**Sri Lanka Council of Reference**

50, Lower Moor,

Barnstaple EX32 8NW

August 2022

**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the past year, various rumours have been circulating regarding the conduct and character of Pastor Selvaraj Jeyakanth, the founder and Senior Pastor of Lanka Evangelical Fellowship of Churches, (LEFC). These have been freely shared across various churches in the UK and abroad. They have undermined the church planting, training, and compassionate work of LEFC. This is especially challenging in the current national crisis in Sri Lanka.

These serious allegations concerning Jeyakanth have been carefully investigated by a highly respected and longstanding Tamil Pastor, based in South India. The Council of Reference agrees with his conclusion that the allegations are baseless and slanderous.

Several members of the Council of Reference, and a Senior Pastor with over 30 years’ experience of working with LEFC in Sri Lanka, have travelled to Sri Lanka in 2022 to conduct further investigations. Again, they have concluded these allegations have no foundation. Many appear to us to have been fabricated by those with transparently ungodly agendas and have sown mistrust among former loyal supporters.

*Is it a surprise that these “investigations” always exonerate Jeyakanth? They are always carried out by men favourable to him, to whom he gives hospitality, to whom he gives tours of his work, and introduces to people who put his case forward. The pastors involved appear never to have read or understood 1 Tim 5:21 “I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.” On a recent “investigation” the pastor spent two weeks with Jeyakanth and managed to see the seven men who were making the complaints mentioned above for one hour, on a beach, in the dark and in the rain. On an earlier “investigation” a different pastor took Jeyakanth with him as his interpreter to meet the men making complaints. Jeyakanth brought with him one of his enforcers who previously had threatened these men with violence. I thought “reformed” meant we had a desire for the reformation of the church from wickedness, not with amazing naivety nurture it and make it a den of thieves. The longstanding Tamil pastor mentioned above is hardly an independent investigator, he has been employed over many years by Jeyakanth to act as an interpreter, and may also have been financially supported by members of the Council of Reference. It is not surprising the men who were making a complaint were unwilling to trust him and share their evidence with him.*

*There have been repeated calls by those making complaint for a fully independent investigation. This has always been refused by supporting churches, particularly the Metropolitan Tabernacle. Most probably if an independent investigation had been begun in 2007, much harm to the church, and the grievous sexual abuse of minors, would have been avoided.*

During 2021 the Council of Reference were informed by one key supporting church here in the UK that they had withdrawn their fellowship from Pastor Jeyakanth. They also furnished the Council of Reference with a comprehensive dossier explaining the reasons for their actions. Having prayerfully reviewed this dossier and made careful enquiry both here and in Sri Lanka, the Council of Reference are fully satisfied this step was misguided and unfair and has unnecessarily undermined the confidence of many in LEFC.

*I presume this refers to Amyand Park Chapel. Jeyakanth has been generously supported by this church for many years. Two of the elders Pastor Gerard Hemmings and Paul Fountain, are very familiar with the work in Sri Lanka. I am not privy to the details of the case in relation to disciplining Jeyakanth and excluding him from fellowship, but I am sure they have not taken such a step lightly and without good evidence. It may be unrelated to the case but Paul Fountain gave £33,600 to Jeyakanth in 2016 for the specific purpose of buying a particular piece of land. The land was not bought then, nor has been bought subsequently. Richard Clarke, a chartered accountant, and now chair of Care Sri Lanka cannot trace the money, nor say what it was used for.*

*David Kay is a director of Pastoral studies at Salisbury Reformed Seminary, perhaps he would like to tell us where “Councils of Reference” appear in the Bible, and where they are given authority to overrule the proper decisions of a properly constituted local church.*

We are aware that several Pastors and churches are being given a false narrative about Jeyakanth. We believe this is slanderous to the good work of LEFC and its reputation. We have compiled an extensive file of information to document these allegations and numerous interviews conducted with all involved. Jeyakanth and his family have been subject to multiple attacks from the Evil One over the years, but the Lord has continued to bless His servant and to use him greatly. This phase of antagonism has sadly been aided and abetted by those who should know better.

*This writer sat under Peter Masters at the LRBS in 1990-92, he and others can distinctly remember Peter Masters saying in relation to scandals that you are to “rat on the cad.” I and another from the same class (a highly respected Tamil pastor in Canada) have been patiently trying to do that since 2007, privately trying to persuade Peter Masters, the other elders at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and the members of the LEF council of reference. We did not realise if the cad was a protégé of Peter Masters we would not be heard.*

*This writer, after 20 years as a member at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, should surely know better that the Pastor’s word is to be believed without question, even if it contradicts all he has learnt as an investigator at the Serious Fraud Office for 18 years. If Dr Masters says, in 2007, there is nothing suspicious that many of the properties in Sri Lanka are registered under Jeyakanth’s family, then there is nothing suspicious. If Dr Masters says a £50,000 cash deposit for Jeyakanth’s house in Mitcham in 2010 is not suspicious, though Jeyakanth cannot give a reasonable explanation, and has subsequently changed his explanation, then it must not be suspicious. I should know better.*

*Personally I think the people of God in the UK and elsewhere should be warned of frauds perpetrated in the Lord’s name, not covered up and facilitated.*

It is our considered opinion that our dear brother has been unfairly maligned. We are willing to meet with and speak openly to any Pastors and churches who have previously supported the work of LEFC but been unsettled by these rumours. We continue to look to the Lord to keep and bless His churches in Sri Lanka in the current crises, knowing the Lord will vindicate His people and refine His work.

Yours faithfully

David Kay

UK Council of Reference for LEFC

Pastor David Kay (Chair - Barnstaple), Pastor Jonathan Northern (Baldock), Pastor Chris Buss, Chris Laws (Elder – Met. Tabernacle, Gary Donaldson (Elder - Hailsham), Pastor Oliver Wyncoll (Bedford)

*The glaring and very grievous omission from this update is the news that Maryiadis, and employee at the 6 Mile Post children’s home, was recently given an extra two years in prison for his conviction for rape of a child on the premises of the home. He was convicted with another in October 2019 and sentenced for 10 years. The other man convicted, George, a trusted employee of Jeyakanth, has died in prison. Maryiadis was represented at appeal by a firm of lawyers usually used by Jeyakanth. At the time of the original conviction Jeyakanth issued a strongly worded and very false reaction, berating the judge, suggesting the aunt of the victim was seeking money from him, and blaming others for the supposed wrongful conviction of these men.*

*When these allegations came to light I urged David Kay to investigate them, he said he and others on the Council of Reference were wholly confident in Jeyakanth and since I had not contacted him first, they would not investigate them. To my knowledge none of Jeyakanth’s supporters have ever independently investigated this very serious matter. Thankfully in answer to much prayer a Hindu (and much respected) judge in Sri Lanka has done so and judged the suspects to be guilty.*

*The copy of this statement from the Council of Reference that this writer has seen was sent by email at 16:00 on 2nd August 2022. The same day (2nd Aug 2022) the Court of Appeal in Sri Lanka delivered its verdict in the case relating to Maryiadis. Is this purely coincidence or was it prepared to assist Jeyakanth and to deflect attention from the Court’s verdict?*

*It is my judgement that Pastor Kay, all the members of Council of Reference are unworthy to be elders or pastors if they continue to blindly endorse such a man, obstruct justice and properly conducted church discipline.*

*Isaiah 56:10 His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.*