P.O. Box 201401  
Helena MT 59620  
Representing: State of Montana  
Service Method: eService

Electronically Signed By: Alexander Louis Roots  
Dated: 01-23-2023