Dr. Gabe Willis, *Dean of Students* 10/9/19
Leah Cross, *SGA Chief Justice*
Carmen Bray, *University Police Captain*

I recently read a very disturbing article in the *'Lion's Roar'* entitled, *"Forum Explores Complaints About Preachers' Hatred"* by Jacob Summerfield. Aside from the fact that the article insinuated that we, *Consuming Fire Fellowship*, by merely preaching the Gospel at *SLU* are guilty of 'hatred', the article also claimed '*Mr. P'*, a member of our group, made disparaging and inappropriate, even criminal remarks during our last visit to campus. The article chronicled this slanderous accusation claiming '*Mr. P'* threatened a student with words to the effect, *"I might as well rape her"*. As I will point out briefly, this comment was grossly pulled out of context.

The accusation of hatred from these students is absolutely absurd. We have visited the *SLU* campus for many, many years and essentially, we do nothing but preach the Gospel, quote the Bible, and passionately reason one-on-one with those who will dialogue regarding their souls. For nearly a decade and up until last year, a detail from the campus police as well as a former university administrator, Mr. Jim McHodgkins, closely and personally monitored our meetings in the free speech area. As I'm sure they can attest, yes, we zealously condemn popular sins of our culture—*sodomy*, *fornication*, *drunkenness*, *rebellion*, *immodesty*, *etc*—as the Bible does and encourage students to repent and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. However, we have *never* been violent or threatened any student with violence; ***never***. On the contrary, the students, as they did then and continue to do now, constantly threaten physical violence, seeking to intimidate and bully us into leaving campus or refraining from sharing our message. Frankly, many we engage are utterly irrational, emotionally driven, and generally unable to think critically or hold a rational conversation. Sadly, these students are so dumbed-down and emotionally inept, they simply cannot tolerate anyone disagreeing with their opinions. Also, the accusation that we 'stalk' students is likewise completely without merit. Again, we've engaged students on a variety of campuses for decades, are extremely educated on both our legal rights and limitations on campus, and have been through many victorious court battles. We know 'stalking' is against the law and fully understand we are obligated to remain in the free-speech area when engaging students.

In regard to *'Mr. P's'* comments regarding 'rape', the words he said, in context, can be found below in his personal reply (*we have video tape*)…

"The students, were arguing for the inevitability of sin in the life of the believer and declaring that all sin is equal. I told them that all sin is equal only in the fact that all sin is damnable and will send one to hell; and that all sin is forgivable. But all sin is NOT equal in degree or consequences. Jesus talked of men being beaten with many stripes or few stripes according to their level of knowledge and accountability. The Bible talks about a sin that is outside the body, but that a fornicator sins against his own body. It warns there is a sin unto death and doesn't even ask us to pray for those involved in such. The Bible says these six things does the Lord hate, yea seven are an abomination unto him. And Jesus said that if a man

looks at a woman to lust after her, he has committed adultery already with her in his heart. ***But that doesn't mean the man should say, 'Well now I might as well rape her', because that would be a much greater degree of sin, with much greater repercussions.'"***

Obviously, '*Mr. P'* was not threatening anyone with *rape*. He was merely validating his point regarding the distinction and severity of different sorts of sin and in actuality, he condemned rather than condoned the very idea of rape. Hence, the accusation is false and a dishonest attempt to smear the character of '*Mr. P'* to further an agenda. This is reprehensible.

I have been preaching at various universities all over the U.S., including *LSU* in Baton Rouge, for over 30 years. Unfortunately, as of late a radical faction of *SLU's* student body has become extremely aggressive in an unconstitutional effort to squelch our freedom of speech, even falsely accusing us over and over to do so. What's interesting is, from a group that so espouses the erroneous concept of universal 'tolerance' they can so unashamedly practice such brazen intolerance.

At any rate, I write to inform, but I also assure you, should you desire to speak with us about this matter we are more than willing to communicate.

Best regards,
-B.W.